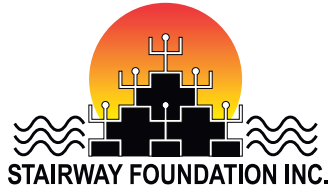




2022

ANNUAL REPORT





2022 Annual Report

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Message

The single most significant event of 2022 was the reopening of schools after more than two years of lockdown.

Last August, more than 28 million Filipino students enrolled for school year 2022 - 2023, according to the Department of Education. The drawn-out lockdown inadvertently caused much harm to children, exposing them to a range of risks, including shortage of food, domestic violence, deprivation of education, social isolation, internet related addictions, and online and offline abuse. The harmful effects of the pandemic were not distributed evenly, and not surprisingly, the already disadvantaged got the lion's share. It is estimated that the pandemic pushed an additional 100 million children worldwide into multi-dimensional poverty. A huge set back in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

In the Baclayan indigenous community, the consequences of the extended lockdown are unmistakable. Lots of children were not able to understand and follow the modular learning system the DepEd rolled out a few months into the pandemic, and for many there was no help to find within their households. It is undeniably a serious blow to our efforts over more than a decade to lift the educational standing amongst the indigenous children. As a resolve, we will invest more to keep children in school and to boost their confidence and learning curve. Thus, we are in the process of building an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Learning and Resource Center in the community. It will primarily serve the students from the local school, who have no access to computers, but it is also open to the community as a whole. We want to use the center to provide quality education, to counter a growing digital divide, and to combat the ill effects of misinformation, disinformation and fake news on social media. The opening of the center is set for February.

Stairway's creative team, who is behind our e-learning platform, continued to develop new innovative materials to protect children and youth online. We will launch our latest short animation film addressing sexting and sextortion, along with a complete e-learning module, during the Safer Internet Day in February 2023. See link for film and course below. <https://elearning.stairwayfoundation.org/course/view.php?id=104>

Our advocacy and capacity building team in the National Capital Region has continued to expand our networks with government and non-government organizations, forging collaboration with new corporate partners. Assisted by our e-learning, the Break the Silence National Network has reached more than half a million children, educators and other child protection actors during 2022. Stairway's child protection work still extends beyond our national borders, as we have continued to work with partners in South- and Southeast Asia and Africa.

The Environmental Awareness for Children and Youth program noted good progress in several areas. The indigenous people in our community almost abandoned their slash and burn practice, and in one village a group of members have established an association with even distribution between male and female members, which focusses on sustainability. This is the village and the people we need to engage in protection of our local reef, which we aim to have declared a Marine Protected Area. Our efforts in leading Puerto Galera towards more sustainable tourism is beginning to resonate with stakeholders in the town council, which has been manifested through active engagement to make Puerto Galera qualify as a Green Destination. Our Sea Adventure School went back into action with 41 trips, and the floating classroom accommodated more

than 900 students over the last five months of the year. And best of all, the lifting of pandemic restrictions allowed children and youth in the hundreds to reengage with our program and activities.

As the past few years have provided us with new challenges, we have expanded our programs and activities and welcomed more new colleagues into our group. Throughout the pandemic, we have been very fortunate to have the necessary support and back up from a large number of amazing international partners. We would like to thank you all on behalf of the many children we managed to positively affect and protect through our collective efforts.

We have reason to appreciate and celebrate what we have accomplished over the past year, as we also recognize that protection of children's rights has never been more urgent than right now. We need your help. Together we make a difference.

With respect and appreciation,

Lars Jorgensen
Executive Director



Acronyms

ALS	Alternative Learning System
ATI	Agricultural Training Institute
BCA	Barangay Children's Association
BCD	Bureau of Curriculum Development
BCDI	Baclayan Community Development Initiative
BCPC	Barangay Council for the Protection of Children
BFSA	Baclayan Food Security Association
BTS	Break the Silence
BTS NN	Break the Silence National Network
BMI	Body Mass Index
BMS	Baclayan Mangyan School
BMZ	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation, Germany
CAP	Community Assistance Program
CDCLAA	Certification Declaring a Child Legally Available for Adoption
CHEC	Children Health Educational Center
CLA	Creative Learning Activities
COP	Child Online Protection
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPN	Child Protection Network
CPP	Child Protection Policy
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CRN	Children's Rights Network
CRP	Child Rights Programming
CRPC	Climate Reality and Plastic Crisis
CSAAW	Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Week
CSAEM	Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Material
CSAEP	Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention
CSAP	Child Sexual Abuse Prevention
CSP	CyberSafe Schools Project
DA	Department of Agriculture
DANIDA	Danish International Development Assistance
DEAR	Drop Everything and Read
DepEd	Department of Education
DHRDD	Directorate for Human Resources and Doctrine Development
DICT	Department of Information and Communication Technology
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EACY	Environmental Awareness for Children and Youth
EAG	Environmental Awareness for Children and Youth Advocacy Group
EACYp	Environmental Awareness for Children and Youth Projects
EAI	Education Assistance Initiative

FDS	Family Development Sessions
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FHP	Family Home Program
ICT	Information, Communication, and Technology
IP	Indigenous People
KNH	Kindernothilfe
LAC	Learning Action Cell
LGU	Local Government Unit
MAO	Municipal Agriculture Office
MCPC	Municipal Council for the Protection of Children
MDRRMC	Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MENRO	Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Office
MIMAROPA	Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MSWDO	Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office
NCR	National Capital Region
NPMO	National Project Management Office
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NPTI	National Police Training Institute
ORMT	Oriental Mindoro Monitoring Team
OSAE	Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children
Pantawid	Poverty Alleviation Program
PCNC	Philippine Council for NGO Certification
PGSTC	Puerto Galera Sustainable Tourism
PGYC	Puerto Galera Yacht Club
PNP	Philippine National Police
RBE	Rights Based Education
RFPF	Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning
SAS	Sea Adventure School
SFI	Stairway Foundation, Inc.
SIDPh	Safer Internet Day Philippines
SNMPG	Samahan ng Magsasaka ng Puerto Galera
SSCA	Sarigan Savings and Credit Association
SPED	Special Education
TFP	Teach for the Philippines
TOT	Training of Trainers
UPLB	University of the Philippines Los Baños
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNICEF	United Nation International Children Emergency Fund
VAC	Violence against Children
WOGS	Weekend Organic Gardening Series
WCPC	Women and Children Protection Center
WCPD	Women and Children Protection Desks
WCPU	Women and Children Protection Units

Family Home Program (FHP)



New Children Joining the Family Home

Last September, Stairway's Family Home welcomed an additional seven children to the program. We assessed them through a virtual conference, face-to-face intake interview, and psychological evaluation.

Upon admission, the new batch of children received our Children's Handbook, which they processed and discussed together with four older Stairway boys and our resident social worker, during the orientation period. The boys underwent medical and dental check-ups and received treatment as required.

Following the introduction week of the new kids came the academic evaluation to determine their placement into different class levels to ensure individualized attention in their new learning environment. Two could read independently, four at a very beginning level, and one could not read at all. They are now grouped according to their learning needs. The teachers develop strategies and activities to bridge individual differences, including but not limited to the Marungko approach, experiential learning, differentiated instruction, and multiple intelligence approach. After only a few months of interventions and learning activities, all of the boys in the new batch can read and write with minimal supervision from the teacher.



The adjustment to the new environment was not too difficult for the new boys, as the older boys ensured their support and guidance, along with the staff in the center. Every day is a new day for this group – new adventures, experiences, and learnings. They appreciate the daily schedule, which allows each child to discover their hidden potential and develop skills and knowledge in many areas.



The children are divided into four groups depending on their developmental stage. The groups are Fire, Air, Water and Earth.

Daily Schedule of Activities for Stairway Children

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
6:00-6:30	ALL Wake Up								
6:30-7:30	Cleaning Assigned Areas	Yoga Session/Exercise	Cleaning Assigned Areas	Yoga Session/Exercise	Cleaning Assigned Areas	Wake Up	Yoga Session/Exercise		
7:30-8:00	ALL Preparation								
8:00 - 9:00	ALL Breakfast								
9:00-10:00	Fire	Computer	Organic Farming/ Baclayan Activity	Soap Making	Sailing Activity	General Cleaning	Church Mass		
	Air	Arts		Computer					
	Water	Soya Milk Making		Computer		Diving Course			
	Earth	Academics		Diving Course					
10:00-11:00	Fire	Computer	Organic Farming/ Baclayan Activity	Crafts Making	Sailing Activity	General Laundry	Church Mass		
	Air	Academics		Computer					
	Water	Arts		Computer		Diving Course			
	Earth	Soya Milk Making		Diving Course					
11:00-11:45	Fire	Personality Development	Organic Farming/ Baclayan Activity	Arts	Sailing Activity	Chess/Board Games	Cleaning Assigned Areas		
	Air	Academics		Personality Development					
	Water	Arts		Personality Development		Baking			
	Earth	Arts		Baking					
12:00-1:00	ALL Lunch								
1:00-2:00	Fire	Environmental Education with EACY Facilitators	Music	Chess	Sailing Activity	Yoga Session	Crafts Making		
	Air		Chess	Music					
	Water		English Communication	Baking			English Communication		
	Earth		Baking	English Communication					
2:00-3:00	Fire	Theatre & Creative Expressions	Book Reading	Theatre & Creative Expressions	Sailing Activity	Yoga Session	Crafts Making		
	Air						Personality Development		
	Water		Laundry					Music Recording Program	
	Earth		Laundry				Music Recording Program		
3:15-4:00	Fire	Wrap Up	Theatre & Creative Expressions	Theatre & Creative Expressions	Sailing Activity	Sports	Sports		
	Air								
	Water							Laundry	
	Earth							Personality Development	
4:00-5:30	ALL	Wrap Up	Beach Time	Beach Time	Sports	Beach Time	Beach Time		
5:30-6:30	ALL	Laundry	Clean Up	Clean Up	Clean Up	Clean Up	Clean Up		
6:30-7:30	ALL Dinner								
8:00-9:30	Fire	Football/Soccer	Basketball	Basketball	Friday Movie	Saturday Movie	Homework/Reading		
	Air						Music Recording Program	Homeschool/ALS Modules	Music Recording Program
	Water								
	Earth						Homeschool/ALS Modules		
ALL	Lights Off								

The wrap-up sessions are a venue for the boys to freely express their feelings and concerns. During the first month of stay, the sessions are very frequent, as we want the children to understand that their feelings and opinions are important and that they are active members of a small community/family, in which their voices are heard.



Every Friday, when the weather permits, the boys are sailing in the magnificently beautiful bay of Puerto Galera. For many, it is initially a daunting challenge, but they all end up good sailors - and swimmers. Another great activity building confidence!



With support from the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) and facilitated by our in-house instructor, Magnus, the ten boys finished their open water course and are now all certified Open Water Divers.

The Old Batch (The ten)

The ten boys from the old batch received academic recognition in their respective grade levels for school year 2021-2022. For school year 2022-2023, two of them are enrolled in a homeschooling program, and eight are in the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program. All ten have recently completed their PADI Scuba Diver training, and they are now certified Open Water Divers.

