

2018

annual report




**Lingap
Pangkabataan**
INCORPORATED
Empowering Children and Communities



VISION

“Children in nurturing communities enjoying life in God’s abundance”

MISSION

Lingap Pangkabataan is a faith-based development organization called to:

- Lead in child participation and advocacy efforts
- Implement child-focused community development programs
- Network and partner with likeminded organizations
- Generate and optimize resources for program and organizational sustainability
- Assist local project partners, and
- Promote lifelong learning and community self-reliance

.....so that children especially the disadvantaged would be able to live life in all its fullness.



CORE VALUES

As a God loving organization, we value:

- Inclusiveness
- Accountability
- Competence
- Teamwork
- Service



Chairperson’s Message

The year 2018 is a very fruitful and empowering year in the life and ministry of Lingap Pangkabataan, Incorporated. New partnership agreements were entered into during the last quarter of the year.

Our ministry in Eastern Samar was expanded through the program “C4D – Communities for Development” through the Mission Alliance Philippines. The program is being implemented in partnership with the UCCP-Lawaan, Jesus Christ the Strong Foundation Community Church and the Diocese of Borongan.

Tear Netherlands on the other hand provided the needed support for the Emergency Response and Early Recovery to Survivors of Typhoon Mangkhut (Omping) that devastated Northern Philippines last September 15, 2018. This project is being implemented in partnership with the Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP).

I am a witness on how LPI through the years has evolved as an organization from directly implementing the child sponsorship program in the early eighties, LPI has now shifted to a program focused towards community development through Church and Community Mobilization (CCM), an area where LPI is continuously building up the capacities of partner churches to journey with the communities.

It is therefore a privilege to share with you our stories and testaments of what has achieved during the year 2018. We saw how lives in the community was transformed. These accomplishments however, will not be possible without the collective efforts, wisdom and dedication of the Board of Trustees, the LPI staff, volunteers and supporters that provided us funds to continue with our mission.



We look forward to more partnerships in the coming years as we continue to bring joy in the life of our children, families and communities – the Lingap way.


Atty. Jerry F. Bantilan, CPA
BOT Chairperson



'Building Communities, Protecting Children' Learning Series

What in the world is LPI? What does it do to make a difference?

LPI means Lingap Pangkabataan (Care for Children) Inc. and its activities involve engaging churches, community groups and barangay local government units (LGUs) in order to come up with child-focused community development programs. Currently, LPI is active in five urban poor communities in Metro Manila.

A child-focused community development program (CCDP) seeks to empower children, families, and the whole community, including churches and barangay local government units, to address situations that perpetuate poverty, which particularly victimizes children.

By working closely with and empowering our partners, we aim to: a. organize and mobilize community groups or peoples' organizations; b. establish community-based social enterprises; c. organize and mobilize barangay children's associations; and d. strengthen mechanisms to respond to the needs and concerns of at-risk children in the barangays.

The Building Communities Protecting Children Learning Series is part of LPI's efforts to strengthen community-based mechanisms to respond to the needs and concerns of children-at-risk. It seeks to promote collaboration between the church, the barangay local government and the community to ensure that children's rights and protection are upheld.

Specifically, the learning series aims to:

- Level off understanding on child rights and child protection; and
- Discuss opportunities or venues for the active engagement of civil society organization in local special bodies protecting women and children.

Brief discussions of what transpired in the learning sessions are provided below:

Learning Session 1: Orientation-Workshop on the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). The session allowed the participants to review the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as well as to make an inventory of current programs for children in their respective barangays. It also provided the participants with basic information about organizing and managing the BCPC. This includes discussions on the legal bases of the BCPC, its functions, composition and budgeting concerns.

Learning Session 2: Resource Mobilization and Financial Management introduced the participants on the basics of child-rights programming. Through a discussion-workshop, participants also learned the different asset-mapping tools and processes and prepared an asset-map per community using the Resource Inventory Workshop. The participants walked through the different facets of mobilizing resources and ensuring its efficient use for the management and operation of the BCPC.

Learning Session 3: Strengthening the BCPC Through Proactive Planning is a three-day writing workshop for BCPC members. After the "writeshop," the participants should have:

- Reviewed the BCPC 2018 Work and Financial Plan and identified accomplishments and gaps
- Analyzed and prioritized children's concerns using gender lens
- Finalized the 2019 Work and Financial Plan for Children.

Learning Session 4: Community-based Child Protection Response seeks to organize, mobilize and equip volunteers and community workers in responding to cases of child abuse and exploitation in their barangays.





9th LPI National Children's Congress

A total of 50 children from around the country attended this year's bi-annual gathering of children leaders that took place in Ciudad Christia Resort in Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal. The event's theme was, "Bata't Simbahan, Gumagalaw Para Sa Pamayanan."

The participants, who were with their adult chaperones, discussed how to strengthen the collaboration between children and churches for the purpose of building child-friendly communities.

Another objective of this much-anticipated event among children leaders was to elect their representatives to the LPI General Assembly.





LPI's director attends Digni Network Meeting in Bangkok

The executive director of Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. (LPI) represented the Quezon City-based child-focused non-government organization to the Regional Network Meeting organized by Digni for its East Asia partners last April 25-29 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Mr. Norman Franklin C. Agustin attended Digni's bi-annual gathering through the auspices of LPI's partner, the Mission Alliance Philippines (MAP). The MAP belong to the network of Digni, which was established in 1983 as the Norwegian Missions in Development (Bistandsnemnda).

The name was later changed to Digni, from the Latin word "dignitas," which means dignity.

Digni is an umbrella organization of 20 Norwegian mission societies and churches engaged in long-term development cooperation. It currently funds 105 projects in 35 countries across the globe.

Partner-organizations working in the region in countries such as Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam gathered to network and learn from one another.

Among the issues covered were: sustainability and local ownership, empowerment of communities and community-based organizations for change and opportunity, and accountability in projects and organizations.

