



PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES NETWORK

creating Safe Communities For children

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General Assembly Report theme: "Thriving in New Landscape"

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God's Leading of PCMN in the New Landscape: How to Thrive in the New Normal

by Fe A. Foronda

National Director, PCMN



Many things have been said about the new normal and the challenges that it brought to non-profits. Leading a non-profit in the new context is challenging in many aspects. As is the case with many non-profits, PCMN is dependent on the generosity of its benefactors. Now—more than ever—in these uncertain times, it is but proper to be a good steward of the resources that are channeled to us. While 2020 has been a year of unprecedented uncertainty for many, 2021 is ushered in as the year of hope. Charting the course forward, we need a strong light to enlighten our paths.

Biblical Model of Leadership in Crisis

In the Bible, a man whose leadership stands incomparable to anyone else's is Moses. His leadership story is peppered with the crisis, challenges, wars, disobedient people wanting to undermine his leadership and remove him, a complaining constituency, and Moses' own arguments with God.

Overcoming obstacles is a part of every leadership journey: Remember when Moses was leading the Israelites out of Egypt?

As they fled, he was faced with two formidable obstacles at once: The Red Sea on the one hand, and Pharaoh's army hot in pursuit on the other. To move forward meant certain death by drowning, to stop meant death at the hand of Pharaoh and his marauding army. There was no way out, seemingly, on either side.

But then God told Moses to move ahead. Humanly speaking, this was a formidable decision. Yet Moses obeyed God. And as he did, God removed both obstacles by creating a single path: The Scriptures tell us:

He "dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep; ...made the depths of the sea a pathway for the redeemed to cross over"

Isaiah 51:10

Incredible? Yes! Impossible? Not with God! God our ultimate leader, displayed His glory and power in this one moment of crisis (Exodus 14).

Unlike Moses, we are battling invisible warfare against a minute virus that continues to cause untold suffering. After a year of uncertainty, there are several vaccines now available to some countries which have the first hack on it.

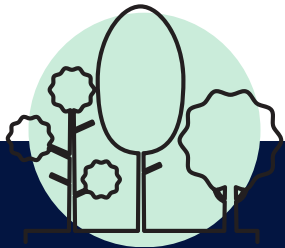
STORIES FROM THE GROUND



Revisit, Resilience, and Rebuild amidst COVID-19 Pandemic

by Michelle Albacaro
Community Organizer, PCMN

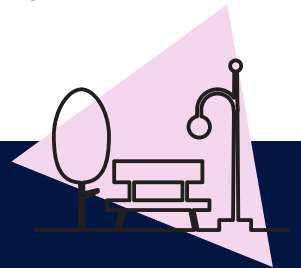
During last year when we experience the COVID-19 pandemic, everything was so fast and vivid to the point that no one can prepare for it, everyone has a different story to share, there's an outcry of emptiness longingness and helplessness, and no one knows where it going to stop as we contemplate what was about to change.



RE-VISIT

As the COVID-19 reached Antipolo City who has risen the number of COVID-19 infected. It is a challenge for the LE-OSAEC team to go and do the community work as we are prohibited from face-to-face interaction between our stakeholders. There's a burden in our heart to continue as we all know perpetrator never stop to victimized vulnerable children online according to Child's Right network during pandemic the number of children has doubled its number and it is continually growing the Philippine Children's Ministries Network is closely working hand in hand with Local Government Unit in Antipolo City to spread prevention and awareness campaign against Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children.

RESILIENCE



As part of the prevention, PCMN distributes a hygiene kit last November 18, 2020, to help the most vulnerable families in Antipolo City in partnership with The Gintong Aral Child Development program Inc. We distributed hygiene Kit in three barangays in Antipolo City (Barangay Sta. Cruz, San Roque, Cupang) It has a total number of 500 hygiene kit distributed to the families in Antipolo City, it is a challenge to have a Face-to-Face distribution, but because of the support and help coming from our Local Government Unit and Church partners Cars were not able to enter, Volunteers need to walk and carry all the hygiene kit.

One of the youth volunteers named Mark from Gintong Aral said:

"I remember my class on social studies where Filipino's used to carry a small Kubo to help their neighbors to move to another place."

“

He said It feels like it the only difference is that I carry a lot of hygiene kit to bring to the people in the mountainside of Barangay Cupang, I feel so bless and thankful because during my difficult time I was able to help my neighbor and witness and hear their stories how they became resilient during Covid-19 pandemic”.

”

Bayanihan is an essence of the Filipino culture. It is helping out one's neighbor as a community and doing a task together, thus lessening the workload and making the job easier. It is also called the 'community spirit'. It is best exhibited when people wish to move locations in the rural area.



In the new testament, Jesus Christ told us that we would have taught times, but He also reminded us that He would always with us, then He will help us. Be strong in Him in seeking peace by keeping your mind on Him. We must stop dwelling on the bad. Resilient Christians look past their troubles and put their mind on Crist.

Bible reason quotes “Toughs times never last, but tough people do”. We’re hoping that Covid-19 will end soon and we can start a new beginning of this year to move forward and get past this part of our lives.



Ptr. Sunny Babol, 46, Church Senior Pastor at The Sower and the Reaper Christian Church and member of Rizal Action Group He narrated that because of the quarantine protocol and social distancing there are so many limitations when it comes to the distribution of the hygiene kit, but he said that despite the risk and distance he needs to bring hope to the vulnerable families he was very thankful that the Philippine Children Ministries network has allowed him to be part of this endeavor.

(OSEC, Advocacy Orientation Barangay Cupang during the hygiene kit distribution)

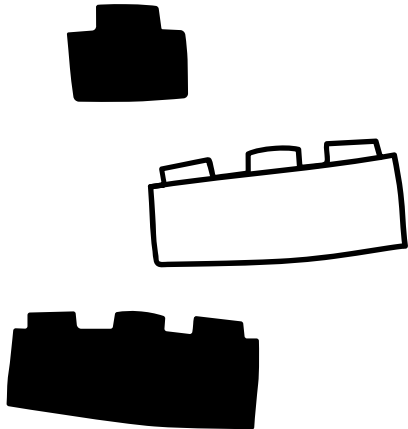
REBUILD



Ptr. Sunny Said that as he became part of the activities, he witnessed how people in barangay Cupang rebuilding their lives during this difficult situation despite losing their job, businesses, and student stopped going to schools, He still sees the smile and positive outlook of the people he quote **“Kahit mahirap at parang walang katapusan ang Covid-19 di kami nawawalan ng Pag-asa dahil may mga tao parin handang abutin at tulungan kami.”** Pastor Sunny sees that it doesn’t matter how small or big you can bring but what matters most is how you influence and impart hope and encouragement to them by simply saying “we are here for you, be strong and courageous, you are not alone”.