The ten can now confidently use Microsoft Office and Adobe Photoshop. Aside from the regular computer classes, they did the theory for their PADI dive course online. We have recently put up a Music Studio to enhance the boys' skills in composing and recording music. They have had twenty-four (24) sessions programming on Sonic-Pi, a code-based music creation and performance tool. As a result, four boys recorded their beats and rhythms with their own lyrics.



With the guidance of our new resident artist, the boys develop their creativity as they advance from having basic knowledge of art, media, figure illustration, abstract, perspective, portrait, upcycling, and sculpture to being inventive artists.

From May up to September, the ten boys performed a new and minimalist version of *The Lorax Theater Play* to different groups, with 363 viewers. Now, after four months of intense work with the new kids, we have already had three successful performances of the full-blown version of the play, including all the boys. We expect to host a large number of children from the local schools for the show in 2023 as part of our environmental awareness campaign.



The full scale Lorax production is back on the program.



All the boys are doing gardening, partly around their residential house but also on a larger scale at Stairway's farm in the mountains. Over the year, they have harvested more than 130 kilograms of assorted vegetables and herbs, including cabbage, lettuce, beans, bitter gourds, eggplant, oca, tomato, chili, bell pepper, basil, oregano, and many more.



Positive Peer Support

The ten boys serve as good role models for the newly admitted children. They give time to help them in reading, writing, math, English, artwork, acting, juggling, chess, swimming, sailing, ball games and much more. These commendable behaviors and attitudes inspire and influence the new boys that everyone has a chance to make a change for the better.

Health and Well-being

The seven newly admitted children underwent physical check-ups and laboratory examinations as a standard operating procedure during admission. Out of seven, four received treatment for urinary tract infections, ova parasites, and eye infections. One child is seriously affected with psoriasis and is still under treatment, showing immense improvement. Meanwhile, older boys received dental cleaning and tooth filling services. They also received a booster shot as additional prevention and protection from the COVID-19 virus. To practice mindfulness and improve spiritual wellbeing, we have a volunteer friend conduct yoga sessions twice a week.

Case Interventions

All Stairway boys receive psychological intervention, which has revealed that not all of them can tackle complex cognitive tasks and know how to relate to others without fear of rejection. The results help us in developing the right approach for the psychological and psychosocial development of the kids.

We have processed the filing of “Founding Certificates” of five boys. This year, we have presented two cases at the regional matching conference with the DSWD Regional Child Welfare Specialist Group and one of the two cases to the National Authority for Child Care for inter-regional matching presentation for possible foster or adoption placement. Unfortunately, the cases did not match for placement.

Five of the seven newly admitted children have birth certificates. Two of them are in the process of applying for late birth registration. We have finally received the late birth registration of one child from the old batch.

Special Events

Stairway organizes a number of activities and events that are particularly memorable to every child. This year, the boys participated in various activities during Earth Day and World Ocean Day Celebration. They joined Regatta competitions organized by Puerto Galera Yacht Club (PGYC), and they also enjoyed trick or treating and making costumes during our annual Halloween celebration.

In celebration of National Children’s Month, four older boys co-facilitated sessions about children’s rights and prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation. All boys participated in two different theatre productions, a chess tournament, an artwork exhibit, and other creative performances.





Christmas is every child’s most awaited and celebrated holiday of the year. At Stairway, Christmas is associated with the theatre performance *One Wish*, which has been running for 15 years, only interrupted for two years by the extended pandemic lockdown. The last two weeks up to Christmas, the children go into rehearsals that are more intensive, and their efforts are always rewarded by the overwhelmingly positive response from very diverse groups of audiences. *One Wish* has become a tradition, not only within Stairway, but also for the entire local community.

The children have an amazing time over the holidays, and they are all given the opportunity to call and speak with their loved ones – family, relatives, and staff from former centers.



Once again UPLB Choral Ensemble came to celebrate Earth Day with us.

Strengthening Manpower and Capacity Building

Training enhances each staff member's knowledge and skill set, which is valuable to the children we serve and to the quality of the work we do in general. It enables us to grow and improve our skills in carrying out our key functions.

The Family Home Program team completed Stairway's Child Protection e-learning course and capacity-building virtual sessions on Anti-Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) Law (RA 11930) headed by the Stairway NCR Office. We have also attended seminars on child participation and protection, house parenting, and teaching methodologies in the 21st century.

As part of the admission process for the new batch of kids, the FHP team participated in their virtual case conference. They had a chance to inquire about the child's back-ground and listen to the stories of the boys.

In addition, the Family Home Team expanded this year with a resident artist and additional houseparent to help cater to our growing family.



Community Assistance Program (CAP)



Baclayan Community Development

Overall Goals:

To facilitate community awareness and community participation to enable people to solve community problems/issues, provide their basic needs and access to opportunities that will help them to develop better living standards.

Objective:

Improve economic capacities of families and youth through various livelihood interventions

Baclayan Food Security Association (BFSA)



One of the major strengthening services of the Family and Youth Livelihood Framework in Baclayan is to mobilize and capacitate community members willing to engage in possible sustainable forms of livelihood. The members participate in one or several activities or enterprises. This can be in the form of natural farming, entrepreneurship and savings mobilization to increase food security, diversify income sources, and secure their livelihood.

The new Stairway livelihood focal taught the group proper record keeping and promotion of products on Facebook. The products promoted include natural soap, culinary and medicinal herbs, dried tea leaves (oregano and blue ternate) and vegetables. The group's culinary and medicinal herbs include spiny coriander, chives, basil, tarragon, peppermint, spearmint, yerba buena, stevia, oregano, Jamaican oregano, and serpentina.

The BFSA has many projects underway, but its heart and soul lies in the camaraderie and support system among its members.



BFSA was formed 1 year ago to improve the economic and social situation for mothers and young women coming from an indigenous community.



Sarigan (fellowship in Irayan and Tadyawan dialect) Savings and Credit Association (SSCA)

Twenty-two (22) women (including the 13 BFSAs members) come together every Thursday for the Sarigan Savings and Credit Group. All members have agreed to increase their weekly share from P50.00 to P100.00 as their maximum. Through SSCA, they can get loans to solve immediate problems without going to moneylenders, who impose high interest rates.

Some mothers have moved out of the Baclayan community, back to their hometowns. Some were not able to continue due to delicate pregnancy and conflict in work and school schedule. Three of the women who left were officers of the SSCA, which opened up for other members to be active in the management of the Association. The remaining 22 mothers use a participatory approach in communication and problem-solving and have decided to gather twice a month and still give a maximum share of P400.00 per month.

Sarigan Garden Center

Through their garden work, the Association has started selling culinary herbs in the central market and dried tea in a local establishment in Puerto Galera with support from the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO). The Association also sells their vegetables in the Baclayan Feeding Program and to the teachers of Baclayan Mangyan School (BMS). They take part in the program of the transition in the Baclayan Community Development to support the local produce of the community.

Meanwhile, irregular participation of the members in the BFSAs work impedes the increase of production and other administrative tasks. Due to personal reasons, work, study priorities, and weather conditions, the mothers cannot keep up with the demands of the garden. However, an elder mother said, 'As long as there are 1,2,3 who come, the work must go on.'

Sarigan (Fellowship in Tadyawan dialect) Natural Soap Production

The natural soap production enterprise became the first active enterprise among all the BFSA ventures. The soaps have been sold within Oriental Mindoro and outside the province. Some loyal customers helped in the promotion of Sarigan natural soap. This paved the way for an engagement with the Manila Waters Foundation and the United Nation International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in their handwashing campaign in response to the COVID 19 safety measures. This year, they sold 225 pieces of natural soap to the local market and to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).



Sarigan Bigasan (Rice)

The mothers decided to use their money as a revolving fund for a buy and sell rice business. The members are given two weeks to pay and will have a penalty if their payment is delayed. It was the mothers themselves, who came up with the idea and guidelines of operations. Some mothers have not settled their accounts yet, which has disturbed the cycle of buying and selling.

The soap production and the garden project have been learning experiences for the BFSA members to admit to personal differences as a hindrance to efficiency in the operation. They would like to intensify their cooperation, communication, and time management abilities. The mothers have now started to make small size soap to sell in their store and cater to hotels and resorts in Puerto Galera.

Livestock Management

To achieve the desired outcome of the Baclayan Transition Plan, the Livestock Management was initiated with the support of SFI and other external resources from local government and international private groups.

Currently, two mothers have provided 3 chickens to 2 fellow association members while 2 mothers have provided each of their baby goats to 2 association members. Another two mothers are now in the process of finishing their animal dispersal obligation, which means the pigs will be theirs already. Other pigs and goats have given birth but are not yet ready for distribution. There were more losses in the poultry due to disease, predators, and other forms of pests.

Baloc-Baloc Farmers Association (BBFA)

It has been challenging to organize the farmers in Baloc Baloc, and only a few members have attended the bimonthly meetings. It has become evident that members do not attend meetings if they will not receive anything in return from the government or non-government organizations. Meetings were delayed because of the tardiness of the members and it has been difficult electing new officers due to low attendance. The men have not quite realized the long term value of organization and education. Never the less, the group underwent technical skills training on natural gardening principles given by SFI agriculturist, which was concluded by handing out seeds to plant in their individual gardens.

Scholarship for IP Youth: Agriculture Students from Baclayan

SFI continues its partnership with Mary Help of Christian School in Calapan. Five (5) youth are now studying Agriculture in Calapan. Three students passed one of the government-accredited agricultural courses offered in the School. They now hold a National Certificate 2 for Organic Agriculture Production of Organic Fertilizers. This is a requirement for them to apply for an agriculture-related job here and abroad.

Five of the graduates of last year's courses are now employed. Three are now working in SFI farm. One is working in a seminary farm in Socorro, Oriental Mindoro and one is working in their sister school in Pampanga as a school personnel.

Objective:

Improving access to quality and relevant education for all (active learning of students and attendance in class).

After School Activities in SFI Children Health and Education Center (CHEC) Creative Learning Activities (CLA), Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) and Let the Children Play

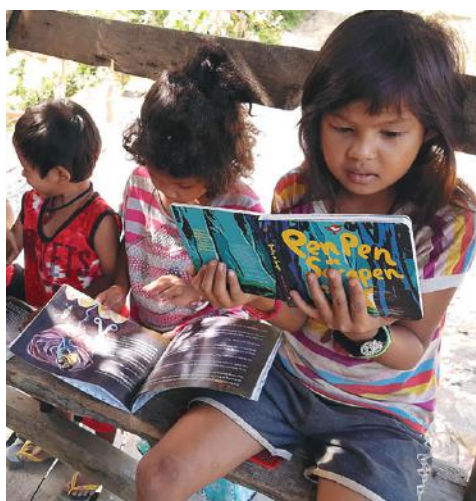
The Children's Health and Education Center (CHEC) continues to operate as a learning and resource center for the members of the Baclayan community. It is a safe, healthy, learning and playing environment for children and adults.

The space has been designed to enhance creativity, stakeholder involvement and volunteerism, which was replicated in the Baloc-Baloc Feeding Station in the form of a Reading and Playing Corner.