Some trends in development cooperation, competence-building on strengthening financial management and anti-corruption measures were also discussed.

Mr. Paul N. Kingori of the Free Pentecostal Fellowship of Kenya (FPFK) shared his organization's experience from spot check visit from Norad's Fraud Team and FPFK's experience in strengthening their financial management system. He also shared there the Digni's participatory anti-corruption training course.

Ms. Elle Storesletten, advisor of Digni, said that "It was the best meeting so far." Ms. Storesletten and Mr. Jacob Bulti Smordal, also an advisor of Digni, facilitated the meeting.

They helped creatively design a program that combined presentation of partners' experiences.

The participants had the chance to experience the night life in Bangkok. They were treated with a gourmet buffet dinner on a river cruise.

Understanding Gender and Development

Members of the Board of Trustees, the staff, children-leaders, and community partners of Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. (LPI) recently participated in the Gender and Development (GAD) session facilitated by the Samahan ng mga Pilipina para sa Reporma at Kaunlaran (SPARK).

The session's objective was to provide participants with basic understanding and key concepts on GAD. The LPI leadership felt that its stakeholders must acquire a good grasp of such knowledge if they are to contribute in building communities that protect children. It was deemed both necessary and crucial.

Before the session started, participants were asked to accomplish a pre-test form to gauge their understanding of the topic. Structured learning exercises, lecture, and workshop were used for the facilitation of the GAD session.

Spark!

Samahan ng mga Pilipina para sa Reporma at Kaunlaran



LPI's Board of Trustees approves GAD Policy

During the meeting of the LPI Board of Trustees, the Gender and Development Policy of the organization was approved.

LPI adopted the said policy with the following purpose:

1. To protect and promote gender equality and the empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable children and young women
2. To provide concrete guidelines on how to mainstream GAD principles in policies, programs and services of LPI, and
3. To ensure the equal and fair representation of children and women in decision-making and management structures and processes.

LPI has always recognized and promoted the rights and welfare of women and children. In the past 37 years, the organization strived towards the advancement of human rights with focus on women and girls as among vulnerable groups.

As a faith-based, child-focused, social development organization, LPI is committed and dedicated to uphold gender and development in its total life-work anchored on Christian values and principles of equality and non-discrimination.

17th Annual General Assembly



Churches have a vital role to play in affecting development of their respective communities, emphasized an international leadership and management expert in a keynote speech delivered during the annual gathering of member-churches and children representatives of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) last May 17. The assembly was held at the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) at 879 Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (Edsa), Quezon City.

“Church leaders, being influential, can generally be a great advantage in humanitarian and development work,” said Sanjeev Bhanja of the LPI partner, Tearfund.

The general assembly’s theme for the year was: “Church and Community Mobilization: Building Capacities of Local Churches to Journey with Communities.”

Mr. Bhanja has been involved in poverty and social justice issues on the international level for more than 18 years, providing leadership and management expertise. He also has contributed to the missions of well-known organizations, such as, World Vision, Actionaid, CARE (USA), Evangelical Fellowship of India Commissioned for Relief (EFICOR), and PATH (USA).

He is currently providing technical support to Asian countries as Humanitarian Support Manager of Asia for Tearfund.

In his address, Sanjeev pointed out that the churches, as an integral body of Christ, have a biblical mandate to help those in need. He reminded the audience that the church is influential in shaping values of the children, in particular, and the society, in general.

As such, he added, the church must provide care and immediate support and response in times of disasters.

The Assembly adopted the proposed Four (4) Strategic Goals of Children under the Advocacy and Child Participation component and encouraged the church leadership to support the

1. Pagpapa-unlad ng Kakayahan (Capacity-Building). Mga pagsasanay upang mapaulad ang kakayahan sa pamamagitan ng mga pandayan o workshops, sama-samang pagpapalano at pagsasagawa ng mga activities gamit ang aming mga talento;

2. Pagpapatuloy ng Children's Associations (Sustaining Children's Associations). Sa gabay ng Lingap at mga katuwang na simbahan, magkakaroon ng mas malalim na samahan at kapatiran at pagkakaroon ng bukas at malawak na kaalaman, pagbibigay ng sigla, kasiyahan, pag-asa at inspirasyon sa paggawa ng desisyon at pagiging mabuting lider;

3. Pagtulong sa mga Bata at Komunidad. Tumugon sa mga pangangailangan ng kapwa-bata kaagapay ang barangay at munisipyo ayon sa aming kakayahan; at

4. Pagpapalawak ng aming mga gawain. Kami ang bagong henerasyon ng mga batang lider na magtataguyod nang mas maayos na kinabukasan kasama ang aming grupo upang mapalawak ang mga gawain sa iba't ibang dako ng bansa.

Also, during the general assembly, new members of Board of Trustees (BOT) were elected. Rev. Jerome Baris and Ms. Rhoda Derequito representing the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) and Christian & Missionary Alliance Churches of the Philippines (CAMACOP) respectively were elected representing the member churches. Also, Pastora Ana Sasi of the Jesus Christ the Strong Foundation Community Church Inc. in Balangiga, Eastern Samar was elected to represent the partner organizations.





Integral Mission Workshop

Ms. Jeanette E. Ducog was close to ecstatic for attending a two-day workshop on Integral Mission sponsored by the Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) and facilitated by the group called Micah Philippines, led by Mr. Rei Lemuel Crizaldo.

"It's a new experience and new learning," Jeanette said, although she admitted being reluctant to attend at first. She said she would never regret that she changed her mind the last minute.

She found out that the workshop was designed to explore both the biblical foundations and the practical outworking of a ministry. Jeanette and the other participants were introduced and oriented on the holistic ministry as expressed in the missiological framework of Integral Mission.

