

Preventive action and early interventions against child abuse and exploitation in urban poor communities



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: The Philippines

Duration: June 2001 to February 2004

Implementing UN Agencies: UNICEF

Other Implementing Partners: National Council for Social Development; Lunduyan Foundation; Laura Vicuña Foundation; Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation; Foundation for Adolescent Development; Childhope Asia Philippines

Budget: \$214,747.21

Key Words: Children; urban communities

BACKGROUND

In 2001, the number of impoverished urban children in need of special protection from drug addiction, sexual exploitation, child labour or homelessness was on the rise in the Philippines. These children lived in informal settlements and crowded slum communities without access to basic facilities and services. Often from large families, many children were themselves at high

risk of unwanted pregnancies and early parenthood, continuing the vicious cycle of poverty and despair. In the absence of comprehensive interventions and socio-economic policy change, it was estimated that more children would live in situations of child labour and homelessness.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Covering the cities of Manila, Pasay and Quezon, the project sought to (i) implement measures preventing children from being exploited in urban communities; (ii) promote responsible and effective parenting that would strengthen parents'

abilities to protect their children; and (iii) improve assistance and services for children in high-risk situations of exploitation, abuse, neglect or abandonment.

BENEFICIARIES

As a result of the project, 2,445 children received educational and vocational training, and community-based peer counsellors were trained to provide skills education to children and youth in the participating communities. Moreover, 5,400

parents joined education programmes that improved their understanding of parental responsibilities and how best to protect their children.