The children have become a big help in making sure that the reading corners are operating



smoothly. They help each other in setting up the benches and tables, bringing out the boxes from the cabinet and tidying up. They are now familiar with the routine and their responsibilities. Sixty-three (63) students participated in the Creative Learning Activities (CLA) facilitated by SFI and Teach for the Philippines (TFP). Twenty one (21) pre-primary, primary and elementary students currently participate in the CLA storytelling and other enrichment activities. Thirty one (31) high school students participate in the CLA art, math and comprehension. Eleven (11) high school students were under the CLA program facilitated by the TFP. Ten (10) students from Gloders' College, SFI's new partner school who participated in our CLA, have received academic recognition for this quarter and 2 students received an award for their perseverance. However, partnership with the Baclayan Mangyan School in certain CLA activities is put on hold because of a Department of Education Order for school year 2022-2023 stating that all school days shall be dedicated to academics and co-curricular activities.



Child Rights, Environmental Awareness, Life Skills Education

There is an increased number of children, who are active in awareness-raising and mobilization efforts in environmental protection, practical life skills education, and child rights activities. These became avenues for self-awareness, respect for cultural identity and heritage, leadership, fellowship and social responsibility for children and youth. The peer facilitators composed of 24 youth organized activities for 50 children in celebration of the Children’s Month.

Activity/Topic	Female	Male
Baclayan Stakeholder Meetings and Capacity Building Sessions (Baclayan Transition Plan, Importance of Community Participation)	5	2
Life Skills Education (Communication, Critical Thinking, Cooperation, Creativity, Humor, Survival Swimming)	21	14
Creative Learning Activities (Art, Computer, Health, Math, Reading, Play)	20	20
Adolescent Health Awareness	14	10
IP Awareness Trainings (Free Prior Informed Consent, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices)	23	16
Environmental Protection Activities	50	35
Livelihood and Social Protection (Financial Literacy, Savings, Livestock Management, Natural Farming)	15	11
National Situation of Children in the Philippines	25	14



A new initiative for the children to practice life skills is the creation of Sarigan Children and Youth Savings Group with a similar goal as the women’s group without the credit/loan component. Two (2) groups have been formed composed of children in the elementary and high school level. They learned and experienced saving money and managing the project. They have a set of officers, passbooks and a cash box. Twenty-six (26) children will have their first ‘cash-out’ (savings) by December 2022. Sarigan 1 had a total savings of P3, 120.00 in 8 months.

Four members of the Sarigan Group 2 participated in the Municipal Level Training on Leadership and Agricultural Technologies. As part of the training design, they submitted a project proposal on Free Range Chickens with a possible grant of P9, 000.

They also attended a Provincial Summit, which aims to empower and motivate youth to become competent agripreneurs.



Youth participation in training workshop activities under the Department of Agriculture. Capacitating youth as prime movers towards sustainable development.

Objective:

Strengthen culture-sensitive protection and support initiatives for children and their families

The overall goal of the Baclayan Community Development Initiative (BCDI) is to facilitate community awareness and community participation to enable people to solve community problems/issues, provide their basic needs and access to opportunities that will help them to develop better living standards and still underline their rights as an indigenous community.

With this, the BCDI reiterates the importance of education and capacity-building of groups and structures to raise awareness of IP-related concerns. Adults and children participate in the following capacity building sessions:

1. Gender Awareness Training
2. Free Prior and Informed Consent Training
3. Basic IP Awareness Training
4. Importance of Community Participation
5. Project Management
6. Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices

Objective:

Improve networking and partnership

Partnership and Linkages

Stairway Foundation continuously engages and cooperates with various government and private organizations to support in the implementation of the projects of the Baclayan Community Development Initiative. The following are the strong supporters of BCDI in each of our project components.

- **Education and Development.** Mary Help of Christian School, Calapan, Teach For the Philippines, Dutch Family and Friends, St. Bridget School, Batangas, Free divers Coaches of Asia, Philippine Play Coalition
- **Livelihood and Development.** Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO), Provincial Agriculture, Agriculture Training Institute Samahan ng Magsasaka ng Puerto Galera (SNMPG), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Puerto Galera and Calapan, Puerto Galera Training Center, Sarigan Savings and Credit Association (SSCA), Local Government of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro
- **IP Education.** The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and Partners for Indigenous Knowledge Philippines
- **Community Organizing, Women and Children's Participation.** Baclayan Stakeholders Committee, Rural Health Unit, Dr Francis Daytec and his team, Baclayan Food Security Association, EACY Club, Sarigan Children and Youth Savings Group 1 and 2, Livelihood Youth and Peer Facilitators

Children have a seat in the Baclayan Stakeholders Committee, which is responsible for designing and implementing the transition activities in the 5-year Baclayan Plan. They joined in capacity-building sessions with the adults to prepare them as community leaders.

School Feeding Program

The global situation amidst the pandemic has further stressed the importance of feeding programs to improve health, nutritional status and school performance amongst children and youth in marginalized communities. The last six months in the school calendar of 2021-2022 were a challenge for the community in the provision of lunch meals. The data recorded at the feeding stations showed inconsistent attendance of elementary and high school students. There were factors that hindered the participation of both parents and children in the Feeding Program, like:



a. **Transfer of residence.** Due to the pandemic, some families have moved to other places where they can find work and generate income.

b. **Busy parents who are not able to comply with their duties.** Some children expressed their desire of claiming foods from the feeding centers, but parents reasoned out they could not attend to their weekly schedule in food preparation.

c. **Food preference.** Some parents and teachers admitted their children had started to lose interest to get food from the feeding centers due to the same food menu served weekly in

the kitchen and the way it was prepared. The children preferred processed, instant food and food with flavor enhancers. They actually recommended using products with monosodium glutamate and to serve meat like pork and chicken. Instead of agreeing with the recommendations of parents and teachers, we came up with a solution to provide cooking lessons to parents on how to prepare healthy and flavorful plant based meals.



Preparation of firewood by a father.

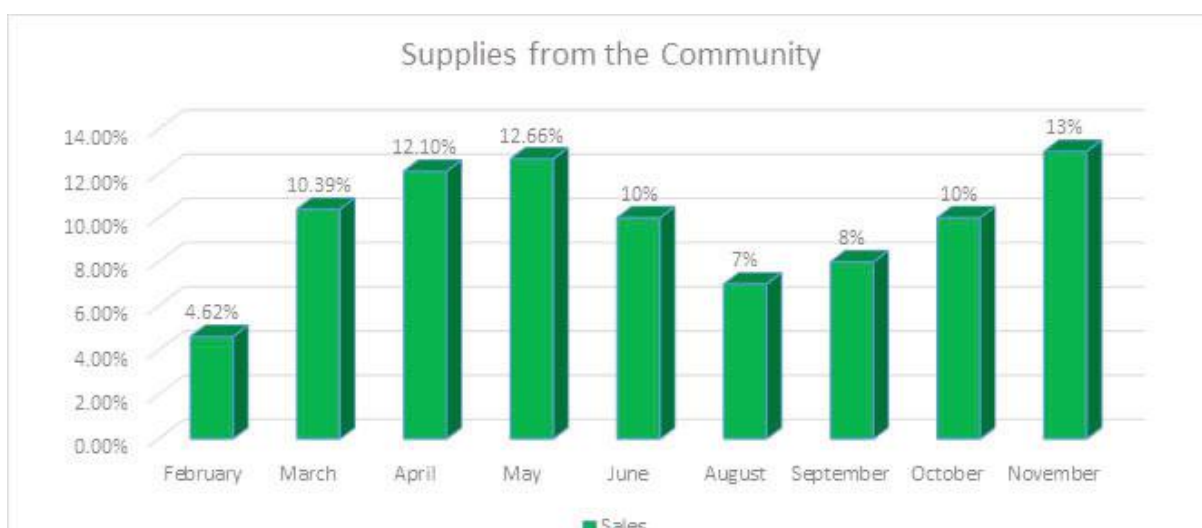
Starting school year 2022-2023, meals were served in the main feeding center, since the school went back to face-to-face classes. Parents from different villages are in-charge of the feeding center. According to the 5 year transition plan, we were supposed to start only providing food 4 days a week starting school year 2022-2023. We did not push through with this reduction in service, because the community is not fully prepared for the transition. To strengthen the goal of the transition plan, stakeholders in the community actively participated in regular consultations and meetings to address the challenges and issues encountered. The local stakeholders will also take part in the selection criteria of who will continue in the program for the following years. We continue to provide technical support and training to parents in preparation for meeting the goal of the transition plan towards higher level of community self-reliance.

Food Supplies from the Community

Stairway Foundation continuously avails vegetable supplies from individual gardens and associations in the community. We target to have 25% food supplies from the community. However, the production of the community is noticeably low due to a lack of seeds supply, extreme weather conditions, and pests affecting crops in the garden.



The supply of vegetables from the community increased since the start of school year 2022-2023 in August. With the help of Baclayan Food Security Association and parent leaders from three (3) sitios in Baclayan, they have been able to slowly increase the supply of vegetables in the feeding center. The 13% share in November is a record, but there is still a way to go to reach the targeted 25%.



Health and Education

The transfer of the regular medical check-ups from the CHEC to the Barangay Health Center was a result of organizing the stakeholders and working closely together for the barangay to take ownership of the project. The Barangay Health Workers appreciate the trust and responsibility of this transfer. They show diligence by communicating and finding ways to improve the inventory and reporting system. This demonstrates that people value the participatory approach as a process of empowerment.

In September of S.Y. 2022-2023, we conducted basic hygiene and health awareness to a total of thirty-three (33) participants from Baclayan. RHU and DOH also facilitated a health orientation to twenty participants. They discussed topics on healthy habits, COVID-19 vaccines, and family planning.

Stairway Organic Farm in Baclayan

With two agriculturists connected to the farm, we are now applying a more scientific and methodic approach. We still have to go by trial and error, but our documentation and processing of the data output will be used systematically as the basis for future plans and strategies. We enhance crop diversification by planting additional kinds and varieties of local and high value vegetables and seasonal crops. To ensure a high rate of germination and growing of crops vulnerable to cold and heavy rain, we maximize the nursery and greenhouses.



For proper crop management, we have submitted samples for soil analysis to the Provincial Agriculturist's Office Soil Laboratory. They concluded that Nitrate and Phosphorus levels are low while the potassium level is sufficient. These are all main nutrients required of common vegetables. To address this gap, we set up more cold and open composting in strategic locations to facilitate the decomposition of organic matters for future use.

Our vermicast/compost building was totally destroyed by typhoon Paeng/Nalgae late October. In order to further improve our soil, we now rebuild it with 200% more capacity. This will enable us to produce sufficient fertilizer to feed the need of the farm, even with a slight expansion of growing area.



To prevent insect attack and soil moisturizing, we produce wood vinegar and other appropriate concoctions. The wood vinegar facility is functional and can cover the consumption of the farm. With the help of our newly-hired agriculturist, the production has increased, and the surplus can now be sold to the market for fund generation or shared with local farmers in the area.



We also constructed initial fencing to prevent the intrusion of animals and unauthorized persons. Existing facilities such as the camp house, kitchen, workshop and greenhouses are currently undergoing repair and renovation.