The workshop also encouraged church leaders and workers to be actively engaged in community transformation and to conduct Integral Mission seminars to church leaders, development workers, and other key officers of their respective communities and networks.

Aside from Mr. Crizaldo, another resource person, Mr. Roshan Mendis, facilitated a deepening session on Integral Mission. Mr. Mendis is the chief operating officer or CEO of LEADS, a child-focused national relief and development agency in Sri Lanka.

Here's the complete account of the reflection of Ms. Jeanette E. Ducog as a participant of the Integral Mission workshop:

"We are grateful to have the opportunity to attend the seminar on Integral Mission, and even more grateful to Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. (LPI) for organizing it.

"It is a new experience and new learning. At the onset I was hesitant because I am not very familiar on what Integral Mission is all about. During the stay, I became more aware of the scope of the mission we are in. I found out that what we are doing at present is just one of the many avenues to reach out to the communities".

"We tried to figure out the role of the community development workers, church-based organizations and the government in the community. We made illustrations where each organization moves in different settings toward the goodness of each community. We've seen different scenarios and come up to the conclusion that each environment is unique and the ways and means of reaching out to them will depend on their situation".

"I am grateful to God that even in diversity and uniqueness of each organization present in different community settings, everyone moves with one purpose and that is to accomplish the task God has given each one of us".

"I am also thankful to all the speakers who shared their profound knowledge and experiences and to all those who took part on all the discussions which made every part meaningful and helpful for everyone".

"Many thanks and may God bless you more and more. We are looking forward to a more mutual relationship between Lingap and our organization, Jesus the Word of Life Ministries Inc."





Follow-up on ARCS – Koppu Project

It was 4 o'clock in the morning when some of the Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) staff members and volunteers left Quezon City to distribute back-to-school kits and hygiene supplies to indigent children in the municipality of Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija province.

The group arrived there at 8:30 in the morning and they immediately proceeded to the municipal hall to pay a courtesy call to Mayor Rolando S. Bue, who welcomed the LPI people with much show of generous hospitality and sincere gratitude.

Mayor Bue expressed delight in the continued partnership between his town and LPI. He even assisted in distributing the Certificates of Completion to the day-care workers for attending the training.

The group informed Mayor Bue that this is a follow-up visit for the project Advocacy and Response to Children Survivors of Typhoon Koppu (ARCS- Koppu) some years ago when the municipality experienced a strong typhoon.

The huge amount of rain due to the typhoon in 2015 fell onto the mountains and flowed down to low-lying communities. In some villages, the water was reported to reach three meters high. It is an understatement to say that it was a major concern of most of the communities in the area.

The municipality of Gabaldon is a third class municipality with a population of 32,246 or 10,000 families. Though pre-emptive evacuation was conducted, residents located near the Sierra Madre mountain range suffered from landslides and flash floods during the height of the typhoon.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) revealed that the typhoon left 60 people dead and 90 people injured.

The town, which was left isolated as typhoon lashed at the province, became a scene of disaster, with mud, boulders and trees covering its streets and rice fields. Three of the 16 barangays or villages were most devastated. In particular, Barangay Bagting was most affected by landslides, while Barangays Tagumpay and Ligaya were most affected by floods.

The group met with Ms. Filipina Baclig, a mother of two. She is a Day Care Worker in Barangay Bagting. She was very happy and thankful for the books and other supplies that she received.

"This is an advance Mother's Day treat to all of us" she said. She shared that during school opening, there are more pre-school children coming to her class. However, when December comes, only few are left.

According to her, some parents can no longer afford to send their children to school because of poverty. But despite this, it motivated her to continue with her passion of teaching.

The group also learned from other day-care workers that the musical and sports instruments that LPI provided in the past are still being used by the children. In some occasions, musical instruments were also borrowed by the local churches for their Sunday service. The sports equipment on the other hand are used by older children in the nearby high school.

After the visit, the group left the community hoping that there will be no more typhoon that will affect the children, but even if another typhoon will come, LPI observed that there are signs of positive changes among the targeted children participants, their families, and communities through the ARCS Koppu Project such as:

1. Increased participation of the local government officials, church and community workers, which yielded to openness and support to child- focused programming, especially during emergencies;
2. Increased appreciation towards child protection during emergencies and disaster-risk reduction;
3. There is also an enhanced knowledge and skills among community workers in facilitating child- friendly spaces, conducted disaster risk assessment and mobilizing the community for disaster response;
4. The distribution of garden tools and seeds among targeted households has somehow contributed to increasing the food source of household members and ensuring proper nutrition, especially of children; and
5. Early childhood education and child-friendly spaces can be possibly continued with the materials and modules in addition to the training provided to community and day-care workers.

Mission Alliance Holds 2018 Regional Conference

Representatives from partner-organizations of Mission Alliance (MA) gathered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on March 11-16 for its 2018 Regional Conference.

The representatives, who were mostly leaders of organizations from Cambodia, Vietnam, Sierra Leone in West Africa, Liberia, and the Philippines, attended the event. Also, country directors in each region representing the MA Headquarters in Oslo, Norway were present to learn, share experiences, and to build friendship.

Among the thematic areas covered were participation, job creation and quality standards. It was emphasized that participation was a tool for empowerment, ownership and sustainability.

Questions on how to turn participation into empowerment in practical development work and from participation to ownership and sustainability were raised.

Mr. Norman Agustin, Executive Director of Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI), facilitated a small group discussion on Gender and Children's Participation. He shared LPI's experiences and paradigm in empowering children through the latter's direct participation.

The other groups discussed Community Participation and Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PWD).

During one of the workshops, questions such as, "Does the group of people we meet actually represent the voice of the community?" and "Are we reaching everybody?"

They members of the group gave answers to these questions based on their experiences in their respective local context.

Issues related to the challenges and dilemmas the country offices and partner-organizations were facing were also discussed. A short session on business model was presented.

Mr. Agustin emphasized that the business model should be balanced with the mission model, as well.