The Philippine Children’s Ministries Network brings hope and encouragement to barangay Cupang amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, the project never stopped to spread awareness and prevention in Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSEAC) in three barangays (Sta. Cruz, Cupang, and San Roque). People are now aware that there are more vulnerable children online and can easily be a target as they are more exposed online due to frequent usage of the internet as their means of education in “new normal”.

This project is a partnership with Mission Alliance Norway. #



**“When this world is beating you down.
Stand up to conquer.”**

**by Princess Beler
Youth Advocate, PCMN**

I started to be an End OSEC advocate in the year 2019. I am one of the selected youth in our church to participate in the Training of Trainers (TOT). I am caught by the vision of PCMN which is “Children enjoying the fullness of life in a loving and nurturing environment.” One of their projects is End OSEC. I’m hooked on the very first time that I’ve heard about Online Sexual Exploitation of Children. It’s because, I have younger siblings, I am a Sunday school teacher and I love children. I feel the burden that I need to do something about OSEC.

Wholeheartedly, I accept the challenge as I commit myself to be one of the EOSEC Youth Advocate. Together with my co-advocates, we successfully shared the knowledge we acquired from the TOT. We conduct the rollout of online safety Modules on our Church, Lift Jesus Cell Church. One way of protecting children is to educate them. As advocates, we amplify the voices to protect the children and we give hope to the victims.

END ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

In the year 2020, I am very much motivated by the opportunities that PCMN gave me. Marc, my co-youth advocate, and I are tasked to make the videos for Online TOT. Which is launched before the beginning of the academic year 2020-2021. Children must know that every one of them is prone to Online Sexual Exploitation. Filipino children became more exposed online due to lockdown. It is the easiest way to connect with their family and friends, Also virtual scheme is widely used for education that exposes them to higher risk. So we also use the online platform to extend awareness to everyone.

My journey as an advocate may be seen by others as flawless but behind those successes are stories of hardship and sorrow. When the pandemic comes, I never expected that all of the things that I thought will last started to vanish. Everything turned down, even the hopes, peace, and dreams. Everything turned fuzzy and my life started to be filled with emptiness. I'm very lost and don't even know what to do next. I faced a lot of challenges at home, financially, and even within me. This pandemic puts me in so much fear and anxiety. I am trapped in a situation where I don't know how to escape.

My father lost his job during the lockdown. We suffered financially. I even doubt if I am able to continue my studies.

Due to COVID 19, our family lost one. We lost our uncle, unexpectedly. I cannot even wonder how the chromatic world turned blue. My heart is full of sadness that I started to think that I won't be back on my track again. I also think of leaving the advocacy. I have a lot of questions that I keep in myself. How am I able to motivate and encourage others if I am suffering from negativity? How am I able to extend hope to others if I am hopeless? How am I able to help if I am helpless? I know that it's not just me.



As I watch television, a lot of news is about Online Sexual Exploitation of Children. I started to introspect. Do I need to give up? If I give up, what will happen next? The Lord never leaves me and my family. He gave us wisdom and enlighten us. I realized that all the pains that we experienced have a great purpose. This pandemic reminds me that all things on earth are temporary even our lives. God uses our sufferings so He can shape us into someone whom we need to be. The Lord provided all our needs. I learned that all that we experienced developed our flexibility and gave a deeper meaning to our lives. The pandemic taught us to value our lives and care about the people around us.

Life must go on. Our video about the online safety of children reached the DASCA Cable Channel 4. I know that I am stronger now. The challenges that I faced led me to a more vivid view of our vision. I participated in the different activities of PCMN that boosts my dedication and passion. Currently, I am elected as the secretary of Youth for Safety. I believe that God put me here to do more. He taught me that out of hopelessness, there's still hope. Out of discouraging situations are encouraging lessons. After the battles, there are conquerors. OSEC is a bigger battle. We may think that our efforts are too little to win but all of it matters. It builds an edge to create a bigger impact in combating and ending Online Sexual Exploitation.#



MCMN: PCMN assistance contributed to relief operations

**by Leah Y. Genson
Regional Coordinator, MCMN**

As per the terminal evaluation report, there were several types of relief assistance that PCMN was able to deliver to the 10 camps it covered.

Assistance for the family and community goods contributed to avoiding hunger, preventing poor health, and maintaining a quality of life that is bearable enough as they were transitioning to their old homes or new shelters. There were food and non-food hygiene items, educational assistance to children, and finally cash assistance directly to the families. Families who received goods went through a selection process and MCMN in coordination with the LGU facilitated distribution to ensure that these goods and money are provided to help IDPs while in camps. PCMN only had one round of distribution of relief goods that according to families would last three days to one week depending on the size of the family. In Makilala, it would take longer before they can consume it because there were other relief goods given by other organizations or people.



Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance was an adjustment from the savings incurred because of the limited cost of activities hampered by the community quarantines. This was implemented only in the final extension of the project in October and 1,000 families were able to receive PHP2000 cash grant each.

Not used merely for food, most of the families in camps such as Malungon and Malabuan agreed to invest as equity Php500 for their newly organized network cooperative. Some used the money according to the leaders for capital build-up in their small businesses like selling snacks, sari-sari stores, and *bigasan*. Although, information was gathered that a larger portion still of around PHP1500 for daily needs and food.

The distribution of cash assistance from PCMN was very much appreciated by the families as in the early days of the disaster, they were also able to receive cash from different governments and NGOs helping them. The PCMN cash grant is a timely augmentation to respond to the needs of the families. #

VOLUNTEER'S TESTIMONY

I'm Pastor Jaime S. Calibay, a PCMN Municipal Volunteer Coordinator.

I was invited by Leah Genson to join their group with the position that I have as stated above. Without hesitation, I accepted her invitation even though I don't have any idea about it. Yes, after a few days and weeks, I become inspired in doing this kind of ministry because I saw how the PCMN staff do their work with the dedication they have for it. Rain or shine, with a meal or without, they went to the evacuation centers just to attend to the needs of the evacuees.

I felt how the people responded with joy as they receive the food packs, the cash, and other services. They were very happy.

I thank God for this ministry. I hope that God will continue to give us, the PCMN, more opportunities in the future to minister to needy people.



Stories from the Project Participants



Meet

**Ptr. Ronald Betiwan,
a Pastor in Iligan City**

Read his take on the support of the COVID-19 Response project of PCMN helped their community.