Changing Weather Patterns

We have allocated a permanent area for crop rotation following the planting calendar, but we experience changes in the weather patterns affecting the harvest of some of the crops. We planted corn in May, which follows the planting calendar, but the harvest failed miserably. Instead of the expected rain in June, the whole month was sunny, which is untimely to the flowering stage of corn. Thus, we tried to plant corn in the last quarter to see for its adaptability.

We planted an additional 1,000 pineapples on a hillside open to winds from both directions. Pineapples are low-lying and can stand any type of weather. This was observed based on the current standing crop that bears fruit every season.

With seeds and support coming from University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB), we planted soya beans in three different areas in Baclayan. We also facilitated a season-long Training for Soya Production, which ran over 16 weeks of community-based activities from land preparation to harvesting. The harvest was excellent, which is both interesting and very promising, since this is the first time for soya production in the entire municipality. We will now extend the area for soya production for the coming season.

Following growing the soya beans, we brought in resource people to facilitate workshops in processing the bean into soya mass (tofu) and soya milk. The Stairway boys picked up the skill and for several months, as long as we had stock, they produced our own soya milk and tofu.



Soya processing training for community members and the Stairway boys. Female adults and their children also participated in the workshop.

Our latest attempt in poultry production has been a total failure with more than 100 chicken dead within 6 months. We apparently need to find a different breed that can handle the changing temperatures and the strong winds.

Bee rearing is new and under trial stage. The initial beehives are due to be harvested. Additional beehives may be included in the next plan, depending on the result of the upcoming harvest. We installed a perimeter fence for the horses to enable them to move freely.

We have grown two varieties of bamboo from shoots to be planted in the areas with ground movement to avoid further landslides, like we experienced in 2021 following a series of earthquakes and tremors. We will plant giant bamboo along the perimeter fence for further protection.

Provision of Training and Extension Services

Our two agriculturists on the farm conducted training workshops and other services to extend assistance to individuals and groups in different sectors that include youth, women, and people with disabilities. We also hosted exposure trips on the farm to our partners and stakeholders.

We conducted a cash for work scheme to supplement the manpower in clearing areas for seasonal crop production. This resulted in hiring 36 individuals, 6 males and 30 females. They are members of the 2 organized partner groups in Baclayan Community Development for food security. They worked alternately and received wages at a standard rate.

The main training conducted was the Weekend Organic Gardening Series (WOGS). WOGS is designed to provide a comprehensive and step-by-step theory and hands-on experience from land preparation up to pest and disease management.

WOGS is designed for Grade 10-11 students, parents, groups and individuals from different barangays in Puerto Galera. The first batch of 19 participants managed to train 10 graduates. Post-training, we provided garden tools to the group to jumpstart their interest in agriculture.



WOGS ran every Saturday for four (4) consecutive weeks, with field exposure to government run agriculture offices and school of agriculture as finale.

Mitigating Challenges in the Farm

The organic farm is susceptible to a variety of challenges and concerns. Pest and diseases have infested some of the plants, fruits, and vegetables. Rodents, stray animals and soil infertility all pose a threat to many crops on the farm. Farm workers' negative attitude also affects the processes and the atmosphere on the farm. Some of the indigenous male farm workers are less than comfortable to have two women agriculturists as their supervisors.

All of the above mentioned challenges are currently being addressed as we are working on a new comprehensive strategic plan to advance our farm operations. One early conclusion is that in order to increase farm productivity, we need to have more knowledgeable farm workers. We are trying to link up with international colleges for organic farming to attract interns and volunteers with skills, interest and knowledge in organic farming.

Educational Assistance Initiative (EAI)

Stairway's Educational Assistance Initiative (EAI) supports families and students in need through financial augmentation, academic support, individual and family counseling, family and youth empowerment activities, and intervention services. These initiatives help families, partner schools and communities to focus on providing quality and accessible education to children.

All primary and secondary EAI beneficiaries receive Php 500.00 monthly allowance and transportation allowance for those who live far from school. College beneficiaries receive Php 4,000.00 semester allowance, twice a year. We provide beneficiaries with special needs additional financial assistance, individual or family counseling, court preparation, assistance in procurement of birth certificates, referrals to government offices for assistance, and other services deemed necessary. Nineteen of Stairway's 617 EAI beneficiaries were provided with various additional interventions/assistance for this year.



Most of the school year 2021-2022 continued under the restrictions of a lockdown with students doing modules at home. The prolonged lockdown have caused a huge setback in the education of a vast majority of children in the country, and for many the negative consequences went beyond a delay in academic accomplishments.

In our community, we experienced a higher rate of students who dropped out. Among our six hundred seventeen (617) beneficiaries, five-hundred seventy-seven (577) were able to finish their grade level, which means as many as forty (40) students (6.5%) did not finish. A record high number since we started the program.

Below is a record of EAI beneficiaries that have dropped out starting S.Y. 2017-2018 up to S.Y. 2021-2022.

School Year	Total beneficiaries	Dropout	Percentage of Dropout
2017-2018	440	11	2.5%
2018-2019	478	9	0.21%
2019-2020	498	8	1.61%
2020-2021	616	25	4.1%
2021-2022	617	40	6.5%

The following are reasons stated why beneficiaries dropped out; – transfer of residence (8), academic challenges (2), death (1), late enrollment (1), family obligation (1), financial difficulties (9), lack of compliance due to pregnancy (2), non-compliance to the contract (14) and end of contract due to support of other local NGO (2).

Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, 105 students graduated during school-year 2021-2022 from among the 617 SFI beneficiaries.

EAI beneficiaries' Educational Status for S.Y. 2021-2022

Educational Level	No. of beneficiaries	Dropped out	Graduated
Primary	28	1	8
Secondary	416	31	62
College	172	8	34
Vocational	1	0	1
Total	617	40	105

With the assistance of the school coordinators, parent leaders, class advisers, and community development workers, we provided more interventions for beneficiaries with special needs, such as individual and family counseling, financial assistance, and academic assistance. Consequently, these beneficiaries (19 in total) were able to comply with the school requirements and finish their grade level.



Stairway ICT Learning and Resource Center in Baclayan

To address the setback in education amongst the indigenous children, we decided to establish an ICT Learning and Resource Center in Baclayan. The idea is to use technology to provide quality education, to counter a growing digital divide, to combat the ill effects of misinformation, disinformation and fake news on social media, to inspire critical thinking, and to promote the value of honesty, facts and truth.

We started a total renovation of our camp house in order to make it serve the purpose, and we expect to have the center in operation within the first quarter 2023.

Child protection activities for Stairway EAI beneficiaries

As the safety protocols became more lenient, we were able to reengage with more child protection activities, such as children's rights workshops, prevention of sexual abuse/exploitation training, cyber safety training, and life skills sessions. Unfortunately, the pandemic has only reiterated the need for enhanced interventions to help beneficiaries to protect themselves, their friends, and family members, and we plan to hire an additional social worker with child abuse prevention and case management as focal area.



Reported child abuse cases in Puerto Galera handled by Stairway since 2019.

Reported Cases	No. of Cases	Services
2019		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexually abused children Cyberbullying Placement of abandoned child to FHP of SFI 	<p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>Total: 4</p>	Referral to the local Social Welfare and Development Office; Referral to Women and Children protection desk; Placement of an abandoned child to the Family Home Program of SFI
2020		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physically Abused Sexually Abused Difficulties of parents in dealing with their child resulting to psychological and physical abuse 	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>1</p> <p>Total: 7</p>	Referral to police office and to Government social workers for filing of a legal case; Family counseling Family conferences, coordination with schools, referral to BCPC and parent leaders for monitoring;
2021		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physically Abused Sexually Abused Custody issue of a child Run Away Commercial child sexual Exploitation Child sexual abuse material 	<p>2</p> <p>8</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>3</p> <p>Total: 17</p>	Referral to Regional Social Welfare and Development Office; Counseling session to the parents of sexually abused children; Relocation of a family to avoid harassment of the offender's family; Referral to PNP-WCPD Coordination with FB Management



Since the opening after the COVID-19 lock down, we have provided one hundred fifty-nine (159) children and youth with life skills sessions focused on health and wellness. Facilitating these sessions help us with valuable insights into challenges faced by children and youth today, such as addiction to mobile phones and access to online pornographic materials.

In addition to life skills, student beneficiaries and their parents underwent orientation on Children's Rights and Child sexual abuse/exploitation Prevention (CRC & CSAEP). It is important to note that victim blaming is still a reality in the community. More than half of the parent participants, who attended the orientations, blamed the women victims of sexual abuse because of their choice of clothing. Children participants shared that prostitution of children and watching pornographic online materials are rampant in our local communities/barrios.



One hundred twenty-two (122) student beneficiaries and one hundred-twenty one (121) parents attended the CRC & CSAEP orientation workshops.

We partnered with Propeller Club Philippines to accept local high school graduates from disadvantaged families to enroll into their fitter machinist (ship mechanic) scholarship program. We assisted twenty-four local high school students to take the scholarship examination. Among the twenty four (24) examinees, seven (7) passed the entrance examination.

The EAI beneficiaries and their parents also engaged in various initiatives as part of their pledge of commitment in the program.

- **Solid Waste Management.** Beneficiaries, together with the barangay councils, practice household solid waste management to actively participate in environmental protection and conservation.
- **SAS Trips.** They joined the Sea Adventure School (SAS) trip for Parent Leaders to deepen their concern for environmental protection. It highlighted the effects of human activities in terms of coastal development and waste management.
- **Food Security.** To support our food security initiatives, beneficiaries put up community gardens in Dulangan, Tabinay, Minolo, Aninuan, San Antonio, Villaflor, and Poblacion. They also received 8 kinds of vegetable seeds from University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB).
- **Community Cleanup.** Out of 617, there were 417 beneficiaries and 314 parents, who participated in the 2022 International Clean-up Day. The participants collected 75 kg of garbage, mostly plastic bags and containers, within a total of 3 km, along the beaches and river banks.
- **EACY Club Formation.** EAI beneficiaries led and joined the formation of EACY clubs in their respective barangays. This year EACY Clubs in Aninuan, Minolo, and Baclayan were established.

- **Livelihood Project.** The project aims to support groups spearheaded by parents of EAI beneficiaries and Baclayan residents. It envisions a network of social enterprises led by Stairway beneficiaries contributing to the inclusive economic development of the community. Part of the livelihood projects are as follows:
 - o Luntian Kainan (Green Eatery). They are a livelihood group composed of five mothers of our EAI beneficiaries supported by SFI, who decided to rent a place and start an eatery (small restaurant) in Puerto Galera.
 - o Upcycling Project. SFI financed the production of upcycled products from non-compostable and non-toxic wastes (sachets, tarpaulins, rice sacks etc.). We are now planning to order tote bags from the project proponent for EAI beneficiaries for the next school year.

Local Child Protection Project

The Local Child Protection project is a five-year partnership project with the local government unit and Department of Education (DepEd) of Puerto Galera, which contributes to SFI's over-all goal of creating protective environments for children. The project uses a multi-stakeholder and two-pronged approach (prevention and response) in addressing the issue of offline and online child sexual abuse and exploitation and other child protection issues. The project was materialized to build on the gains of previous child protection work in the locality and scale up interventions, collaborations and partnerships.