He joined the other participants in visiting Mission Alliance partners such as Genesis Community of Transformation (GCT), and the Community Orientated Development Organization (CODO) in Phnom Penh.

The CODO is a Christian organization established to help decrease poverty in Cambodia, especially in urban communities. It focuses on urban holistic sustainable development promoting basic health care, early childhood education, livelihood and vocational capacity, social safety net (child protection, disaster risk management, anti-drug awareness-raising) and community peace and unity-building.

Mr. Raju Bhagwat, a retired Anglican Priest, shared about his ministry, which was focused on peace, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Raju, who was also involved in mentoring and coaching, said: "God puts me in challenging situations because God wants me to become like Him."

"It can only happen if I am challenged," he said.

He admitted that his experience in a refugee camp during his younger years was "disturbing." Because of this, he became too violent towards others.

Over the years, he moved from a situation of being extremely violent to systemic non-violent through training.

Raju said that one has to "create a space for peace, but it will take time." He added that with continuous dialogue, the trust level will increase.

"In development work, we witness on mercy, compassion, leadership, management, accountability, etc." he said. "Shalom is broader or huge perspective. It encompasses the character of God."

Raju concluded that "mission can be done without coercion or force. You do it because you love".



Tala-aralan sa Social Enterprise

Social entrepreneurs from the Human Nature and representatives from the Visually Impaired's Brotherhood for Excellent Services (VIVES) Inc., and the Foundation for a Sustainable Society Inc. (FSSI) shared their experiences to LPI partner-communities during the Social Enterprise Learning Sessions held in Quezon City recently.

Francis and Joy Carpio, Marikina Branch Operators of Human Nature shared how they struggled at first but eventually succeeded in their business. The couple promotes what was good and healthy to both the individual and the environment because through the products of Human Nature, which they assured are all-natural and environmental-friendly.

With Human Nature, they were able to provide new jobs, goods and services to the poor and marginalized.

Ms. Kathleen Lungub, Advocacy and Communications Officer of FSSI, shared her organization's vision of "a just, sustainable and empowered communities, recognizing diversity of cultures, respecting integrity of creation and realizing fullness of life."

Ms. Lungub said FSSI provides social investments to vulnerable communities to achieve sustainable development. She added that FSSI also helps social enterprises and communities through financial services and grants to social enterprises with triple bottom lines; support enhancements for entrepreneurial capacities; and advocacy and dialogue among policymakers and communities.

With the tag line, "help the blind help themselves," Mr. Angel Pangan shared that the goal of VIVES Inc. is to promote the social development capability of the visually impaired in preparation for their socio-economic well-being.

"Hindi porke't bulag ay wala na kaming magagawa sa lipunan," said Mr. Pangan who gave emphasis on the VIVES's objectives of creating public awareness on the potentials and capabilities of the blind person, and promoting the socio-economic welfare of the blind through the vast opportunities for gainful employment.

The Learning Session on SE was designed to provide participants with the basic understanding on Social Enterprise and how SEs can be used as vehicle to improve lives of individuals especially the poor and marginalized being the key economic players.

LPI is continuously building the capacities of its partner organizations that are engaged in different enterprises for them to explore other means of social enterprises with triple bottom lines – that is owned by the people, profit is distributive, and economically sound and environmentally-friendly.



Learning Visit on CCM and Resilience

Participants from Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines gathered in Salatiga, Central Java, Indonesia from April 15-19 to enhance their understanding of Church and Community Mobilization focusing on Resiliency.

The projects of Tearfund's partner organization in Indonesia, Yayasan Sion, are the subject of the visit. Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. (LPI) was among the participants of the learning visit as a partner-organization of Tearfund.

The Tearfund UK and Tearfund Bangladesh initiated the "learning visit" together with partner-organizations LAMB, Shalom, Baptist Aid and CCTB. It was organized in collaboration with Tear Netherlands.

The visit's goal was to understand the roles of churches in the communities, how do churches and communities help each other and work together, what the impact of the church in the community is, and what challenges and bottlenecks they experienced so far.

The sharing of experiences during conversations and field visits in different churches and community-based organizations paved the way for a better understanding of resiliency in different contexts and situations.

The learning visit was also designed to encourage regional learning among partners, exchange of knowledge, skills and attitude, and to build network of CCM practitioners.

Specific issues such as gains of the CCM in as far as reducing or eliminating the incidence of domestic violence against women and protecting children were discussed in some organizations.





Micah Global Consultation

The Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. (LPI) joined some 450 participants from 68 countries in attending the 7th Micah Global Consultation held from September 10-14, 2018 in Tagaytay City, Philippines.

One of the papers that was supposed to be presented during the event was, "Church and Community Mobilization in Cooperation to Build Resilient Communities in South East Asia," which portrayed the Philippines (particularly of LPI) and Indonesian experiences in building resilient communities through partnership.

The paper was written by Mr. Norman Franklin C. Agustin of LPI, Ms. Debora Suparni and Ms. Arshinta Soemarsono from Yayasan Sion Indonesia and YAKKUM Indonesia. It was edited and finalized by Ms. Fennelien Stal of Tear of the Netherlands, a mission partner of LPI.

Excerpts of the document:

Introduction

To build the resilience of communities to disasters in Indonesia and the Philippines, Yayasan Sion, Lingap Pangkabataan, Incorporated (LPI), YAKKUM and Tear the Netherlands partnered to establish a network and a community of practice (CoP).

In presenting these two cases, we showed how resilience can be built through church and community mobilization processes that are owned and resourced by communities themselves.

Churches have a valuable position to initiate these processes, and those processes encourage an integrated approach, which is essential to building resilience. Forming networks or CoPs furthermore support and equip member-churches and -organizations to bring change in their community, and it enables churches and organizations to cooperate on multi-stakeholder platforms which increase their ability to influence social, political and economic systems in such a way that communities in Indonesia and the Philippines will become more resilient to shocks and stresses.

