



PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES NETWORK

Creating Safe Communities For Children

CHILDREN'S COMMISSION OF PCEC | NOVEMBER 2020



food packs distribution at Dasmarinas City last November 17

PCMN extends COVID-19 relief response in areas of Dasmarinas 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 Dasmarinas City and Antipolo City this November.

Antipolo City

Last November 11, 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.

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PCMN marks its 22nd Anniversary, celebrates through an online event

November 1998 – It's been 22 years since Bishop Efraim Tendero, then National Director of the Philippine Council of the Evangelical Churches (PCEC), convened all the known faith-based organizations doing ministry...

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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.



hygiene kits distribution at Antipolo City last November 11

Dasmariñas 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 Dasmariñas City, last November 17-18.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Department of Education (DepEd) of Dasmariñas 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 Dasmariñas City.



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

"Malaking tulong po saamin yun (food packs), dahil sa COVID-19 di kami hanap-buhay po kahit na ako ay isang labandera at katulong sa bahay."

Ms. Carmelita Cobarte from Brgy. San Francisco II said during the activity.

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 Dasmariñas City last November 17

continued from page 1, PCMN marks its 22nd anniversary article

PCMN has become a unifying voice for the 57 member organizations and churches in advocating for children and youth's protection and participation.

Over the years, it assisted in the establishment of local networks in the different parts of the country in Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Negros Occidental, Davao and clusters in the National Capital Region (NCR). Through these local networks and clusters, several programs and activities were efficiently and successfully implemented.

Currently, PCMN focused its programs on empowering members and local networks through capacity-building, engaging members, partners, and networks to develop child-focused programming and child safeguarding; and mobilizing resources for network and program sustainability.

This November 25, PCMN will host an Anniversary Fellowship to celebrate its 22nd year with the theme: Praying Community: Prayers for Freedom of Vulnerable Children.

With the recent disasters, this is likewise a time to reflect, pray, and act together on children's situations in the affected areas of Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses and on the spike of online sexual exploitation of children during this pandemic.#

PCMN signs MOA with the Department of Education (DepEd) Division of Iligan City

by Neil Vincent Braga and Ma. Luisa Bautista

Iligan City – “I believe with our contribution as partners, we can minimize conflict, we can minimize problems in line with Online Sexual Exploitation of Children.” Chief Education Supervisor School Governance and Operations Division, Ms. Juliet S. Timbang, EdD, said during the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing about its partnership with the end Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC) project implementation last November 5.

The MOA signing included the partnership of PCMN and DepEd Division of Iligan to include the Safety of Children Online Module in their curriculum and the annual enhancement of their Child Protection Policy.

Present during the MOA signing were DepEd Iligan City Chief Education Supervisor-School Governance and Operations Division, Ms. Juliet Timbang; Public Schools District Supervisor, Ms. Amelita Laforteza; Senior Education Program Specialist, Ms. Erlinda Basmayor, End OSEC Project Coordinator, Mr. Ronilo Oyanib; and End OSEC Project Officer, Mr. Neil Vincent Braga.

The European Union funds the end OSEC project.#

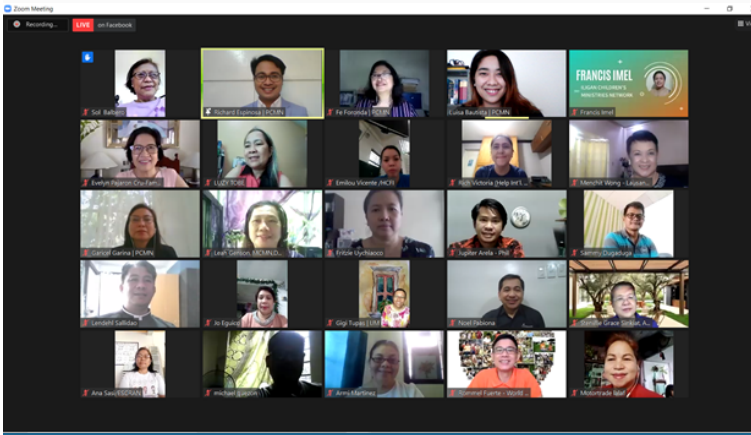


Photo opportunity during the MOA signing with DepEd Division of Iligan City last November 5



PCMN hosts its first-ever Online Summit for Network Building

by Ma. Luisa Bautista



"...with one theme, ...we will have more insights on becoming resilient ministers and having resilient ministries to children..."