Capacity Building of Municipal Child Protection Council (MCPC) and Local partners

The Strategic Plan, which we crafted with the MCPC back in 2021, has started to materialize into action plans. Since the creation of the plan, the MCPC was able to apportion a budget for capacity building and other preventive activities for child protection, a major feat since the inception of the partnership project. Stairway and the MCPC collaborated with the regional



Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) for capacity building of selected local facilitators on Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning (RFPF), and Adolescent Health and Development (AHD) Programs. This is a way to enhance protective behavior of children and adolescents and strengthen parents' skills in responsible parenting to prevent child protection issues.



During the last quarter of the year, various child protection issues surfaced. Most appalling, was the proliferation of a street gang called True Brown Style, with most of the members being children. The gang makes children undergo extremely dangerous initiation activities, a clear violation of children's rights. Stairway, with the help of local mandated structures, coordinated with the local chief executive and the municipal council, which led to the passage of municipal ordinances and policies on stricter implementation of child-friendly hour, prohibition of children riding motorcycles without license and child-free bar operations in barangay Sabang.

Barangay Child Protection Council (BCPC) Programs and Activities

Since the beginning of the partnership project, Stairway has facilitated organizational development activities with barangays to ensure they carry out council mandates and are in the forefront addressing child protection issues in their respective barangays. The following are the BCPC's major undertakings in relation to child protection with significant participation of Stairway Foundation, Inc.

Barangays	BCPC Programs/Activities
Palangan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-stakeholder awareness session on rape and sexual abuse prevention targeting boys and men in the community • Family strengthening session with parents
San Isidro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crafting and implementation of barangay ordinance on the prohibition of selling cigarettes, liquor, etc. to children
Sto. Niño	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganization of BCPC • Inclusion of children/youth sectors in the committee • Gender awareness session with BCPC members • Adolescent Health and Development Session with children and parents
Sabang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular BCPC meetings • Gender awareness session with BCPC members and community stakeholders • CSAP and Cybersafety session with BCPC members and community stakeholders • Community rollout sessions on child protection (Sitio Big Lalaguna) • Conduct of multi-stakeholders' meetings to address child protection issues • Reallocation of BCPC funds for intervention and activities for children

Although there is still a lot to be done to consider these mandated structures as functional, it is already a significant accomplishment that they are now proactively implementing preventive and response activities for children with children. Preventative child protection initiatives at barangay level were extremely rare prior to the local child protection project implementation. During the conduct of community-awareness raising activities, the BCPCs realized first-hand the complexity and prevalence of child protection issues in their areas, such as neglect, sexual abuse and exploitation, and adolescent pregnancy, requiring massive prevention campaigns and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Child Protection Strategies in Schools

After reviewing the existing Memorandum of Agreement between DepEd Puerto Galera and Stairway and presenting the status of children in the municipality, the partners became aware of the severity and urgency of the situation. They reached the conclusion that child protection issues significantly affect children's education, and with their support, we conducted the following initiatives to advance child protection in schools:

- **E-learning Training Program for Educators.** The child protection E-learning Training Program for Educators was launched by 90 educators and school heads from public and private schools in Puerto Galera. Out of 368 enrollees, 186 (50%) educators and school

heads successfully completed the course, which is already an achievement considering the multiple workloads of teachers combined with internet instability in certain areas.

- **Localization of School Child Protection Policies (CPCs).** Three (3) elementary public schools received capacity building sessions during the virtual-based in-service training (INSET) for teachers. Thirty one (31) teachers gained knowledge and skills in elaborating and contextualizing behavioral protocols and case management systems of their corresponding CPPs.
- **Integration of Adolescent Health and Development and Child Protection to Schools.** One of the teachers at Puerto Galera National High School, a home for 2,000+ learners, Ms. Richelle Jaula, who completed both the Adolescent Health and Development Training and the Child Protection Elearning course, authored a school project named project CARE. She was inspired by all the learnings she gained from the trainings and the strong support and guidance of Stairway. The school-based pilot project aimed to address the increasing number of child protection issues, including adolescent pregnancy, in the school through peer-to-peer approach.

Children, Youth, and Community Participation

We have invested our child protection efforts for this year into various sectors, groups and communities.

- **Peer Educators and Child Rights Advocates.** Children and young people turn to their peers for opinions, information, and advice whenever they encounter difficult situations. Taking that into consideration, we explored the peer-to-peer approach as a tool for promoting healthy protective behaviors among children and adolescents.
- **Local Fraternities.** Gender perceptions are interconnected with child protection issues, and thus, one way to create a protective environment free from violence is through engaging men and boys in child protection work. We conducted an orientation on child protection with ten (10) members of local fraternities and gained their support.
- **Local health and medical service providers.** We established partnership with the Rural Health Unit for them to become part of the child protection reporting and referral systems in their respective communities. This partnership blossomed as Stairway became official partners of the unit, when it came to community and school-based sessions on adolescent health and development.
- **Provincial Police Office of Oriental Mindoro.** In July 2022, the Provincial Police Office of Oriental Mindoro coordinated with Stairway for the implementation of Project S.P.A.R.E (Special Protection Against Rape and Exploitation). The project intends to protect victims and would-be victim/s of sexual abuse and other Gender-Based Violence (GBV).



- **Solo Parents and Persons with Disability Associations.** Twenty-three (23) leaders of the solo parent association and the PWD association from different barangays were trained on child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention (CSAEP) and cyber safety. As a response to the inaccessibility of physical therapy services in the municipality, we tapped and mobilized volunteer physical therapists from Metro Manila to conduct assessment to selected adults and children with disability and facilitated a community-based rehabilitation (CBR) session with them.



- **Municipality of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.** The newfound partnership with the municipality is promising, as San Jose MSWDO gives priority to children’s programs and operates a Women and Children Protection Unit called Purple Hearts. We can learn from their experiences, particularly from a rural context, which might inspire the locality of PG to do the same.
- **Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM)** – The agency invited Stairway to educate regional staff and provincial coordinators on Cyber safety. As a result, cyber safety was included as one of their regional priorities for 2023 and will be integrated in their activities, especially in AHD initiatives. They will be using SFI’s different learning resources and materials for cascading.



Our trained peer educators during their capacity building workshops. With years of experience working with children, we recognize they are important resources in reporting and responding to child protection issues.



Child Protection in Education, Awareness Raising, and Advocacy

Stairway facilitated children's rights, child sexual abuse prevention, cyber safety, gender awareness, parenting sessions, and adolescent health and development to around 300 parents and guardians in different barangays. The parents realize the significance of the sessions considering the behaviors of

children and youth in the advent of technology. They also learned about the significance of gender-responsive parenting, protecting boys/male children, digital parenting, and ways to address child protection issues prevalent in Puerto Galera.

In total, we reached 633 children and youth by conducting a range of sessions in different communities and schools in Puerto Galera, including San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

Experiences and learnings from community-based and school-based sessions proved that we need to intensify the advocacy on child protection. We need collaborative efforts from mandated structures, local partners, parents and especially children in addressing child protection issues, in building up children's protective behavior and enhancing parents' capacity towards transformative parenting.

Strengthening Service Delivery

Throughout 2022, we continued to provide mentoring sessions to our local barangays and schools. We provided appropriate interventions for the local child protection implementers in managing cases of children, such as reporting and referral to proper authorities, counseling, facilitating family case conferences, multi-stakeholders case conferences, and assistance during filing of case and court hearings. Since the reopening of schools, various cases of children have been reported and referred to Stairway. We are currently assisting two teenage minority girls in court cases. Both were trafficked, locked up and raped repeatedly. Especially one of them is deeply traumatized. Despite her determination to see her perpetrator prosecuted, it has been too overwhelming for her to be present in the same room as the perpetrator to testify. Initially, even seeing him in an online session caused a total shut down, despite extensive counselling and therapeutic intervention from our social worker in charge of the cases. Now, after almost one year of processing, we are optimistic. The eighth (8th) and most recent court appearance showed immense progress with the victim in building courage to face the extremely inhumane abuse she underwent and the perpetrator responsible. Unfortunately, the procedure did not push through, because the defense lawyer failed to show up. We are grateful that the female judge in the family court has been very understanding and sympathetic, so we are about to engage in the ninth (9th) attempt to give testimony.

Stairway’s role in addressing the proliferation of street gangs has been crucial, as we closely coordinated with all the stakeholders and partners, including the police, social workers, barangay leaders, schools and even the Church. This was necessary to gather pertinent information and elevate the case to the Local Chief Executive and the municipal council. Following several case conferences with all stakeholders, the Mayor’s office issued a passage of executive orders and ordinances on child protection.

Below is a summary breakdown of cases and interventions provided by Stairway social workers.

Reported Child Protection Cases

Type of Child Protection Issue	No. of Cases	Type of Service
Neglect	9	Family Case Conferences, coordination with barangay for case management and monitoring
Sexual Abuse	7	Individual counseling, referral to MSWDO and WCPD, family case conference, assist child in filing of case and court hearings
Child at risk (with risky behavior)	8	Individual counseling, referral to barangays for monitoring, conduct child protection session
Child in Conflict with the Law	1	Individual counseling, family conference
Physical Abuse	2	Referral to MSWDO and PNP WCPD for rescue and family case conference, referral to schools and barangays for monitoring
Dating violence	1	Referral to Adviser and School CPC
Cyberbullying	2	Referral to School CPC, individual counseling, family conference

Stairway hopes and works towards the municipality establishing its own protective services for children. By 2024, the MSWDO is expected to have counseling rooms and cubicles for social workers that would improve their service delivery. We will continuously lobby these protective services and assist the LGU to advance their functionality in advancing the protection of children’s rights.

Environmental Awareness for Children and Youth Program (EACY)



The Sea Adventure School Gains Back Momentum

With the school transition to face-to-face learning, the floating classroom gained back its momentum and embarked on 41 trips with a total of 905 participants, which exceeds our target of 25 trips for the year.



After two and a half years of forced lay-up, SAS trips are back in full operation. Here the Berge Bulk crew during their visit to Stairway.



The Sea Adventure School opened more trips with various partners in and outside of Puerto Galera. During the celebration of the First International Day of Man and Biosphere Reserves last November, our local Municipal Environment and Natural Resources (MENRO) office showcased the floating classroom experience to the national contingent of the UNESCO Philippine Commission, local stakeholders, and other NGO representatives.



During the event, MENRO affirmed the important role of our Sea Adventure School in educating the community about marine ecosystem conservation and spreading awareness about Puerto Galera as a biodiversity hotspot, being the country's first Man and Biosphere Reserve declared by UNESCO in 1977.



To cap off the celebration, FHP kids performed the minimalistic version of The Lorax.

Our friends from the Berge Bulk team have visited Stairway twice this year and had a first-hand experience of the floating classroom along with other projects and activities, which inspired a pledge for more collaboration and support in the future. The media team with Berge Bulk produced a video depicting the EACY program and the Sea Adventure School, which can be utilized for promotion to potential partners. The video can be watched here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4K9WPL7UW0&t=18s>

The SAS boat crew along with assigned volunteers underwent regular assessment, planning, and troubleshooting sessions to secure the necessary safety and high performance in operating the floating classroom. This October, one of our kids from the Family Home Program joined the SAS boat crew, which is in line with his dream to work in a cargo or a passenger boat.