The Asia-Pacific region is usually the most affected by natural disasters in the world. The frequency and intensity of natural disasters such as floods, tropical cyclones and droughts keep increasing due to climate change. Vulnerable communities and countries with little capacity to prepare for or respond to disasters are hit the hardest by disasters. Disasters destroy livelihoods and assets which traps people in poverty and lead to increasing inequality. Moreover, natural disasters can create unstable social and economic situations which can cause conflicts. At the same time, conflicts undermine the capacity of communities and countries to prevent and respond to natural disasters and crises.

Philippine Context

Typhoon Haiyan was one of the strongest tropical cyclones ever recorded. It made a landfall in the Philippines on November 7, 2013. A total of 16 million people was affected. Eastern Visayas was the most affected, especially Samar and Leyte. More than 6,000 people were killed, 1,061 people were reported missing, 28,689 people were injured, and around 600,000 people were made homeless and displaced. The typhoon caused widespread damage to peoples' lives and properties and is now considered as the benchmark of the "new normal," since such super-typhoons are predicted to happen more often in the future due to climate change.

LPI and Tear cooperated in the Restore Eastern Samar Together (REST) consortium with four other organizations to respond to the immense scale of damage brought by the typhoon. Based on each consortium members' expertise, the collaboration resulted in houses and day-care centers being (re)built, child-friendly spaces being established, psychosocial interventions being conducted and food packs being distributed.

The LPI, in partnership with its member-churches, implemented a community-based livelihood and DRR project for 500 households affected by Typhoon Haiyan in Leyte and Samar. The main project activities included: learning sessions among the member churches, participatory needs assessment with the affected communities, churches, local governments, and schools, capacity building trainings on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and natural farming trainings for church and community members.

Our Strategies

- From disaster response to community development and church and community mobilization focused on DRR. The goal is to enhance the capacity of churches to transform communities such that communities become more resilient to disasters and where children and vulnerable adults are able to flourish.
- Community of Practice: Churches as first responders in case of disasters can play a significant role in building resilience because they are an influential structure in communities. Churches can be catalysts of change, even more so if churches collaborate with one another and learn together. The goal is to increase the ability of churches and Christian organizations to cooperate with different stakeholders.

Mentoring the CBOs

Apart from implementing various child-focused community development programs, the Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) also provided mentoring assistance to the Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that it organized to sustain its initiatives.

Topics, such as understanding organizational behavior and structure and how to effectively manage an organization, are regularly discussed with the officers of the CBOs, majority of whom did not finish college education but are very interested to learn.

Presiding in a meeting that use parliamentary procedure is included in the mentoring program.

Since these CBOs did not start at the same time, some of them have earlier drafted their constitution and by-laws. Others are still in the formation stage, while another group already crafted its strategic direction and formulated its operational plan.





LPI and ECP Forged Partnership

The Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) and the Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Emergency Response and Early Recovery to Survivors of Typhoon Mangkhut in Northern Luzon.

The MOA signing took place less than two weeks after Typhoon Mangkhut (Ompong) made its landfall in the northern part of the country.

LPI's BOT chairperson, Atty. Jerry Bantilan, and the Most Rev. Joel Pachao, Prime Bishop of the ECP, signed the document that will provide relief and early recovery response interventions to the following who were greatly affected by the typhoon: 5,083 families with relief distribution, 100 families with shelter repair materials, 100 families with farming assistance and 1,200 children with psycho-social support.

LPI will be working closely with the ECP in its four dioceses in Region 2 and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). These are the Episcopal Diocese in Northern Luzon (EDNL), Episcopal Diocese of Santiago (EDS), Episcopal Diocese in North Central Philippines (EDNCP), and Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines (EDNP).

Tearfund Netherlands and other back donors provided the fund, in addition to the donations that were received by LPI from its local partners through its resource mobilization campaign and from the counterpart that was raised by ECP.



Standing Still

Joshua Ronquillo is a 16-year-old Grade 11 (Senior High School) student in Dinapigue National High School. He is the youngest among the eight children of Antonio and Estrella Ronquillo, both deceased. He was only six months old when he lost his father. Her mother passed away on October 12 just last year.

With his mother gone, he was left with the responsibility of providing for and taking care of an older sibling, a 27-year-old person-with-disability or PWD. The latter suffers from a sinus-related condition that hinders him from doing even the simplest household chores and other tasks.

The rest of Joshua's siblings have left Dinapigue a long time ago. They are scattered in the northern provinces of Isabela and in Cagayan busy making meager living for their respective families. Nevertheless, blood proves to be thicker than water. The siblings try to keep in touch.

In any case, Joshua found himself in a situation the he never imagined he would be—an orphan and a breadwinner to a helpless older brother at age 16.

Joshua goes to school on weekdays and works on weekends as a helper in drying palay (rice). He earns about P200 per day. The amount, needless to say, is barely enough to keep him and his brother alive. When things really get tight, Joshua would be forced to seek the financial assistance of his other siblings.

Life's demands begin to tell on Joshua, who now suffers from back pains and frequent headaches. There were times when he would be sick for days. Unfortunately, as the saying goes, when it rains, it pours. As if losing his mother was not enough, the family also experienced being hit by several storms.

Before typhoon Mangkhut hit Dinapigue, Joshua already heard the news that the typhoon was coming.

However, it was only during its landfall that they realized its intensity. When the typhoon came, Joshua could do nothing but pray while the strong winds and heavy rains battered their house, which was made of only light materials.

He saw widespread devastation as houses and structures (including their own) were thrown everywhere by the strong winds of the typhoon. It took him days to build temporary shelter for themselves out of the old materials of what was once their home. One thing he knew—if ever another storm with the same intensity comes, their "new home" can never hold up.