Filipino Children in Pandemic' by World Vision Development Foundation (WVDF) Executive Director, Mr. Rommel Fuerte; and 'How Our Organization Will Stay Resilient in the Face of Pandemic' by Compassion International Philippines National Director, Mr. Noel Pabiona.

Fr. Lendehl Rey M. Sallidao, Chairperson of PCMN Board of Trustees and Ma. Princess Beler, Youth Advocate from Dasmariñas City, also gave their testimony to the plenary.

"Keep on inspiring many fellow youth and children through your advocacy, Princess!" Luzviminda Tobe from Christian Mission Service Philippines, one of the Summit's participants, commented after hearing the youth advocate's testimony.

Philippine Children's Ministries Network (PCMN) National Director, Ms. Maria Fe Foronda, noted in her welcoming remarks during the PCMN Network Summit with the theme: Resiliency of Children's Ministries in Pandemic held last September 29 via Zoom.

A total of 78 ministry leaders and workers for children affiliated with PCMN network, programs, projects, and partnerships for networking opportunities attended the Network Summit.

The Network Summit served as an avenue to update everyone's knowledge from industry leaders on Filipino children's state in a pandemic situation and listen to experts on how leaders and workers can stay resilient in a crisis.

The Summit showcased presentations such as a devotional by Ms. Menchit Wong, Vice-Chair of the International Board of the Lausanne Movement, on 'God's Call in Crisis'; The State of

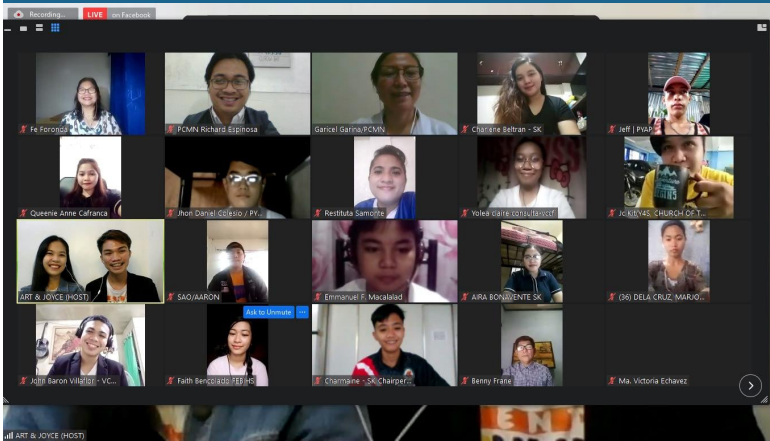
After the plenary, three (3) break-out rooms discussing (BR 1) Resilient Mind: Mental Hygiene by Rev. Sur Del Rosario, Head of the Social Services and Disaster Preparedness and Response Commission for the Philippines General Council of the Assemblies of God; (BR 2) Resilient Homes: Protecting Families Online by Ms. Garicel Garina, Program Manager of PCMN; and (3) Resilient Workers: Child Protection during COVID-19 pandemic by Ms. Connie Salcedo, Head of Programs of Council for the Welfare of Children were facilitated.

The online Summit also served as a 3rd Quarter Reporting of PCMN. #

PCMN Network Summit can be rewatched on the Facebook page of the Philippine Children's Ministries Network.

PCMN kicks off Training of Trainers for Youth Advocates on end OSEC

by Bianca Silva



To encourage the youth to become an advocate and deepen their understanding in the role of the youth in ending sexual exploitation of children, PCMN conducted the Training of Trainers (TOT) for the Safety of Children Online Module with the theme "Harnessing the youth to end online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) which started last November 7, via Zoom.

The kick off was attended by 77 children and youth from various organizations. PCMN National Director, Ms. Fe Foronda, graced the first Saturday of the training by giving a keynote message followed by the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Provincial President and Board Member, Hon. Jerome Napoleon Gonzales, for a remark.