We also managed to complete all the necessary permits, insurance, and boat crew papers from the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) in compliance with government standards and protocols.

EACY Dive School

After two and a half years of hibernation, we reopened EACY Dive in July 2022. It will take a while to regain the momentum we had prior to the pandemic, but we remain the only nonprofit dive center in Puerto Galera and probably in the country, which gives us confidence that we are attractive to a large group of divers, once we make them aware of our existence and unique setup. We have had to replace some of our old equipment and we need to add more to be fully operational. We estimate that a total investment of approximately 15 thousand dollars will leave us well equipped and on a path to financial recovery. For reference, EACY Dive ended year 2019 with nearly 20 thousand dollars in earnings, so the investment does not seem too far out.

However, we are facing changes in the operation of the dive center, since our longtime volunteer friend and in-house instructor, Magnus, has left Stairway and returned to Sweden. Magnus' last challenge and great experience as EACY Dive instructor was to train and certify 10 of our Family Home Stairway boys as PADI Open Water Divers.

Magnus during pool training with another volunteer friend, Niels, who along with his wife Angela will now be in charge of the daily operation of EACY Dive.





Youth-led Climate Reality and Plastic Crisis (CRPC) Talks

Earth Day 2022 marked the birth of our climate storytelling project called the Climate Reality and Plastic Crisis (CRPC) Talks. The idea is that local youth talk about the current climate crisis and plastic pollution to their fellow children and youth in schools and barangays. Most of the CRPC Talks volunteers were products of last year's EACYp EACYp-supported Heal Our Planet Earth (H.O.P.E) project.



A teacher member of the EACY Advocacy Group, a trained Climate Reality Leader and a founding coordinator of KAPAKA, developed a syllabus for the CRPC talks, which aligns with the DepEd's environmental education learning competencies for grade 4 to grade 11 students. The syllabus will serve as a blueprint in the design of 9 session guides for the CRPC talks which covers:

- Session 1: Introduction to Climate Reality and Plastic Crisis
- Session 2: Environmental Laws and Ordinances
- Session 3: Flora and Fauna: The Rich Biodiversity of Mindoro
- Session 4: Waste Management in Everyday Life
- Session 5: Climate Change, Plastic Crisis, and Calamities
- Session 6: Health and Environment
- Session 7: Sustainable Use of Resources
- Session 8: Marine Environment
- Session 9: Clean Energy

From the initial two Stairway Staff and one EACY Advocacy Group member, who were trained to hold climate reality sessions, we have immensely grown the reach, the potential, and the comprehensiveness of the awareness campaign through the development of youth and children participation.

Date	Group	No. of Facilitators	No. of Participants
4/22/22	Minolo Elem Students	4	49
4/23/22	Bignayan Creative Learning Activity	3	15
4/29/22	Aninuan Elementary Pupils	6	37
5/27/22	Sto Nino Elementary Pupils	4	40
6/29/22	Sabang/Palangan members KAPAKA	1	20
9/30/22	PGNHS Main Senior High	7	32
10/7/22	PGNHS Main Grade 9 Amethyst	5	34
10/7/22	PGNHS Main Grade 9 Emerald	5	28
10/14/22	PGNHS Main Diamond	4	35
10/14/22	PGNHS Main Grade 10 Yakal	4	54
10/14/22	PGNHS Main Grade10 Narra	4	54
10/21/22	PGNHS Main Grade 10 Caballero	4	54
10/21/22	PGNHS Main Grade 10 Mahogany	4	54
10/7/22	San Isidro Extension Grade 10	2	39
11/10/22	San Isidro Extension Grade 11 ABM	1	6
12/2/22	Mindoro State University Calapan and Bongabong	4	49
12/3/22	Palangan Integrated School Boy Scouts	3	29
TOTAL			629

The Resurgence of Environmental Campaigns in the Community through Intensified Youth and Children Initiatives

Environmental education campaigns reached a wide audience with enhanced youth-to-youth communication campaigns compared to the pre-pandemic period. We celebrated World Ocean Day this year with Grade 6 students from two elementary schools.

Our EACY Club and partner youth group Kabataan Para Sa Kalikasan (KAPAKA, Youth for the Environment) literally “walked the talk” and carried out historic events with massive street and coastal cleanups during the Earth Week Celebration and International Coastal Cleanup Day.





During the celebration, students were immersed in a myriad of fun and educational activities about the ocean and marine ecosystems.





Thousands of youth members, parents, stakeholders, and municipal partners carried out environmental campaigns for Puerto Galera.

Youth Initiatives through EACYp EACYp

We continued to call for proposals for EACYp EACYp during the second half of the year with our local network of youth groups and adult advocates from the EACY Advocacy Group. Some projects are already completed, some are related to last year's projects, while others are still

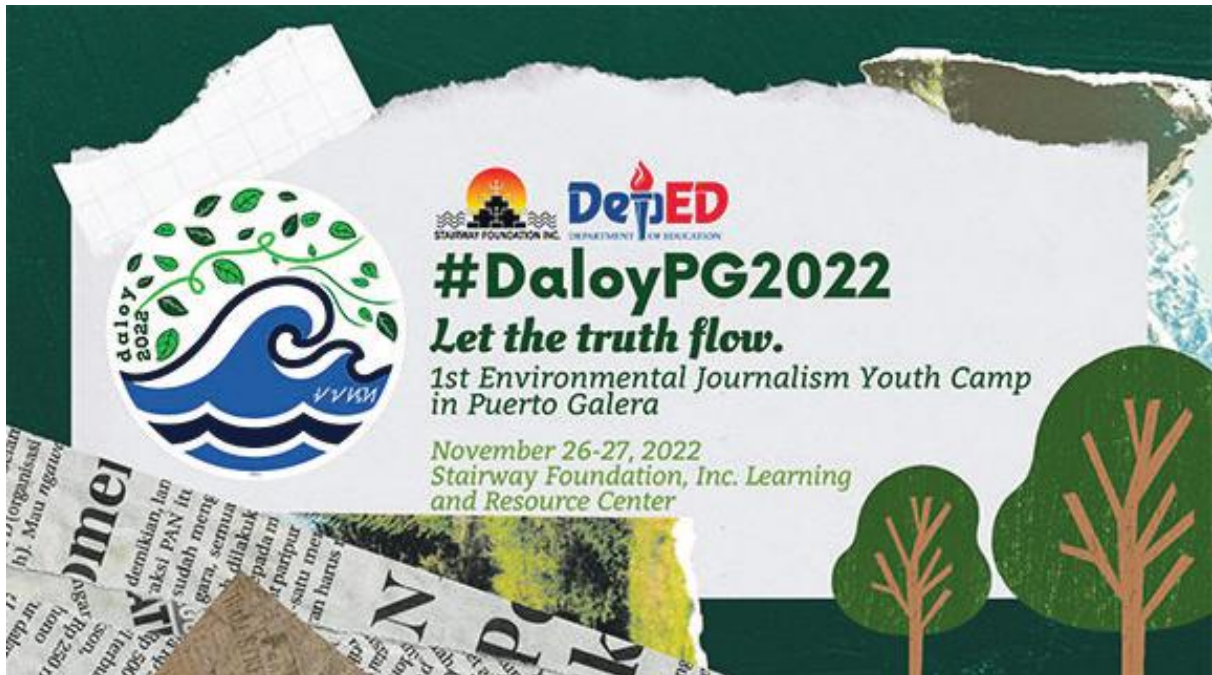
in their early stages. The following inventive projects and initiatives are conducted through the support of EACYp EACYp:

- Project “Road to Zero Waste” which aims to conduct a school room-to-room campaign to eliminate plastic and residual waste gradually in their school;
- Project WASH (Washing Area to Secure Health) which launched a hand hygiene campaign and frugal use of water in school;
- Creation of community libraries and learning Hubs in Brgy. Minolo and Bignayan, which serve as a learning resource center for students; and
- IWAS Plastic Project to enforce the municipal plastic ban ordinance in barangay stores that still use plastic in packing goods for their customers.



Aside from the abovementioned projects and activities, three EACY Club chapters have been revitalized through the engagement of their members in various activities:

- EACY Club Aninuan members are engaged in gardening, vermicomposting, and snail buster project aside from clean-up and environmental awareness activities.
- EACY Club – Minolo is a re-organized club in Barangay San Isidro headed by a Grade 11 student. They rehabilitated their community garden, improved their Materials Recovery Facility, did cleanups and storytelling sessions to neighborhood children.
- EACY Club – Baclayan, though newly established, have already been engaged in different environmental activities. They are set to propose for the co-management of the barangay Materials Recovery Facility.



The Birth of an Environmental Journalism Youth Group



In partnership with the Department of Education and a professional journalist, we organized the first environmental journalism youth camp in Puerto Galera with participants from six high schools. From 60 applicants, the list was trimmed down to 20, based on their submitted essays on local environmental issues.

The project is aptly named “Daloy”, the Filipino word for “flow”. With the prevalence of fake news and disinformation in popular online platforms like social media, it represents our desire for a free flow of information and truth regarding environmental issues.



The workshop concluded with a planning session on creating in-depth reports about four themes the group agreed upon, namely, sustainable tourism in Puerto Galera, shore-dwellers, solid waste management, and renewable energy. These in-depth reports will eventually become the contents of an online journal/magazine to be launched and regularly published by the first quarter of next year.

The participants did workshops on basic journalism, climate change, and national environmental issues. They applied what they learned through writing exercises facilitated by our journalist resource person.

Advances in Marine Protection and Hillside Conservation Initiatives

As a result of our continued dispersal of fruit seedlings, we witnessed less burning of bushes and trees in the mountains. For the second consecutive year, we handed a variety of fruit seedlings to a large number of villagers, some who successfully grew the seedlings that they received last year. Our plan to enhance food production through vegetable seed dispersal is still not possible, as the village still lacks access to a reliable and stable source of water for crop production and other needs.

Our persistent organizing and campaign in the village over the years have inspired the community people to build their community organization. They are in the process of establishing a full-blown people's organization with the following objectives: sustainable agriculture, protected seas, empowered youth, and empowered women.

After the organization's general assembly ratifies its constitution and bylaws, it will be ready to secure registration from government offices like the Department of Labor and Employment and other government agencies. The certifications will give the organization credibility in securing grants and support for its proposed projects.

It is through this development that Stairway is supporting the organization's proposal to construct a 4-kilometer water connection from a mountain spring to their crop production areas near their village. The project will be costly. Stairway can provide for the acquisition of some materials if the organization can guarantee to get more support from other sources to fully acquire all materials needed for the construction. The success of this project can immensely impact the food security system that is aligned with the organization's thrust for sustainable agriculture.



Stairway provided workshops, technical assistance and financial support to help build a solid foundation for the opening and the formal launching of the Bignayan Community Organization this December 2022.