I saw that the communities need an intervention program for families and children. One of the intervention programs that opened, through PCMN, is how to deal with the COVID-19 crisis and the problem of the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC).

Personally, I volunteered in the program as I saw the need for these advocacies to be disseminated to the community. As a mentor in the phone mentoring program, I allotted time every week to call his mentees to teach them what they can do to deal with the trials they encounter each day.

TESTIMONIAL FROM A MENTOR FROM DASMARINAS CITY

*Roselyn Terrecampo,
Brgy. San Francisco II*



I could attest that the people benefitted from the project in terms of being educated to handle and overcome stress and control their temperament. I foresee that this is very new to the people in Iligan City and it helped them open strategies on managing situations that may challenge their emotional capacity, an important impact of the project.

I believed that the project is a good program that the local offices can invest in and should be continued to reach more people in Iligan City.#

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... because of the topics covered in this program I am applying to my family as a parent. So it doesn't matter, the more we get together with our family, the stronger it becomes because of the content of the program that I learned as a parent and that I shared with my children and my wife.

...dahil po sa mga nakapaloob na topics sa program na ito ay na-a-apply ko po sa aking pamilya bilang isang magulang. So bale po, lalong napapabuti po 'yong pagsasama ng aming pamilya, lalo pong tumitibay dahil po sa mga nakapaloob sa program na natutunan ko po bilang magulang at nai-i-share ko po sa aking mga anak at sa aking asawa.

”

A Story of Change: Awareness -raising on OSAEC



A story from Jenalyn Jao

Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) Officer, Antipolo City

I am in charge of VAWC (Violence Against Women and Children). When there is a complaint or complainant about the rights of children, adults, youth, or any abuses that occur in the community, they visit my office. My colleagues and I go first in the area, providing first aid or services to those cases I mentioned. I also take care of the welfare of children and young people such as giving them attention and protection against abusive people.

The project has been significant to me as our office has become more alert and proactive in complaints about online child abuse and exploitation, intensifying our group to spread the numbers where suspicious people, who may be abusive online, can be reported.

This work has provided important information and impact on parents by providing parental advocacy especially in the new “NEW NORMAL” where children often use cell phones and the internet.

Due to the distribution of hygiene kits and the promotion of OSAEC information, many parents have become aware of such activities, as they are timely (due to the emerging era of the digital platform) and suitable for the protection of children.

PCMN became one of the ways to open an activity in our community, especially in OSAEC prevention. Young people became involved in promoting advocacy to protect children here in our community.#

”
This story is part of the stories of change submitted to Mission Alliance Norway, the funder of the Let's End Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (LE-OSAEC) project.
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PCMN COLUMN



Thriving in Challenging Times: Connecting with organizations through advocacy

by Katerina O. Veneracion
Advocacy and Partnership Officer, PCMN

When I first started working with PCMN, I saw myself in an organization with just a small number of employees. As an advocacy and partnership officer, I wondered how we at PCMN could make a mark with our End-OSEC advocacy. I couldn't help but think of David and Goliath as an illustration of our quest for policy change in the country.

“

Would our efforts be just like a drop in the bucket in the sea of legislative bills?

”

It did not take me long to realize that PCMN is not alone. In itself we are a network of 51 faith-based organizations and participating churches but, to add to that, we have connected and joined forces with other like-minded groups and coalitions. These partnerships ensure that our advocacies have a wider reach. This is essential because, as they say, there is strength in numbers. More voices unified around an issue will amplify the message we want to get across.

These past few months, it has been a privilege for me to represent PCMN at the regular meetings of the networks and groups where we are affiliated. In particular, the Child Rights Network (CRN), the National Child Protection Working Group (NCPWG), and the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC). All have the same advocacy—to guard the rights of our children and to protect them from violence, abuse, and exploitation.

All are passionate about the policies that seek the best interest of the child. I believe the tag line of CRN sums it up beautifully: **Bata sa Puso ng Batas.**

Alone, I have one contact in the house of representatives. But through CRN and its convenor, the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), we have resources beyond our network. We can expand and widen the base of support through their identified and potential champion legislators—both in the Senate and House of Representatives—to further our cause.

On top of this, CRN is the largest alliance of organizations and agencies pushing for children's rights legislation in the Philippines, among which are World Vision, Compassion International, Save the Children, PETA, Plan International, Child Fund, and Bahay Tuluyan. Its legislative agenda includes issues and calls to **#EndChildRape, #EndChildMarriage, #NoMoreChildrenHaving Children, and #BeatOSAEC (Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children)**, which is in line with our End-OSEC policy advocacy.

However, aside from OSEC-related laws, our project also has as its objective the enactment of a specific bill (HB 1556) to establish a human trafficking prevention education program for the youth. As I was looking for allies to help support this focus of ours, I was given the chance to present our proposal to CRN for them to adopt this advocacy into their legislative agenda, with PCMN as the lead organization. It was so encouraging to have the members vote in our favor and to have found an ally in CRN. With their full backing and support, there is no limit to how far we can go. A definite boost to our E-OSEC advocacy.

It is also a privilege for us to be part of the NCPWG together with the CWC, DWSD, DepEd, and UNICEF, to name a few. This core group seeks to protect children nationwide in all situations, especially amid disasters, applying the minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action. Aside from child rights and protection groups, our partnership with the International Justice Mission (IJM) is invaluable as they offer their expertise in OSEC law enforcement, prosecution, and restoration. I have put our partnership to good use by consulting and calling upon the IJM lawyers for their helpful advice.



I started working at PCMN at the height of the pandemic in July. My normal set-up since day one has been working from home or WFH. As such, I have only met most of my colleagues online. I, therefore, look forward to our weekly staff meetings via zoom, and the regular group meetings with our partners. These online connections help strengthen our exchange and I am fortunate to work with such dedicated groups of advocates who have helped me navigate this relatively new territory for me.

These interactions have helped build my confidence. It has been a chance for me to get to know the other organizations, learn from them, and represent PCMN as we support each other and participate in joint activities and initiatives towards our common purpose. But it's not all work and no play in the zoom sessions. Camaraderie is built through kamustahans, ice breakers, and a Christmas party that ended our year on a high note, as we bid goodbye to a difficult year with gratefulness in our hearts.

As we start 2021, I am hopeful that through our partnerships and collaborative efforts, PCMN will be able to make strides in our advocacy to End-OSEC in the Philippines through policy change. I do not work in the field where I can actually see the faces of the children and witness their stories of transformation as they unfold. Being in the national office and working at the macro level, I have to focus on how our actions will ultimately benefit every child. Knowing that, albeit indirectly, we can make a difference.