During the kickoff, Dr. Bonifacio Frane of Pastors Auxiliary Chaplain International Inc. (PCAII) shared his insights on the topic on "I Am Important" embedding how realizing one's importance is valuable in influencing and empowering others.

On the second session, Prosecutor Lolita "Ging" Lomanta had an engaging discussion on the republic acts and laws against sexual exploitation of children as well as the rights of

the children and how they are protected by the law. PCMN's Program Manager Ms. Garcicel Garina tackled the definition of OSEC and how it happens.

For the third session, PCMN's End OSEC Project Officer, Neil Braga talked through the forms and who are the vulnerable to OSEC. Two guest speakers, Professor Florence Flores- Pasos of UP Diliman and PMSg. Maria Victoria Divina from the Philippine National Police also lent their time to speak about the forms of OSEC, whom to trust, and how to report OSEC.

The TOT is composed of nine (9) sessions with a set of speakers from different fields. It targets the youth to become an advocate and deepen their understanding of the organization's mission and the youth's role in ending the sexual exploitation of children.

The online training is scheduled for four consecutive Saturdays of November through Zoom and is broadcasted live on PCMN's official Facebook page. #

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

by Ma. Luisa A. Bautista

2020 hits the Philippines with many challenges. Lost jobs, closure of schools, and income loss took a toll on the communities, especially to 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.

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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.

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. #

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"Important to protect ourselves against online violence" – Junior High School student on accomplishing PCMN's worksheets

by Richard Espinosa



Mother and daughter answering the Safety of Children Online Module worksheets of PCMN, in partnership with DepEd Dasmariñas City

"Yes, I did not experience the OSEC crime, but it is so important to us din para maproteksiyonan natin ang isa't isa laban sa karahasan sa online."

a statement by a Junior High School Student of Dasmariñas West National High School, Edward Louie Duhill, regarding the importance of the Safety of Children Online Worksheets. PCMN's Safety of Children Online Module worksheets reached massive number of learners in the entire City of Dasmariñas.

55,600 worksheets were distributed to 41 public schools on Dasmariñas City and were accomplished last September 30 to October 2. It was part of the preparatory worksheets of the students for the start of the academic year last October 5.

Initially, the printed materials are 55,600 worksheets only, intended for Grade 3 to Grade 8 Students; however, the Department of Education Dasmariñas City decided to cover all grade levels and exerted extra effort in printing additional worksheets, as well as display videos in each session streamed in DepEd Tayo Dasmariñas City Facebook page and a local TV Station.

“

Answering the worksheets was an eye-opener not just for the students, but as well as to parents to become aware of the activities that may happen online in which their children might be victimized.

”

Ms. Camille-Ann Rodil, RGC one of the Guidance Counselors of DepEd Dasma stated.

End OSEC project enables the children, parents and the school to be mindful in protecting our children against unlawful activities online.

The European Union funds the end OSEC project. #

Feature Story

An earthquake response project in Mindanao concludes last October

by Ma. Luisa Bautista

Last October 2019, a series of strong shallow earthquakes struck the province of Cotabato and vicinity. The depths of these earthquakes range from 7 to 9 km. As a response, the Philippine Children's Ministries Network (PCMN), in partnership with Viva Denmark and Civil Society in Development (CISU), tapped the Mindanao Children's Ministries Network (MCMN). With this, a total of 15,071 people reached in Magsaysay, Davao Del Sur, and Makilala, North Cotabato in the conclusion of the Mindanao Earthquake Response project funded by the Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF).

A total of 14,385 people/IDPs were placed inside 18 operational evacuation camps in Cotabato province- 8,335 are in Makilala Town, 59,405 are tagged as IDPs but are not in evacuation camps. On the other hand, Davao Del Sur has 24 operational evacuation camps with 7,786 people/IDPs. Another 106,822 are displaced but not in evacuation camps.



The project created a strong local presence between PCMN and the communities, which led to the accomplishment of activities for target 6-12-year-old children with Operation Safe (OpSafe) Camps, teens with a youth

safety orientation, and child protection and advocacy, and adults through the family development sessions –combined efforts of PCMN and local community volunteers. The children's attendance at the OpSafe eased out their fears and anxiety.