As far as he can remember, it was ABS-CBN (a local news network) who's among the first emergency responders that also conducted relief operations.

When asked about the recently conducted garden seed distribution on how it can help them, he positively replied that the seeds came at the right time. For a while, he's been asking his neighbors if they have vegetable seeds so he can plant them at their yard. It would help in minimizing their expenses because they will have a source of food. He even said it could potentially be another source of income if he can manage to grow the crops properly.

Joshua would have liked to have electricity. At night, a lamp powered by a borrowed car battery provides them light at night. Electricity is such a necessary service in the town not only for Joshua's family but for all the families living there as well. Joshua's life today is a far cry from that of what it was last year. He was just an ordinary easy-go-lucky youth who enjoyed going out with his friends and playing during his free time.

Now, he carries on his young shoulders the weight that even an adult would find daunting or even overwhelming. Joshua knows he no longer has the luxury of thinking for himself; he has to prioritize the welfare of his brother.

Joshua knows more storms will come in his life, now intertwined with his brother's. He promises that he will not falter. He says he has this kind of faith that will never be broken. He is determined to remain standing not only for himself but for his brother, as well.



Updates on the "Ompong" Response

Affected families received food items containing rice, groceries, dried fish/ beans, bottled water as well as non-food packs totalling to 11,321 collectively mobilized by Lingap and local church partners.

Supplementing the distribution of food packs is the provision of vegetable seeds and garden tools to 1,942 beneficiary households. At least 80% of targeted families were able to meet daily food and other basic needs through relief goods distribution and backyard gardening.

The engagement of local churches in this Emergency Response also provided venues to enhance the capacities of local churches in responding to children in emergencies. Aside from their local church-initiated trainings, Lingap also facilitated the Training of Child-Friendly Space (CFS) Facilitators in Isabela and Cagayan.

DRR Teams of the four (4) Dioceses of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines directly implement and manage project activities, while the ECP National Office as lead coordinator. Men and women also expressed appreciation and support to local women's groups participation in humanitarian action as most of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) members are part of the DRR Response Team. In addition to providing life-saving interventions and immediate emergency needs greatly affected by the disaster, the Emergency Response also increased meaningful participation of women in humanitarian action.



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The college organized a committee composed of experts in the fields of early childhood education, family and values, psychology, and community development to implement the program with Ms. Mary Francis Therese B. Peltas, MA, Faculty College of Education, as point person.

The training was participated in by representatives from the Social Services and Development Department (SSDD) of Quezon City, Kaisang Buhay Foundation, Inc. (KBFI), Jesus the Word of Life, Sto. Nino de Baseco Early Childcare and Development Center, Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) in Barangay 170, Caloocan City and from other LPI-assisted communities in Metro Manila.

The following are reflections from participants, who were asked what topics struck them most:

1. The different child development corners are "must haves" for a friendly Child Development Center such as Math, Science, reading corners. These corners encourage children to imagine, develop insights and skills in arts, dancing and other areas that eventually create their own concepts about the things that interest them.
2. Fun Wednesday or Fun Day or "Wow Wednesday." The DCW invites professionals and non-professionals who are willing to share about their work to make the children comfortable with them, appreciate their presence and inspire them "when they grow up".

LPI and Miriam College Forged Partnership

The Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) and Miriam College have entered into a partnership agreement to capacitate child development workers. Dubbed as "Training Program for Daycare Teachers of Lingap Pangkabataan," the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by Dr. Rosario Margarita A. Allgado, Dean of the College of Education, and LPI's Executive Director, Mr. Norman Franklin C. Agustin.

Through its mandate, the Miriam College, having been designated as Center of Excellence in Teacher Education, has extended its expertise in early childhood education to the child development workers of LPI-assisted communities and partner-organizations from the private and public sectors.

The six-day training program was also designed not only to enhance capacities of child development workers but to uplift nearby communities.

3. Developmental Milestone of a Child. What a child can do or achieve according to their age.
4. Every child is unique.
5. Effective Communication with the Parents
6. Positive and Gentle Discipline
7. Lesson Plan; Thematic approach

When asked about the most significant lesson they learned, they answered:

1. Every child's corner at the center has a purpose. It must be child-friendly. The need to sort and put in a designated "corner" the children's learning materials.
2. Learning the child's developmental milestone is a guide to validate observations and other data gathered about the child. Example: at the age of 3-4, the child must have the proper "toilet training". This training has an impact in the child's exercise of self-control and socialization with children. There are several day care children who are still wearing "disposal diapers".
3. Because every child is unique, each must be given every opportunity to grow in an environment which is accepting, fun and loving.

4. On the topic Effective Communication with the Parents, the DCWs learned that there are ways to make the communication effective and consistent: Communication must be clear and positive. Listening has three important elements: attending attitude like: eye-to-eye contact, following: open, positive language and no judgement, reflecting by paying attention to words and feelings, focus on the pressing needs of the parents/person.

5. Under the topic, "Positive and Gentle Discipline," the DCW learned the concepts of corporal punishment, physical force and non-physical force.

6. In lesson planning, many areas in the curriculum are connected together and integrated within a theme. The learning process is more natural and less fragmented; the children will have more fun, active, more developmental, motivating and will present fewer behavioral problems; "revealing."

7. Parents are partners.





Theater Arts Workshop with PETA

The Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA), one of the top theater groups in the country, facilitated a training workshop for LPI's young artists to prepare them for the performance the latter had during the 9th National Children's Congress last May 14-16.

Children leaders from LPI's assisted urban poor communities took a break from their busy schedule in their respective schools and committed to "give their all" for this once-in-a-lifetime experience with PETA.

The world-renowned theater organization believe theater can be a tool for education, social change and development.

The workshop was designed to enhance the acting and art skills of participants, who are mostly officers in their respective community-based Children's Associations.