Back to my David versus Goliath moment,

I am thankful that I work for a faith-based organization with Christ at the center of our network.

It gives me comfort to know that we are not alone. It is the Lord our God who goes with us and establishes our steps—and yes, opens up the way for partnerships.

And if ever I feel discouraged or overwhelmed, I simply remember David's words,

"Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

Together as child advocates, we can all do so much as we unify our voice to fight the Goliath-sized barriers in our way as we pursue PCMN's vision of having our children enjoy the fullness of life in a loving and nurturing environment.#

PCMN COLUMN



Managing amidst Pandemic

by Garicel Garina
Program Manager, PCMN

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It was such a challenging year but it also allowed us to taste and see the goodness of the Lord despite the crisis that we encountered.

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The year 2020 brought a lot of blessings and at the same time a lot of challenges, too!

Taal volcanic eruption, followed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and some strong typhoons at the later part of the year were some of the significant challenges not only of the year 2020 but I think of the decade.

The projects' implementation in the ground had to make adjustments and innovations so that PCMN could still pursue the goals of the projects and at the same time be relevant to the current situation and needs of the community where we worked at. There were changes in the activities and how we did the project activities on the ground.

Firstly, PCMN had to make sure that the staff were secure and safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Work from Home setup was implemented to abide by the safety and health protocol of the government. It was only at the later part of the 2nd quarter that the project staff slowly began to go back to the communities.

Secondly, additional activities were included in the projects' design to accommodate the identified needs of the target communities. PCMN conducted Food Packs Distribution in Brgy Sta. Cruz, Antipolo in partnership with Consuelo Foundation to help the 500 families who were mostly affected by the economic crisis brought about by the pandemic.

These families were identified by the VAWC office as vulnerable to domestic violence and other kinds of abuse. At the latter part of the year, the LE-OSAEC Project in Antipolo also distributed 1500 Hygiene Kits to families in Brgy Sta Cruz, Brgy. San Roque, and Brgy. Cupang. The recipients of these hygiene kits were identified as vulnerable to domestic violence and other forms of abuse during this crisis.

In Dasmaringas on the other hand, Food Packs were distributed to 500 families that were identified by the City Social Welfare Office as vulnerable to domestic violence and OSEC brought about by the pandemic.



Thirdly, the model of training was changed from face to face to online training. The biggest change of strategy was the use of the Safety of Children Online module. Instead of doing a face-to-face roll out in schools, the City Schools Division of Dasmaringas, Iligan, and Antipolo agreed to use our Worksheet and made it part of the modules of the school children from Grades 3-8. One bright spot to note in this strategy is that PCMN was able to reach 56,400 students in Dasmaringas and 9,000 students in Iligan, exceeding the End-OSEC Project target of reaching 15,000 students. To cap it, the City Schools Division Office of Dasmaringas and the City government recognized the need for the Module to be studied among the Grade 9 -12 students in Dasmaringas. Thus the City Schools Division and the City government funded the printing of the worksheets that were used by 44,600 more students.



In Antipolo on the other hand

The City Schools Division Office will also use the worksheets for grade 5-6 students from the three target barangays of the LE-OSAEC Project in the first quarter of 2021.

The face-to-face training for the Youth Advocates was also conducted online. This is both for the E-OSEC Project and LE-OSAEC Project. Yet, despite the shift of mode of training, more Youth Advocates were raised and developed during this time of the pandemic.



Parents Module

The face-to-face training for Parents Module was also converted into online training. The Module is used in Le-OSAEC Project in Antipolo and the COVID-19 Response Project in Iligan City.

All these highlights showed that despite the challenges in the project implementations that PCMN encountered, we can adjust and innovate and apply some changes so PCMN can still work on the projects' goals and at the same time be sensitive and relevant to the changing times brought about by Pandemic crisis and other calamities.#

PCMN COLUMN



Change: Beyond Adversities

by Richard S. Espinosa
Project Officer in End OSEC
Dasmaringas City, PCMN

Change can come into our

lives as a result of a crisis, as a result of choice, or just by chance. In either situation, we are all faced with having to make a choice – do we make the change or not? I believe that it is better to be prepared for change because we have more control over how we react to the change we are having to face in our lives. When you are unprepared and resistant to change, then you have no control or choice as to how you want to live your life. You live your life as a reactionary rather than an activator of change.

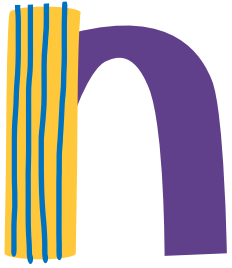
Hence, our situation today will

certainly, determine our result in the future. Covid-19 Outbreak last year was unprecedented and it became the world's greatest health predicament which impedes

the normal cycle of our society. But on the brighter side, many evidences have shown that due to massive lockdowns around the world helps our environment to heal and regain its true beauty and most of us realize the importance of a relationship with our family. Along with these impacts on our lives are the unforeseen storm on the cyberworld wherein it became a perfect platform for perpetrators to emerge various crimes online especially Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children. The number of cases has ascended unexpectedly which put so much bearing on the shoulder of PCMN as one of the prime movers on ending OSEC in our country.

Adapting to the New Normal is the most effective way to continue addressing the issue on OSEC. We must never cease to implement the project in the city of Dasmaringas. The need to reach more people through massive awareness campaign and activities are highly integral to combat this concern. But the question now is how can we make it? We started to re-assess our strategies on how to execute our plans and utilizing the online platform from reaching out to partners, creating a new line of the network, and develop a plan that will tailor-fit on the challenging circumstances brought by this

pandemic. Instead of focusing on the restrictions, we concentrated on the silver-linings of the situation.



umerous deliverables were

accomplished. Our commitment to advocacy made us one in achieving our goals. The restrictions were never a hindrance for us, but just part of the obstacles which need to be addressed. Instead of a face-to-face activity, we shifted into a virtual webinar series for Training of Trainers for Safety of Children Online, wherein we were able to invite renowned speakers to talk on Child Protection and OSEC. We also changed our approach on reaching the learners/students, as an alternative to information drive, we matched our actions with the new plans of DepEd by distributing 55,600 number of Safety of Children Worksheets and during the first week of classes, End-OSEC videos were simultaneously played on local TV Network in Dasma and on FB Pages. A lot of change has taken place, from traditional implementers we did not hesitate to transform into digitalization of all our actions. We are truly grateful for the wisdom and courage gave to us by God. We are all first-timers who ventured into this new level of learning. It may sound cliché but as they always say, you'll never know unless you try it.



od allows us to unleash our

hidden skills and talents, our commitment and dedication rely fully upon Him, that we are just His instrument to fully achieve our goals, that this is His advocacy.