The establishment of the Bignayan Community Organization and the enhancement of their agricultural production is part of a long systematic process to establish a community-based Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Aninuan. We pull in and sit down with other partners for the success of this project, like the barangay council, the fisher folk groups, and the residents, along with businesses and private enterprises in the community. Last August, the Provincial Council of Mindoro Oriental finally approved the Puerto Galera Fisheries Code. This local ordinance provides a favorable legal framework for the declaration of a Marine Protected Area in the barangay.

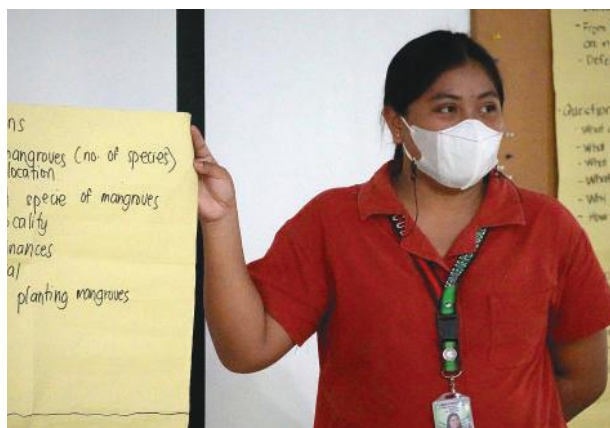
The Bignayan Community Organization, Stairway, and the network of other stakeholders will continuously work on the succeeding steps towards the declaration of an MPA through:

- conduct baseline assessment;
- crafting of management plan in a consultative and participatory manner;
- assisting in the formulation and approval of an MPA ordinance;
- facilitating in the formation of the management body with clarified roles; and
- fund sourcing from other concerned partner agencies.

Maintaining and Expanding our Partnerships with Other Sectors and Groups

Stairway fully supports the endeavors of our environmental partners. We recognize that networking and linkages are crucial in championing environmental protection and conservation initiatives in Puerto Galera.

Last year, during the World Ocean Day, we launched a campaign for sustainable tourism with our partners in the local government through a webinar. This year, we sustained the initiative through our free entry into the Top 100 Competition in the Green Destinations Program. We presented the program to various sectors in the local government and to the Locsin Foundation. More than the potential for getting good international marketing for the destination, the Green Destinations Program is a good tool to enhance the crafting and implementation of sustainable tourism principles in Puerto Galera.



Meanwhile, EACY has been a representative of Stairway as an active member of various local multi-stakeholder bodies such as the Municipal Solid Waste Management Committee, the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee (MDRRMC), the Oriental Mindoro Monitoring Team (ORMT), the Sabang Bay Water Quality Management Area Governing Board, and the Puerto Galera Man and Biosphere Reserve Management Council.

We continue to have collaborative activities with our network of environmental cause-oriented groups working in the municipality like the Blue Alliance, the Mindoro Biodiversity Foundation Inc, the Malampaya Foundation, the Center for Energy, Ecology and Development, and the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute.



Stairway fully supports the endeavors of our environmental partners. We recognize that networking and linkages are important in championing environmental protection and conservation initiatives in Puerto Galera.

Stairway National Capital Region Office (SFI NCR Office)

Stairway applies several strategies to optimize our advocacy, networking and capacity-building efforts to fight child sexual abuse and exploitation, both offline and online. We established our office in Manila back in 2011 to function as a hub for networking and collaboration with multiple government and non-government agencies at the national and international level. The NCR office has also served as the headquarter for the Break the Silence National Network since its beginning more than a decade ago.

Currently, we run three (3) major projects out of the NCR office, all of them complementing each other in reaching our overall goal to create a safe environment for all children, offline and online.

The three (3) projects are:

- “Consolidation and Further Development of Stairway’s Break the Silence Campaign” (“BTS Consolidation Project”) is geared towards strengthening the Break the Silence National Network (BTSNN) composed of 45 partner organizations spread across the Philippines. The project, which is supported by DANIDA, aims to further develop, enhance and strengthen partnership between the BTSNN members and government partners for consolidation and enhancement (or development) of effective child protection measures and approaches within local government units. Continued development of advocacy and training materials fall under this project too, with particular focus on Stairway’s e-learning platform, which serves as a most significant strategic tool in the implementation process.
- **CyberSafe Schools Project** is a consortium project involving four (4) BTSNN partners. The project is initiated and led by Stairway to further advance institutionalization of child protection in schools, complementing the BTS Consolidation Project. The project is supported by KNH and BMZ, Germany.
- The **Global Program** is another project with focus on protecting children online, which is an avenue of child protection that Stairway has specialized in over more than a decade through research, studies, trainings, and development of innovative tools. It is also a consortium project, in which we work with two (2) NGOs from Indonesia and Nepal, respectively, as co-implementers. All three partners have specific country goals, along with shared global goals, in which Stairway’s e-learning also plays a central role. The Global Program is also supported by KNH and BMZ.

Stairway’s E-learning

Stairway’s e-learning platform is an innovative child protection resource, which derives from many years of training experience and a substantial production of creative advocacy and training materials over many years. Along with the BTS National Network, it has enabled us to reach children and child protection stakeholders in the hundreds of thousands all over the Philippines, and the potential is there to go much further and beyond any border. Aside from

the obvious quality in terms of scaling, the e-learning also secures a valuable consistency in training delivery, and it is a most cost efficient way to inform, educate and train children and partners regardless of location, as long as there is a stable internet connection. This remains a problem in many areas, but the reach of the internet is expanding every day.

Part of our project under the global program is to customize our e-learning for specific government sectors and private partners. This component of the project supports a strategic transition towards using our e-learning as the main training platform for the organization.

This year, we designed an e-learning course for the Break the Silence National Network (BTSNN), which was blended in nature – combining both asynchronous and synchronous online training modalities.

We also renewed our partnership with Philippine National Police (PNP) through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which serves as a commitment of support to introduce, customize and utilize our child protection e-learning courses for the personnel of several of their units, including Police Community Relations (PCR), Women and Children’s Protection Desk (WCPD), PNP Training Service (PNPTS) and the Directorate for Human Resources and Doctrine Development (DHRDD). Through this initiative and collaboration, we hope to secure institutionalization of a relevant and updated child protection agenda into the curriculum of the national law enforcement.



The proposed e-learning program to PNP via the e-learning would definitely achieve our goals in sustaining Child Sexual Abuse and Prevention (CSAEP) within the law enforcement, in coordination as with Stairway’s Global Program.



Photo taken during the BTS Consolidation Session with National Capital Region LGU Social Workers and Women and Children’s Protection Desk (WCPD).

Break the Silence (BTS) Consolidation Project

The BTS Consolidation Project continuously supports our two consortium projects, the Cybersafe Schools Project (CSP) and the Global Program (GP) on “Stopping Cybercrime against Children. With more than half a million children and child protection actors reached in 2022 alone, the BTS National Network has committed to continuously strengthen its operation, capacitate and empower its members, and continue to impact community members, children and adults through our capacity and network building.



Engagement with key government agencies is essential to mainstream child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention mechanisms in relevant institutional settings to reach more partners and children with the BTS Campaign and secure sustainability of our efforts. The COVID19 pandemic has further reduced the capacity of the government to focus on child protection issues. During the two year lock down of schools, we experienced a significant increase in violence against children, which only signifies the urgent need to prioritize child protection concerns within any and all institutions catering to children. To address effectively the gap in child protection, we see a growing need to work systematically with local government units, as their jurisdiction extends all the way down to barrio level, which is the closest to home we possibly get. Another strategy to address child abuse in the home is to work more with religious institutions, since they hold great influence over a large portion of the country’s population.

Partnership with Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

For the past few years, Stairway has had a productive partnership with the DSWD via its Poverty Alleviation Program (Pantawid), leading to successes like the integration of Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (CSAP) in the program's Family Development Session (FDS) Modules.



This partnership will strengthen the advocacy for the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation in both online and offline environments via the DSWD's Pantawid Program.

Partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd)

Under the Break the Silence Consolidation (BTS) Project, the partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) aims to increase child protection among students and schools. With DepEd, being one of Stairway's major partners in promoting child protection, we have explored multiple strategies in order to maximize the promotion of child protection within the school community.



Photo with Vice President and DepEd Secretary Sara Duterte during the National Children's Month Culminating and Launching Event last November 24, 2022



CyberSafe Schools Project

The CyberSafe Schools Project (CSP) is implemented by a consortium of four (4) BTSNN members with Stairway as the lead. Despite challenges caused by changes in the Department of Education, the project is meeting its defined goals. Vice President Sarah Duterte, as DepEd Secretary, has issued a DepEd Order calling for no disruption of classes, which has affected the roll out of the CyberSafe Schools Program. The policy directives make sense in

terms of bridging learning gaps, but they restrict possibilities for instructors and students to perform capacity-building activities connected to child protection.

Despite the changes in the Department policies for extracurricular activities, we accomplished the following activities for 2022: (1) BTS – Child Protection Learning Action Cell (LAC) Sessions (2) Observance of the Safer Internet Day for Children Philippines; and (3) CPC e-learning Course Pilot (ongoing).

BTS – Child Protection Learning Action Cell (LAC) Sessions

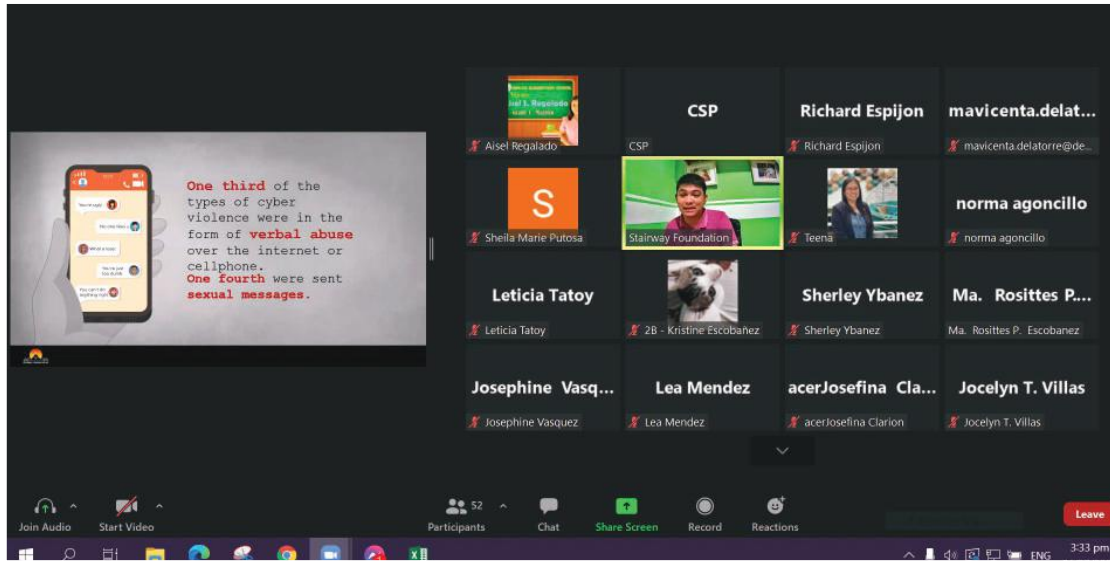
A total of 728 teachers accomplished all four BTS-LAC sessions delivered online or via face-to-face modality. The project officers along with certified teachers, who had successfully completed the BTS e-learning Course for Educators, led the sessions. .