The skills they gained from the workshop would be useful since they plan to form their own theater arts group in their respective communities to advance their advocacy agenda for a child-friendly community.

Ms. Maria Rosario Bustamante, an artist-teacher, facilitated the two-day grueling workshop.

Asked about the impact of the theater workshop on them, one participant said: "The workshop was very interesting and stimulating." Another young artist said it was, "an exciting and memorable experience."



LPI Supports PPAEVAC

Committed to addressing violence against children, and fully supports the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC), Lingap Pangkabataan, Incorporated (LPI) together with various representatives from government and non-government organizations were present during its launch at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

In his speech, Davao City Representative and House Appropriations Committee Chairperson Karlo Nograles said funds will be allocated to roll out the programs each government agency is tasked to do under PPAEVAC. He also said that they will tackle policy reforms aimed at easing bottlenecks in implementing relevant programs.



As per result of the 2015 National Baseline Study on Violence against Children (NBS VAC)

- 3 in 5 children were reported as having experienced any form of physical violence in various settings;
- 3 in 5 children were reported to have experienced some form of psychological violence in any setting;
- 1 in 5 children reportedly suffered from some form of sexual violence in any setting.

Making
Life better
for
Children

LPI encourages its partner churches and organizations to be involved in addressing violence against children. LPI also calls out "Stop all forms of violence against children!"

Real Time Evaluation

The Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI) commissioned an external evaluator to conduct participatory Real Time Evaluation (RTE) of its Child-focused Community-based Development Project (CCDP) in selected urban poor communities in Metro Manila, particularly those that are supported by Mission Alliance Philippines (MAP).

The LPI would like to see transformed communities by 2020 with economically productive families, with their rights protected and the welfare of urban poor children in five targeted areas in Metro Manila promoted.

The RTE is a systematic, impartial assessment while a project is being implemented. It is usually facilitated by someone who is not in any way connected in an organization to determine whether results made a worthwhile contribution to achieving goals of the project and aspirations of the people.

The objectives of the RTE as approved by the

- To determine whether implementation of initial activities and outputs are realizing the project outcomes or affecting positive changes towards the goal,
- To review project implementation process/es and find what was or was not effective, efficient, relevant and sustainable vis-à-vis targeted results, and
- To derive lessons learned and provide technical recommendations for the remaining implementation period.

During the inception of the evaluation, the evaluator, Mr. Renato Llorin, said: "If we check the small steps, we reduce small errors that lead to big failures."

"The evaluation is also a way of learning new things, and if we learn, we get better, and better, and better," he added.

Church partners through local leaders, leaders of local organizations, and children/youth leaders participated in the Focused Group Discussions (FGDs). Other stakeholders like church leaders in charge of implementing the project, barangay officials, and leaders of existing community organizations not directly involved with the project also participated in the process whether through FGD or as key informants.

Contemplations of the RTE

- Assessing organizational design for implementation – LPI, Church Partner, CBO, Youth Organizations with sustainability as important consideration;
- Commitment to strategic goals at the community level to reach consolidation and stabilization – no strategic plans, only activity plans;
- Contribution to transformation must take into consideration other contributions as well – a more holistic strategy based on evidence;
- Be aware of what CBOs and their livelihoods will be going through, design the assistance and interventions to respond to projected needs and risks. Mentoring from successful business professionals is needed, to show evidence of productivity, competitiveness etc.;
- The value of livelihoods to child protection must be strengthened. But, "HOW" needs to be reviewed very carefully;
- Group savings must be started as a unifying and resilience strategy;
- What are the measures for contribution to more economically productive families?;
- Increase attention to forming and guiding children's associations to engage other children in the community;
- UNCRC is an effective platform to reaching out to other sectors in the community. (Example: BIAN and Barangays with active BCPC, Churches Children's Ministries). Hence, a UNCRC based CCDP is a sound strategy;
- A Church and Community-led CCDP, LINGAP develops that technical requirements of the strategy.



LPI introduces Umoja Orientation

The Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. (LPI) organized a Church and Community Mobilization (CCM) orientation-workshop in order to introduce the Umoja CCM Vision, Framework and Processes.

The workshop also became a venue to discuss how the Umoja programs started in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Thailand, explain the impact of cultural, religious, and other contexts in the program implementation and present initial plans for the implementation of Umoja program in the Philippines.

Facilitated by practitioners from Cambodia and Indonesia, it was attended by various individuals and faith communities.

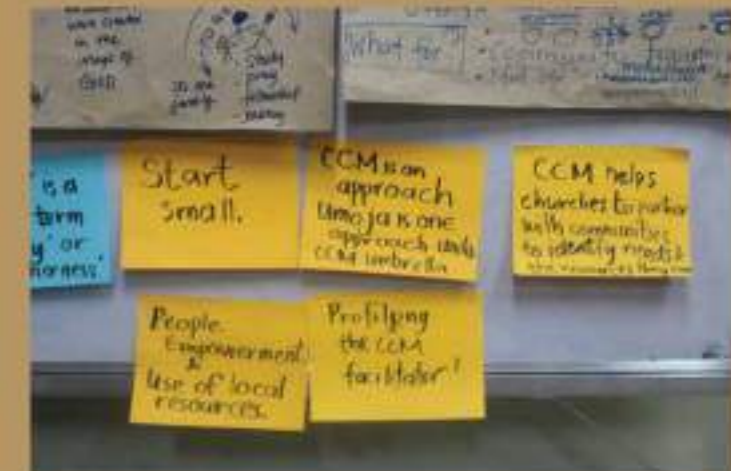
The CCM is a dynamic way of helping local churches to work together with their community in addressing needs using their own resources. It has brought remarkable transformation to local churches and their communities around the world.

The LPI expressed its belief that local churches around the world can make an immense contribution to overcoming poverty, at a local, national, and international level. Their passion, rootedness in the community, commitment to relationships and spiritual hope mean that they can be tremendous agents of transformation.