With this kind of trust and confidence, we were able to establish a strong partnership with various stakeholders in the city both government and private. We appreciate the power of convergence and collaboration. Our work becomes easier to be implemented because with oneness comes success.



mpowering people must always

begin from us, who is the catalyst for this advocacy. Keeping the faith that God is in control of all the hardship we are facing and by choosing to be proactive and dig for those gems buried deep within us, we can come out to be excellent workers of God. Just remember that perspective influences everything. At the end of the day, we choose to keep looking at our glass of water, half full. Keep going, be involved, and never wait for something to ignite within yourself hence be the change the is needed to you, today. You grow, when you change.#



PCMN COLUMN



Child Protection in New Normal: A Case Story

by Neil Braga
Project Officer in End OSEC
Iligan City, PCMN

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), including flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety, and uncontrollable thoughts. Depression, including prolonged sadness, feelings of hopelessness, unexplained crying, weight loss or gain, loss of energy, or interest in activities previously enjoyed. Suicidal thoughts or attempts. Dissociation, including not being able to focus on work or schoolwork, as well as not feeling present in everyday situations. These things are horrible and no one would want to be in such disadvantageous situation. Sadly, these are the things a rape victim suffers a lot.

“Di na nako makaya maong ni sumbong nako.” (I can’t take it anymore, that’s why I called for help).

Exact words from a 17-year-old survivor who was allegedly raped by her uncle-in-law in Iligan City.

During the implementation of the DERF COVID-19 response in Iligan City, several children protection issues were reported by our volunteers during their Phone Mentoring Program calls.

And one of those is a rape case. One morning, while everyone was busy monitoring the progress of the project, we received a phone call from one of our trained mentors that his mentee reported a rape case. As an immediate action, I as the PCMN Child Protection Officer, together with the Volunteer Supervisor, reported the case to the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) in Iligan City.

No one would think that the one who stands as a father figure to the child would secretly abuse her. It took a long time before the case was reported. **As reported, the child was abused since she was five years old and the family seems quiet about it because their uncle-in-law supports them financially.**

Their biological father is not even willing to file a case for their aunt’s sake. This case would stay hidden if it wasn’t reported during the phone mentoring program. Fortunately, with the training on Child Protection and the Abuse Reporting Mechanism of the Viva Phone Mentoring Program, the case was reported successfully and was acted upon by the City Social Welfare and Development Office of Iligan City. As of today, the CSWDO is waiting for the release of the Warrant of Arrest of the perpetrator. As of this writing, **Ms. Jenefer Hora, the social worker from CSWDO Iligan, is very positive that justice will be served in due time.**#

PCMN COLUMN



Navigating the new landscape: PCMN's experience in engaging Local Government Units (LGUs) for the protection of children

by Ronilo Oyanib
Project Coordinator, PCMN

Across the world, due to the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), children are affected by physical distancing, quarantines, and nationwide school closures. Some children and young people may be feeling more isolated, anxious, bored, and uncertain. They may feel fear, and grief, over the impact of the virus on their families. -WHO



In response to the pandemic, the Philippine Children Ministries Network, Inc. (PCMN) in partnership with Viva Denmark implemented the COVID-19 Response Philippines: Integrated Cash Transfer and Child Protection Project with funds from Civil Society in Development (CISU). The goal of the project was to reach children and families vulnerable to domestic violence and food insecurity as an indirect impact of the pandemic and provide cash relief and child protection services.



At the downset of the pandemic, several media sources reported an increase in numbers of domestic violence and abuses against women and children including online sexual exploitation of children. Many families have been struggling during the lockdown due to the financial crisis as some lost jobs and businesses were closed. Access to foods was cut and prevalent poverty worsened. This triggered some to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on their families even resulting in undignified ways to some degree. As a result, some families opted to sell their children online as a way of earning money to bring food to their tables.



The program increased the awareness among families how online child sexual predators are taking advantage of the pandemic in exploiting children. Both parents and children were taught how to stay safe online.

Additionally, as a result of the mental health talk (a module in phone mentoring), many lives were spared also from death. Some of the mentees reported that if not because of the project, they could have already committed suicide. The project was able to reach a total of 4,000 families of whom finished the parent’s module on children’s safety online while 2,000 parents and 2,000 children finished the family and child phone mentoring program.

The PCMN team pivoted in migrating all the face-to-face designed modules to worksheets distributed to schools and digitizing the training modules. These materials are likewise uploaded to various social media platforms of PCMN. Key points to the success of the project are the following:

Firstly, on coordination. The nature of the intervention needs to be discussed in detail especially with local authorities and key partners so that they will be informed on the criteria of selection, strategies that will be used. As such, they will be able to gauge among themselves how they can be of support to the project as well.

This also allows the LGUs to revisit their overall plan and identify synergies and gaps. In our experience for the COVID-19 emergency response in Iligan city, we conducted several coordination meetings with DSWD, partner communities, the local government unit including Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) and PNP. These are the agencies that played key roles in the project implementation.



Looking back, what could have made this project a success despite the lockdown and closure of institutions due to pandemic, the pandemic could be a hindrance but it proved otherwise.





Secondly, on coherence. All key stakeholders must be on the same understanding with the project team thus, during coordination meetings they should be able to have a full grasp of the project. The project messaging should work towards ownership both of the project and LGU. As a result, the LGU sustains the project even after the project leaves the area.



Thirdly, on complementation. The presence of diverse skills and capacities of staff of end OSEC and COVID-19 project complements the needs and partnership with the local government.#

Empowered Youth

by Art Nel Bencolado
Youth Mobilize, PCMN

Do you hear the whisper
of the voices from somewhere?
Shoutin' not for a full despair,
Nor a chance of preeminence, either!

Discern over their purest desire,
yearning for a serendipitous moment of
time.
From past generation, history was made
Child is living how it was created.

Now, they uphold the whispering voices
Hearing noises from triumphant hope.
Behold, the empowered youth,
Taking their steps for better world.

What a word of merriment
the hope of our nation foretell?
An example of goodwill,
for those who get blinded by fear.

Hear, the amplified voices of youth!
Future leader of all and sundry
Abolishing darkness and misery
for child to no longer suffer cruelty!