Below are excerpts from teacher feedback we received upon their completion of the program:

“The sessions equipped us teachers with the necessary knowledge on different forms of child sexual abuses and violation of rights of children existing nowadays. Through this training, we as teachers have the necessary skills how to respond to abuses existing among our students. Also, our added knowledge from the sessions could help us educate our students about their rights and how to be always safe.” –AL Jayme Elementary School teacher

“The LAC session helped our teachers refresh their knowledge on children’s rights and the DepEd Orders. Although the teachers have copies of the DepEd Orders, some are still confused with the policies. Through the session, these confusions were clarified.” - Balayan West Central School Principal

“The BTS-LAC Session is highly recommended for all teachers. The session is complete and engaging.” –Kapitbahayan Elementary School teacher



According to a group of teachers, the BTS-LAC Session is the first time they attended a Child Protection Policy Orientation. Through the implementation of the Child Protection e-learning Course for Educators and the BTS – LAC Sessions, teachers became more proactive about concerns related to child sexual abuse.

The BTS-LAC Sessions also opened opportunities for us to reach other teachers within the school. Although completers only total to 728 teachers, we reached 4,400 teachers across our four learning sessions.

Workshop on Child Protection Concerns

Given a long history of positive collaboration, the DepEd Child Protection Unit (CPU), requested Stairway to be part of the pilot implementation of a Capacity Building Training Workshop on Child Protection Concerns. This training is aligned with our goal of capacitating child protection committees. The training was delivered through synchronous online webinars, face-to-face and via the Stairway e-learning platform.

Forty-two (42) school-based child protection committee partners of the CSP attended the training workshop. This training was very timely considering the increase in reporting of child abuse cases since the return to face-to-face classes.

Global Program on “Stopping Cybercrime against Children: More Safety and Protection on the Internet”

The Global Program is a three-partner consortium project run by Stairway and two (2) partners from Nepal and Indonesia respectively. The project has both national and a global component, aiming to develop and share methods, materials and technologies contributing to stop cybercrime against children and create more safety and protection on the internet.

An initial step under the global component has been to translate and localize Stairway’s e-learning to the Indonesian and the Nepalese contexts and for Stairway to assist our partners to manage an e-learning platform and eventually rolling it out amongst their local partners.

Within the Philippines, we work to improve child protection systems at the national and local levels through strengthened capacities of child protection institutions. We have established several partnerships and initiatives guided by our goals to capacitate child protection actors and directly deliver Child Online Protection (COP) activities to children and youth.

Through our e-learning programs, we reached 4,200 child protection actors within the DepEd, DSWD, DILG, Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT), Philippine National Police (PNP), and partner NGOs from the Break the Silence National Network (BTSNN). The program provided them understanding on how to protect children online and trained their capacities to adequately address child protection issues according to their specific role and mandate.

In order to anchor and institutionalize child protection in each government and non-government agency, we work with each one of them individually to customize our e-learning programs for their specific needs and use. This is of course a collaborative process, which is rather demanding in terms of time and human resources, but it is a strategy to place a sense of ownership and conviction to utilize the e-learning tool to its optimal.

Another major accomplishment this year is our contribution to the passage of RA 11930 or the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act. This includes the establishment of a Child Sex offender Registry (CSOR), which has been high on our list of child protection goals for a long time. Now, we will work to secure presence and active participation in drafting the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for the new law.

Partnership with Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.

In 2022, we went into an online safety partnership with Converge Philippines, developing public awareness campaigns. As one of the major Internet Service Providers in the country, Converge launched its #UndoFilter campaign signifying its strong commitment on CyberSafety, particularly to children. The #UndoFilter is composed of a series of advocacy videos tackling cyberbullying, online grooming and self-generated sexual content, and safe internet usage for children. By the end of the year, these #UndoFilter advocacy videos have reached more than 100,000 viewers online on Facebook.



Present during the virtual MOA signing were Stairway’s Executive Director Lars Jorgensen and Child Protection Specialist – Ysrael “Ace” Diloy, Converge Philippines’ CEO and Co-Founder Dennis Anthony Uy and Chief Executive Strategy Officer Benjamin Azada, 22 February 2022. (Photo courtesy of Converge Philippines)

Partnership with Meta Philippines

Meta Philippines is also one of our major partners in advancing our agenda to protect and safeguard the rights of children online. We participated in Meta’s Instagram Family Center Consultation and provided inputs for Meta’s Parental Supervision Tools on their Facebook and Instagram platforms. We are providing META regular feedback, as they create safety guidelines for their social media channels.

Since Facebook is the main platform used by schools in communicating with learners, Stairway and Meta collaborated with the Department of Education in creating a safe online space for Filipino learners. The “Social Media Safety Guide for Schools” is a series of advocacy materials providing tips to learners, school personnel and home-based schooling on ensuring safe online interactions. The DepEd launched the materials during Safer Internet Day.



This partnership will strengthen the advocacy for the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation in both online and offline environments via the DSWD’s Pantawid Program.

International Trainings, Projects and Partnerships

Since 2012, Stairway has collaborated with KNH Germany in the development and conduct of their child protection capacity-building program for partners. Tapping from our experience and expertise in child protection advocacy and capacity building, Stairway has helped develop and deliver training programs on Child Protection Policy Development and Child Protection Programming, which are used for KNH's country partners across the globe.

In 2022, we continued the implementation of the Cyber Safety blended learning course for KNH partners in Kenya, Sri Lanka, and India. Stairway put up the blended e-learning course in KNH's own e-learning platform using our already-existing Cyber Safety e-learning courses. We conducted trainings to four batches from India, Kenya and Sri Lanka. In total, 85 international representatives from more than 40 organizations completed the e-learning courses with the intent to disseminate further their learnings.

With overwhelmingly positive responses from Sri Lanka, Kenya, and India, we are now contemplating on expanding the CyberSafe blended learning course into Latin America and Somaliland in 2023.



Screen capture from Cyber Safety Kenya Group 2's online discussion and presentation of Action Plan as part of their completion of the blended e-learning course.

Other Initiatives, Engagements, and Highlights

- Stairway Foundation registered with the National Privacy Commission (NPC) under the Data Privacy Act of 2012
- We established formal partnerships with the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and conducted technical coordination for SCORM package (e-learning) export to DICT's Learning Management System (LMS).
- Aside from the focus on e-learning development and utilization, we continued to provide offline and online capacity-building and awareness raising sessions among various partners, such as DepEd and the BTS National Network, along with other groups as per invitation.
- As one of the awardees, we attended the Recognition of Partners in Digital Transformation organized by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Stairway is among the recognized DICT partners for our valuable contribution in the advancement of the Philippine Digital Agenda.
- 95.1 OneFM Radio Palawan invited two Stairway representatives for a radio guesting on the livestreaming of Safer Internet Day 2022 with more than 500 views. (<https://fb.watch/dmxYiObuAs/>)
- One hundred fifty (150) child protection actors in the country attended the Philippine National Police Training Institute's Webinar on CyberSafety for Children and Caregivers in celebration of Mothers and Women's Month.
- Stairway served as resource person to ABS-CBN's in-depth report on Child sexual exploitation in the Philippines, appearing in the ANC Digital program. (<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/12/09/22/child-sexual-exploitation-in-ph-remains-top-concern>)
- In November 2022, we facilitated a CyberSafety Orientation at the Pag-asa Youth Association Philippines (PYAP) National Capital Region Founding Anniversary held in Marikina City. The occasion was attended by 100 PYAP members from 15 local government units in NCR.
- Stairway conducted a CyberSafety Orientation for the observance of the 11th Juvenile Justice and Welfare Consciousness Week attended by 60 social workers managing cases of Children at Risk (CAR) and Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).

Administrative and Finance Unit

Our administration and finance team is an essential component in complying with government and other requirements, as well as effectively managing our workforce and resources. This year, with the collective help of our program people, we have achieved the following accomplishments under our admin and finance department.

- Awarded with Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)'s License to Operate as a Social Work Agency in the implementation of our residential-based and community-based programs and services effective January 27, 2022, until January 28, 2025;
- Accomplished and submitted the documentary requirements to secure Solicitation Permit from DSWD;
- Processed the necessary requirements for the renewal of our Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) Certificate of Accreditation;
- Submitted financial reports to donors and funders within the given deadline;
- Complied with the audit requirements for Fiscal Year 2021;
- Revised the Manual of Operations during the organization's annual team building and get together activity last June 2022;
- Conducted trainings on Basic First Aid and Fire Safety and Emergency Response to help our colleagues learn to be more conscious of safety in the workplace;
- Hosted and welcomed nine (9) volunteers and seven (7) interns and helped them enhance their knowledge base and gain a sense of responsibility for the community;
- Hired and on-boarded five (5) new colleagues at the Mindoro Office and three (3) new colleagues at our NCR Office to further our reach and strengthen our organizational capacities; and
- Reduced employee attrition rate by 67% as compared to 2021.

To address emergency needs and contribute to sustainable development of local schools and communities, we delivered moral and monetary support to different organizations and groups.

- Donated P50,000 worth of housing materials to communities affected by super typhoon Noru (Karding) in Quezon Province;
- Helped marginalized children in Payatas, Metro Manila by donating P 120,000 through the Hope Sponsorship Care Program of Hope for the World Philippines Children Center, Inc.
- Donated P25,00 to support students of San Teodoro National HS for S.Y. 2022-2023; and
- Supported schools in Puerto Galera District for S.Y. 2022-2023 with the provision of monetary support amounting to P28,600.

Our Financial Partners and Supporters

We would like to thank all our financial partners and supporters, who have enabled us and made all of the above possible. We are obviously not running out of work protecting children's rights, so we hope and depend on your continued support. Together we make a difference!

In alphabetical order our partners and supporters are:

- Axel og Paula Nissen Fonden, Denmark
- BMZ, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation, Germany
- Brainly.com, USA
- DANIDA, Danish International Development Assistance
- Embassy of Denmark, Manila
- Emil Ingeman Oeigaard, Denmark
- Firetree Trust, Singapore
- Global Giving, USA
- Grundfos, Philippines/Denmark
- Hit Productions, Philippines
- IWG plc'
- JOTUN, Philippines/Norway
- Kindernothilfe, Germany
- MingYi Foundation, Taiwan
- Mission Inclusion, Canada
- Marshall Foundation, Singapore
- Metro-Schroeder, Denmark
- Phoenix Foundation, Switzerland
- Roedkilde Gymnasium, Denmark
- Singapore American School
- Skanderborg Gymnasium, Denmark
- Solenergy Systems Inc., Philippines
- SONION, Philippines
- Stairway Denmark
- Tage Abildgaard Holding, Denmark
- Thailandia Import, Denmark
- Trine Wilkens, Denmark

We also want to thank all the individuals, who have supported our work through generous donations and/or membership of Stairway Denmark. Last but not least, a special thank you to all our volunteers, including the boards of Stairway Foundation and Stairway Denmark.

Stairway Foundation, January 2023





protect the Environment
Refuse Plastics

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It's not. — Dr. Seuss

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