The facilitator shared to the participants the Five Stages of CCM:

1. Local church envisioning: Helping the local church leader and the local church understand that God, through the Bible, calls them to serve their communities. This stage is about building the confidence of the local church by helping them identify and utilize their own resources, so that they come to believe that change is possible.
2. Local community envisioning: Working with the local church to bring the whole community together to discuss their situation, their needs and resources, to gather and analyze information, and to decide what they as a community can do.
3. Dreaming dreams and planning for action: Once everyone is agreed on what needs to change, the church and community work together in developing a vision for the future and planning how they can bring about this change, using their own resources.
4. Taking action: Once the community starts taking action, all sorts of advices are provided in helping to ensure that the plans are carried out and positive change happens.
5. Evaluation: The last stage is a review of how the church and the community have worked together to plan and run projects to improve the lives of individuals and the community.

With this workshop, the LPI hopes to undertake an intentional and focused training process to learn the theory and practice on how we go about equipping, empowering and mobilizing its member-churches to engage and partner with community members to help bring about positive, significant and sustainable changes on the lives and livelihood of community members and make their environment a much better and more joyful place to live in.





Learning Conference 2018

“Conspiracy of the Mustard Seed.”

Such is the theme for this year’s Learning Conference organized by Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. (LPI) and ASDECS.

The event has two objectives: One, to enable participants to know various models of community engagement, deepening of understanding of transformational development principles and, two, to strengthen the solidarity among advocates and practitioners of community transformation.

More than 100 participants from different organizations gathered at Ciudad Christia Resort in San Mateo, Rizal for the conference. It was divided into various plenary sessions such as the “Personal and Community Transformation,” which focuses on the inward journey of a community transformation practitioner. It identified key elements of nurturing a spirituality that sustains and heightens engagement with community stakeholders. Examples of the challenges as well as triumphs encountered in the field were also presented by the speaker.

On the topic “Peace-Building and Community Transformation,” it presented the timely local and global demand for peace. Emphasis was put on theology and practice of peace, as well as providing models of strategic peace-building initiatives.

Another plenary session was the “Missions and Community Transformation,” where it integrates community transformation with the mission of the church. Often mistakenly separated, the social and spiritual mandate of the gospel was tackled in the light of current local and global realities.

An open space was also allotted for participants to simply share their personal agenda and allow for communal concerns to surface. The conference’s culminating activity was a visit to the different LPI-assisted communities and a glimpse of the transformational initiatives undertaken by its community stakeholders.



PAGCOR kicks off

'Pamaskong Handog 2018'

Every Christmas season, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) spreads cheer to thousands of underprivileged Filipinos through its "Pamaskong Handog" project.

On December 4, 2018, the agency kicked off its annual gift-giving tradition aimed at benefitting over 13,000 individuals under the care of 30 institutions nationwide.

Jimmy Bondoc, PAGCOR vice president for corporate social responsibility, said the agency allocated more than P18 million for its gift-giving activity, that run from December 4 to 21, 2018.

"We aim to reach out to more Filipinos in need by making them feel loved this Christmas season," Bondoc said. "Through our 'Pamaskong Handog' program, we want to let them know that despite life's many challenges, there is always a reason to hope and be happy."

Beneficiaries of this year's gift-giving project included indigent and abandoned children, orphans, indigenous people, sexually abused women, cancer patients, people with disabilities, senior citizens, street sweepers, civil servants, solo parents, out-of-school youth, and children of military personnel who were either killed or wounded from combat.

Lingap Pangkabataan Inc. (LPI), a child-focused Christian organization that implements various community development programs so that children especially the poor and the marginalized will be able to live a full life, was the first beneficiary of PAGCOR's gift-giving program.

Founded in 1981, LPI has helped change the lives of thousands of indigent, orphaned, destitute children along with their families through community-based interventions that are designed to educate and empower communities.

This Christmas season, PAGCOR allocated more than P600,000 for LPI's 625 beneficiaries, who received gift packs containing groceries during a grand Christmas party held in Barangay Escopa III in Project 4, Quezon City.

LPI Executive Director Norman Franklin Agustin is grateful that PAGCOR has once again shared its blessings to the children and families under their care.

"We thank PAGCOR for this early Christmas gift and we hope to continue this partnership as we also continue to bring joy to everyone especially the less privileged children and youth," Agustin said.

Fifteen-year-old Gene Lambon, one of the beneficiaries, said her life became better when she was introduced to LPI. She used to sell Sampaguita in the streets at the age of six. "Kung wala ang Lingap, wala ako." Now she's already in Grade 9 and Lingap continues to support her in her studies.

In 2012, Lingap Pangkabataan was also one of the beneficiaries of the agency's "Bayanihan: Pamaskong Handog" where the institution's reading center was renovated by PAGCOR. Six computer and printer sets were also donated to them.

Source:
<https://www.pagcor.ph/press-releases/pagcor-kicks-off-Pamaskong-Handog-2018.php>



Merry Christmas!!!

The Lingap Staff



Office of the Executive Director

Norman Franklin C. Agustin
Executive Director

Marlyn F. Abueg
Executive Secretary

Finance and Administration Unit

Javier B. Rico
Finance Manager

Marion Rico G. Serapion
Finance Officer

Ruby Joy L. Embornas
Finance Assistant

Child-focused Community Development Program

Cathyrine M. Llave-Eder
Program Coordinator

Russel Anthony N. Albano
Program Officer

Nilo B. Sapinit
Program Officer

Freyel D. Vera Cruz
Program Officer

Our Church Partners



Our Major Funding Partners





158 Ermin Garcia Street, Brgy. E. Rodriguez,
Cubao, Quezon City, 1109 Metro Manila,
Philippines



+63 2 912 4225 | +63 2 912 0302



www.lingappangkabataan.org
lingap.pangkabataan@gmail.com
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