PARTNERS' CORNER



Compassion Solidarity
Amidst the Pandemic
*A Call for Trauma Support
Advocacy*

by Therese Catherine Rae Kierulf-Lingat
Project Manager
Wholistic Transformation Resource Center

The inspiration for the Trauma Support initiative also known as **A Call for Trauma Support (ACTS)** came from a conversation among anti-human trafficking practitioners who bewailed the plight of workers in the fight against human trafficking, OSEC, and abuse. Vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout were steadily battering the hearts and minds of workers resulting in high employee turnover, inconsistent quality of service, and poor mental wellness to name a few.

“The community of
believers was of one
heart and mind.”
Acts 4:32

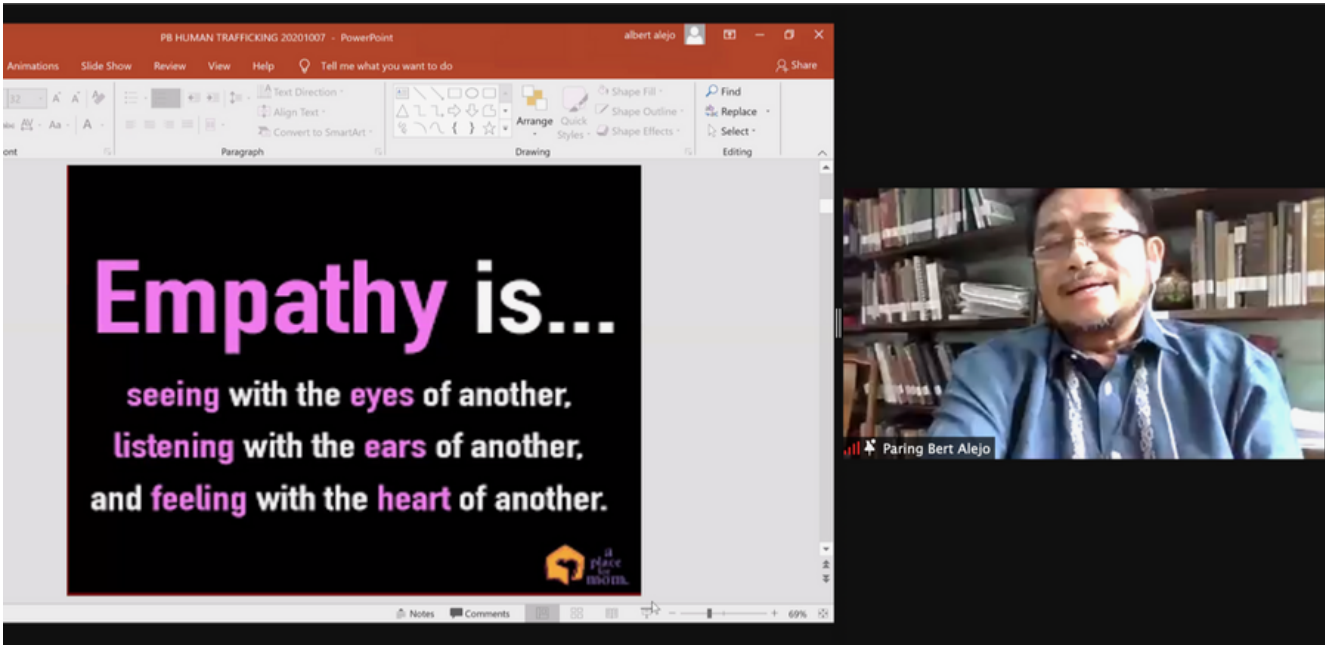
Focused group discussions over several months across different stakeholders validated the existence of the problem.

Eventually, the Trauma Support Working Group (TSWG), represented by PCMN, WTRC, IJM, She WORKS, and AMG Bahay Silungan was organized to be the initiators and think tank on possible measures to support our workers in the field. The advocacy was just about to take off following a successful conference attended by 27 organizations when the pandemic made everything come to a sudden halt.



As we navigated the fog of uncertainties, the TWG realized that there was now an added trauma besieging our community. In our desire to ensure the ACTS advocacy is responsive and relevant, an online sharing and caring session for leaders was organized in August entitled **“Pagkalinga at Paghahanda sa Ating Patuloy na Paglalakbay”**.

The session sought to check on the leaders of our community and ascertain their personal and organizational mental well-being amid current realities. Collective trauma resonated among the leaders as a very real issue. Our speaker was Dr. Grace Evangelista, a Clinical Psychologist, and her message was key to creating a safe space for the leaders where they were able to connect with honesty and learn from other leaders in the community. It was a time of refreshment where they were able to draw strength and wisdom from each other. Thirty-two participants attended the session.



TSWG continues to be committed to prayerfully discern the next steps for the ACTS advocacy as the current crisis and its effects continue. We hope that we can unite together as a community and find a way to strengthen, uplift, and inspire one another despite the challenges of our work and the onslaught of the pandemic.

As Fe Foronda, PCMN’s National Director, said, “I believe we are here at this juncture of history where we have to cling tightly to one another, and the true strength, Jesus Christ. We are called by the Lord to thrive, not just to survive.”#



FEATURE STORIES



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2020 hits the Philippines with many challenges. Lost jobs, closure of schools, and income loss took a toll on the communities, especially the vulnerable families, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Philippine Children's Ministries Network (PCMN), along with Viva Denmark and CISU, promotes and advocates the prevention of violence and other adverse effects of COVID-19 through supporting vulnerable families in high-risk areas.

PCMN devised humanitarian assistance to the target audience of the project through cash transfer programming or modality. The cash transfer empowers the beneficiaries to decide on their own how to meet their own needs. Through the funding of the Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF), PCMN was able to provide families cash grants through two projects, the Mindanao Earthquake Response project and COVID-19 Emergency Response Mindanao.



PCMN distributes cash grant to affected families due to COVID-19

by Ma. Luisa A. Bautista
Communications Officer, PCMN

Mindanao Earthquake Response

As part of the intervention program in the affected areas due to the earthquake that shook Mindanao last October 2019, PCMN saw the need to provide cash assistance as it will be beneficial if the beneficiaries will be able to procure the needs identified by them. At the end of the project this October 2020, they were able to provide cash grants to 1,000 families.



One of the project participants to the Child and Family Phone Mentoring and Integrated Cash Transfer of the COVID-19 Relief Program in Iligan City, Ms. Bebianita E. Manos,

COVID-19 Emergency Response Mindanao

As part of the response of PCMN to the affected families of the pandemic, one of the interventions provided is the ongoing provision of cash grants to selected families in Iligan City. The beneficiaries were chosen through the help of the Local Government Unit of Iligan City based on the risk areas in terms of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC).

PCMN saw that it would be beneficial if the supported families by the cash grant are the ones risked by OSEC.