PCMN was able to provide tent facilities, install adequate lighting in public spaces of the camps to ensure the friendly space as conducive facilities where children and teens can stay and feel safe physically and mentally – a response to the design of the project to be able to constant watch and guard the community's child protection action.

"I am thankful for the solar lights because it gives us light when I go to the comfort room, and we play board games with friends at night." Said a beneficiary in Cabilao, Sherilyn Lintang.

PCMN was also able to provide a Multi-Purpose Cash Grant to 2,000 families to procure the goods identified needed by each household.

PCMN was also able to achieve accomplishments in the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) project. #



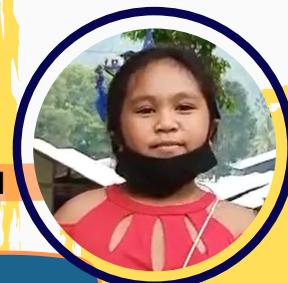
Stories of Children in Operation Safe camps: The heart of DERR Earthquake Mindanao Response

We should always obey our parents – that's what I learned from Operation Safe Camp. My favorite station is the love station because I can make bags. The camp helped me to listen to my parents more.



Jayvee Lance Bugoy

I learned from Operation Safe Camp that I am important. My favorite station is the story station because I can hear more stories and I like the Pete's Adventure story. Now I felt important.



Geline Eting Awil

I learned from Operation Safe Camp that I am not alone because God is always with me. My favorite station is the Bible Story Station because I can learn a lot of verses. The camp helped me realized that I should not be scared of the earthquake that happened to us. That I should be strong.



Jayyah O. Manalin

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MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



“

...there is so much uncertainties on how to proceed, but grateful that His guidance saw us through to today- thriving, learning, pursuing!

”

Fe A. Foronda
National Director, PCMN

Greetings of peace to all partners, member agencies, regional networks, stakeholders, family, youth and children!

The whole year of 2020 has been both a challenge and a renewal for many. The whole creation is groaning due to the difficulties of multiple and complex disasters that hit the country. The attendant needs to vulnerable children, youth and families are many and multiplied by the second. Violence against children has not abated but has increased during the pandemic. There is a spike in children abuse materials proliferating in the internet as compared to last year. The ministry to children will never be ending and their world (our world) remains broken.

Despite all of the challenges, we take consolation on this, that 'We are not alone'! The Holy Spirit is groaning with us, advocating and praying for us! (Romans 8: 37).

The 4th quarter saw PCMN with continuing vigor to respond to specific needs of the most at risk children. We solidified our partnerships through MOU signing with City Division of Schools in Dasmariñas, Iligan and Antipolo cities.

We closed ranked with our local government partners including the offices of the City Executives and barangays, the Violence Against Women and Children Desks, the Sangguniang Kabataan offices, and the Local Councils for the Protection of Children towards our educational campaigns on the safety of children online.

In response to COVID-19, we implemented likewise the food and hygiene kit distribution to survivors of abuse and cash grants to vulnerable families coupled with an awareness campaign against online sexual abuse and exploitation against children.

In the period, our partnership with the municipalities of Makilala in North Cotabato and Magsaysay in Davao Del Sur ended with 15,000 individuals helped in ten evacuation camps who were survivors of the 2019 earthquakes and garnered 225 strong local church volunteers, a precursor of a future network for children at risk.

This quarter, specifically on December 10, we would have ended our COVID-19 response which is an integrated cash transfer,

Family and Children Phone Mentoring Program and anti-OSEC education campaign in Iligan City. Praise God, another 3,500 families are helped with this project assisted by the 100 volunteers from the Iligan Children's Ministries Network and the VAWC of each 9 barangay covered by the project.

PCMN's 12 Network Regional Coordinators and Officers finished their 6 session-Network Training Course with Viva, and the implementation of the Family and Child Phone Mentoring Program. They are now best equipped to organize and mobilize their local church and ministries membership.

As we sit down and assess the gains of the year, we can only thank God, when in March at the beginning of the lockdown, there is so much uncertainties on how to proceed, but grateful that His guidance saw us through to today- thriving, learning, pursuing!

With the Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers of PCMN, with all the stakeholders, we thank our project and funding partners for the year who journeyed with us, Daghang Salamat, Maraming Salamat Po! It was an exhilarating year, but nevertheless fruitful and blessed. #