The project also incorporated the awareness-raising about OSEC through its extended program called phone mentoring. As of November 2020, the project was able to provide cash grants to 1,680 families. The project will continue to release cash grants up to 4,000 families.

One of the project participants, Ms. Bebianita E. Manos, lives with her second husband and her adopted daughter. She recalls with strong emotions how she suffers and maltreated in her previous marriage. Bebianita works as a helper in a bridal shop before the pandemic, but she lost job since then and suffers from poverty. The cash grant is instrumental in meeting her needs as of the moment. Through it, she was able to buy a sack of rice for her family.

“

I am very grateful to PCMN and the whole staff for including me as one of the beneficiaries (project participants) of the program. I learned from my (phone) mentor through the phone call that nowadays, children are vulnerable to various threats. I have a child who comes late from school during school days before, and the thought of her safety never crossed my mind because I fully trusted her. However, after the call with my (phone) mentor, I realized that I should have thought of her safety always because while walking to home in the evening anybody could just grab her and inflict danger on her. Ms. Manos said.#

”

PCMN extends COVID-19 relief response in areas of Dasmaringas City and Antipolo City

by Garicel Garina and Ma. Luisa Bautista



Metro Manila, Philippines – To provide support to project implementation areas, the Philippine Children's Ministries Network (PCMN) mobilized COVID-19 relief response in terms of food packs and hygiene kits to Dasmaringas City and Antipolo City last November 2020.

Antipolo City

Last November 11, 2020, PCMN conducted a hygiene kit distribution to families vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic in Brgy. Sta. Cruz and was extended last November 18-19 in Brgy. Cupang and San Roque, respectively. Each barangay has 500 recipients under the Let's Eliminate Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (LE-OSAEC) project.

The recipients were identified and recommended by the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) desks and health offices of the respective barangays. The kits distribution was made possible through the volunteers of Gintong Aral Community Development, Inc.,

a network member of PCMN, The Sower and the Reaper Church, the VAWC Officers, Barangay Health Officers, Barangay Tanods, and Sitio Leaders of Brgy. Sta Cruz. It was graced by the presence of the Barangay Chairman Cerilo Tenorio and Brgy. Kagawad Edna Tungala.

The Hygiene Kits distribution is one of the LE-OSAEC Project initiatives to reach the families who are the target for awareness and prevention campaign of the project. Mission Alliance Norway funds the LEOSAEC project.

During the third quarter of 2020, Consuelo Foundation provided food packs to 500 vulnerable families in Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Antipolo City.



hygiene kits distribution at Antipolo City last November 11

Dasmaringas City

A total of 500 beneficiaries, mostly victims of abuse and some are persons with disabilities (PWDs), received COVID-19 food packs distributed by PCMN, in partnership with the City Social Welfare and Development Office of Dasmaringas City, last November 17-18.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Department of Education (DepEd) of Dasmaringas City, 22 VAWC Officers, three members from the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), and three PCMN Youth Advocates assisted the food pack distribution. The beneficiaries came from 28 barangays of Dasmaringas City.



Ms. Carmelita Cobarte from San Francisco II, one of the beneficiary of the food packs in Dasmaringas City

The COVID-19 Food Pack Distribution is part of the end Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) project funded by the European Union. It is under the End OSEC Consortium implementation, which consists of Viva Danmark, International Justice Mission Philippines, and PCMN.

Please note that the physical venue's activity complied with the prescribed COVID-19 safety guidelines by the Department of Health.#



food packs distribution at Dasmaringas City last November 17

The relief operations were funded by the European Union and Mission Alliance Norway, and Consuelo Foundation under the following projects:

- End Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) project
- Let's Eliminate Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (LE-OSAEC) project

ANNUAL REPORT

How did we thrive in crisis?

by **Fe A. Foronda**
National Director, PCMN

In the midst of the challenges of 2020, the following proved to be effective methods that worked for me as a leader:

- 1. Remember our calling: Our calling to serve is often the thing that keeps us in the ministry, when everything before and around us screams to quit and run away, our calling will prevail.
- 2. God’s faithfulness is sure: In Him, James writes, “There is no shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Try to recall incidents when He showed His faithfulness, we can hold on to these and His everlasting promises.
- 3. Prayers put things in perspective: This pandemic I have prayed as I have never prayed before, daily storming the heavens, interceding for every sick colleague, ministers of the Gospel, field workers, and every event. What keeps me going is the spiritual connection with God and with others within the Household of Faith. Whenever I have prayed, alone or with my brothers and sisters, I have received the gift of perspective. I come forth with a better view of things. Prayer keeps me clear-headed and has empowered me to make the decisions, many difficult, that I have had to make.

What is PCMN now as a network?

The network development model started in 1998, through Viva, has evolved into what is PCMN today. That ‘evolution’ is the non-stop pursuit of two objectives:

- 1. How to best keep the network engaged and growing, and
- 2. How to increase our reach and deepen our impact in ministry to children at risk.

The evolving capacity of PCMN in these two areas has kept us thriving in the year of the pandemic. Our immediate shift to digital allowed PCMN to keep abreast of its members and partners and emerging social issues both in the country and globally.



As a network, 90% of PCMN’s membership—in terms of agencies—is based in Metro Manila and nearby cities and provinces, 1/3 are running shelters, residential care, and homes, another 1/3 are engaged in community-based work and the rests are national agencies with large areas and project coverages. The range of services, therefore, the needs, and the strategies are broad, and it is challenging for the organization to be relevant to all these stakeholders.



The PCMN coordination team is lean. We have four staff at our core. Besides, administration and finance, we have three departments: resource development, network development, and program development. Project operations (within the program development) is focused on four (4) thematic areas, namely, End OSEC, Child Protection in Emergencies, Family Strengthening and Youth Empowerment.

Highlights of 2020

2020 is unique for PCMN because it was supposed to be a full-packed year. We began in January with a 27M annual budget. However, we were caught in the first quarter with the pandemic. Two new projects had just started when the lockdown was implemented. As such, we were forced to drastically slowdown in the 2nd Quarter and wait for communities to re-open. In the 3rd Quarter when the government loosened restrictions, staff were cautiously able to begin a return to fieldwork. During the 3rd and 4th Quarters, we were able to bounce back with full office operations and move forward with the implementation of either current or new projects —including the integration of COVID-19-specific interventions.

The following lists the implemented projects in 2020:

2020 Projects	Number of People Reached, Helped and Assisted
End OSEC	109,000 project participants (+++)
LE-OSAEC	2,261 project participants
Mindanao Earthquake Response	15,071 youth and vulnerable persons
Phone Mentoring program	5,896 project participants
COVID-19 Response (new and unplanned)	16,338 direct and indirect beneficiaries

Significant Plan Breakthroughs in 2021



- Approval of relevant policies (Communications Policy, Governance)
- Increased Local Giving through the establishment of Local Giving Platforms and Annual Giving Plans
- Conduct of Webinars on Fund-Raising with CSA
- More focused Quarter meetings that respond to needs (Mental Health, Effective Programming for Children’s Ministries, etc.)
- Formed, organized, local networks (ICMN, ACMN) and two (2) emerging networks
- Child Protection in churches (research, capacity building of churches on CP)
- Active social media presence
- Four (4) strategic directions: End OSEC, CPIE, Youth Empowerment, Family Strengthening: Faith-based Child Focused programming

Comparative Analysis of 2020 vs. 2021:

Programs, Action Plans, and Budgets

At the end of each year, the Philippine Children’s Ministries Network (PCMN) plans for the following organizational year, including its goals, projects, activities, and budget.

For the year 2020, the PCMN planned for many of its existing and continuing projects and activities but added more new projects as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to the earthquakes that hit some areas where there is a presence of the local network. Hence, the increase in the actual costs, as compared to what was initially planned before the year started.

NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

	PLANNED FOR 2020	ACCOMPLISHED FOR 2020	PLANNED FOR 2021
GOAL	# EMPOWERED NETWORK To empower the Network to contribute towards enabling the Philippine Child Protection System, including creating safe environment, towards child safeguarding.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">To empower the network to strengthen the Philippine Child Protection Systems
OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Empowered network to contribute towards enabling the Philippine Child Protection System		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Organized and strengthened networkLocal building network of Rizal, Dasmariñas and AntipoloMembership Care
ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Social media presenceMembers visitQuarterly meetingsAction groups meetingMonthly meeting with Local Networks' coordinatorsGeneral AssemblyQuarterly NewsletterEnd OSEC Dasmariñas Iligan City <ul style="list-style-type: none">LE-OSAEC (Antipolo)Family StrengtheningYouth Empowerment (Y4S)	<div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div> <div>✓</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announcement of vacancy, hiring processReview of Network Dev Plan and targetingMobilization cost for formation of networkQuarter MeetingsOrientation and Network Training CourseBuilding of relationship with network members
ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Training and Network & Leadership Development (Viva Materials)Child Protection Policy WriteshopTOT on Safety of ChildrenQISVolunteer DevelopmentLocal Network StrengtheningSupport to DisasterMembership RecruitmentStakeholders' Consultation	<div>✓</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recruitment of new membersWorld Weekend of PrayerGood Treatment PlanCore group formationVMG workshopMember careYouth for Safety (Y4S)

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

	PLANNED FOR 2020	ACCOMPLISHED FOR 2020	PLANNED FOR 2021
GOALS	Sustainable network through generation of resources and delivery of solutions programme		Sustainable network through generation of resources and delivery of solutions programme
OUTCOME			<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sustained network that impact child protection in areas of influence- Develop training materials as a source of local funds- Fund Partnership Development sustained with foreign fund source
ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hire Resource Mob Officer• Send ministry reports• Cultivate relationship with partner and funding agencies• Promote and sell PCMN training materials• Local volunteers conceptualization• Local fund raising events• CSR for local fund raising• Acceptance of training requests		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hire Resource Mob Officer• Local fundraising plan• Cultivate relationship with partners• Promote and sell PCMN materials• Proposals for foregin grant funding• CSR partnership for fund raising• Webinar series on Resource Mobilization

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

	PLANNED FOR 2020	ACCOMPLISHED FOR 2020	PLANNED FOR 2021
OUTCOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OSEC enable the Philippine child protection system to protect children from online sexual exploitation• FS Family Effectiveness Program, Foster Care Program, Fullness of Life for Teenage Parents Program• Local Networks' CPIE - empower the local networks to strengthen the Philippine Child Protection Systems to defend children from OSEC and improve access to justice for victims		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OSEC Enable the Philippine child protection system to protect children from online sexual exploitation• LE-OSAEC Reduce OSAEC in Antipolo City• CPIE, OPSAFE, FS – 2,000 Children restored to mental well-being / Functional FSWG, Utilized Phone Mentoring and Family Life Curriculum
ACTIVITIES	<div>Local OSEC – Bacolod, Bago, Iligan, ESCRAN, MCMN</div> <div>EU OSEC – Dasmariñas, Iligan, Antipolo</div> <div>EOSEC Advocacy and Prevention – Bacolod, Iligan, ESCRAN, MCMN</div>		EU OSEC – Dasmariñas and Iligan City LE-OSAEC – Antipolo CPIE, Op SAFE, Family Strengthening: P4s

ADMIN, GOVERNANCE, AND FINANCE

	PLANNED FOR 2020	ACCOMPLISHED FOR 2020	PLANNED FOR 2021
GOALS	Sustainable network through generation of resources & delivery of solutions programme		Credible and vibrant network that directly impact child protection in the Philippines
OUTCOME			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A credible and vibrant network that directly impact child protection in the Philippines.• Increasing in quality and quantity of membership• Stable network with adequate and competitive human resources• Credible and strong internal control system• Live up to the highest integrity as stewards
ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of MOO DSWD Accreditation• Civil Society Org Accreditation in Dasmariñas• PCNC Certification• Policies that enable success of PCMN plans• Management system• Inventories of PCMN Resources		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of several PCMN policies• Accreditations and Certifications• Staff development, debriefing & retreat<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Up to date accounting records- Monitoring of financial activities- Submission of Financial reports• Maintenance of PCMN office

2020 Planned Budget	2020 Actual Expenditures	2021 Planned Budget
46,097,100.44*	36,788,168.00	29,746,246.41

32,447,718.13PHP is the approved budget at the beginning of the year 2020 and there is an addition of 13,649,382.31PHP to the total planned budget amounted to 46,097,100.44PHP.

However, at the end of the year, the total expenditures amounted to only 36, 788, 168PHP which resulted in an unspent portion of 9,308,932.44PHP (20%) of the budget. The unspent portion is due to an unimplemented portion of grant project under the European Union in End OSEC project, personnel cost, and other activities from Youth Empowerment and Network Development.

In 2021, the planned budget is 29,746,246.41PHP, 35% less than the previous year, 2020. PCMN reduced the activities for the year according to the capacity of PCMN to implement in consideration of the lockdowns, difficulty in community engagement, and delays PCMN suffered from 2020.

Due to the delayed activities of the End OSEC project, PCMN wishes to focus in 2021 on the implementation of the project.

PCMN Partnering Agencies



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