

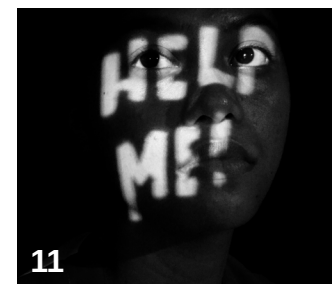


2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Extraordinary acts in unprecedented times

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MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Atty. Jose Cochingyan III
President/Chairman

The year 2020 has proven to be a trying time for us all. Even CAMELEON was not spared from the harsh effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We faced severe damage to our center in Silay, Negros Occidental due to flooding, lockdowns, a potential outbreak, delayed or cancelled projects, even loss of livelihood. More alarming is the drastic increase in cases of domestic abuse and cyber pornography attributed to these lockdowns. But through it all, we have endured, and we are approaching the year 2021 with a renewed sense of hope and purpose.

The past year has also provided us with an opportunity to step outside our comfort zones and change with the times. We have expanded the reach of our advocacy programs by using technology and online social media platforms. What used to be seminars for 20 or so individuals now accommodated a hundred or more at a time.

We also increased our capacity to accept donations by veering away from the traditional modes of transaction and exploring online payment systems and online banking facilities. Individuals from all over the world have exerted extra efforts to help us during these times, and for that we shall always be grateful.

Our resiliency, as CAMELEON and as Filipinos, always shines through the hardest of challenges. As we face the uncertainty of the coming years, I hope we are always reminded of the generosity and determination of all our partners, supporters, and staff. I hope that CAMELEON continues to be a beacon of hope for all survivors of sexual abuse and that CAMELEON's light shines through even in these dark times.



Heide G. Foulc
Executive Director

Without doubt, 2020 was a challenging and unprecedented year for all of us. As we continue to face the pandemic, our work in helping the most vulnerable members of our community is more crucial than ever.

We increased the capacities of our shelters to accommodate more survivors, heal them and give them hope for a better future. Our advocacy campaigns were also ceaseless despite the limitations of the pandemic; online lectures and webinars were organized with our youth advocates' eager participation. Meanwhile in the communities, initiatives were put into action to support sponsored children and their families through continuous monitoring, and technical assistance for distance-learning education.

Great leaps were also made possible because of our partners.

We are thankful for the unwavering and continued support of our institutional partners: Coopération

Humanitaire Luxembourg and Agence Française de Développement. Our local partners Consuelo Foundation and Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. also committed to support our actions and programs.

Together with our partners Child Rights Network and UNICEF, we celebrated the approval of the statutory rape bill in the House of Representatives. The bill seeks to increase the age to determine statutory rape from the current 12 years old to 16.

All these extraordinary acts in a critical time made us more hopeful that no matter how dire the situation is, there will always be genuine individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations with earnest desires to help. Looking ahead in 2021, we are confident that these extraordinary acts with relevant strategies and commitment will lead us to the success we envision for CAMELEON, and most especially for the vulnerable children, youth and families.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR YEAR

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES APPROVES STATUTORY RAPE BILL

On December 1, 2020, the House of Representatives approved on the third and final reading the bill seeking to increase the age to determine statutory rape from 12 to 16 years old. 207 lawmakers voted for the House Bill 7836 while only 3 voted against it. Together with our partners, we celebrate this huge milestone in pushing for better laws to protect children victims of sexual abuse. The next step is for the bill to be approved in the Senate of the Philippines.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS: RAMON ABOITIZ FOUNDATION INC. & CONSUELO FOUNDATION

This year, Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. pledged to support the healing and recovery interventions for our girl survivors of sexual abuse. The foundation previously donated the necessary materials to build the children's playground in Negros Center. Meanwhile, in addition to the support they provide to the Rehabilitation Program, Consuelo Foundation also made a generous commitment to support CAMELEON's Social Circus initiative and Advocacy Program.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS CONTINUE YEARS OF COMMITMENT

Our committed foreign partners are the key reasons why our programs continue to serve children and communities amidst the difficulties brought by COVID-19. With the untiring work of CAMELEON France in tapping and coordinating with our international partners, we say our thanks to Agence Française de Développement, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg, Coopération Humanitaire Luxembourg and NIF Foundation for their support in the past years and most especially in the coming ones.

TITA TONYA ADVOCATES FOR ONLINE SAFETY AND CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION

Due to the prohibition of mass gatherings, the Advocacy team had to come up with alternative ways to continue their campaigns and engage the public. The result was

"Tita Tonya of CAMELEON," a 5-minute video series featuring one of the advocacy staff as Tita Tonya. In her videos, she shared useful tips including how the youth can stay safe online and a guide for parents on how to safeguard their children from the dangers of the internet. Tita Tonya also gave important information on child sexual abuse prevention. Tita Tonya was featured in the local TV network broadcasting to the Western Visayas region.

CAMELEON CENTERS INCREASE SHELTER CAPACITIES

In response to the increasing number of child sexual abuse cases, we have increased the capacities of our centers to shelter and heal more girl survivors of sexual abuse in the Western Visayas region. From the current 26 girls in Negros Center, the capacity will be increased to 30. While in Passi our center currently shelters 53 girls, which was previously capped at 50.

CAMELEON GIRLS GIVE TRIBUTE TO THE "MODERN HEROES"

"Modern Heroes" is an original song by French artist Morgane Imbeaud with the lyrics written by CAMELEON girls. A tribute to the frontliners of the pandemic, the song is also a message of thanks from the children to all the heroes and heroines of modern times: the frontliners, the caregivers, the humanitarian workers, the volunteers, the godparents, the sponsors, and to all those who give without counting and work without expecting anything in return.

PROGRAMS IMPLEMENT NEW INITIATIVES TO ADAPT TO THE PANDEMIC

To adapt to the changes caused by the global health crisis, we made certain changes to the implementation of our programs and services. To name a few: previously, trainings and seminars brought together up to 50 participants. Now, participants are clustered to a maximum of 10 per session, which ensures the safety of the beneficiaries. Instead of personal home and school visits, sponsored children in the communities send in their updates through personal video statements. Lastly, skills and capacity trainings for the girls in the center are done online in lieu of the face-to-face workshops.



OUR STORY



LAURENCE LIGIER
Foundress
CAMELEON Association Inc.

Laurence Ligier was only 25 years old when she saw an enormous need to help girl survivors of sexual abuse in the Philippines. After years of travelling and volunteering in the country since she was 20, she left her family and friends in France to found a non-government organization in Iloilo (Western Visayas Region) in 1997, which she named as **CAMELEON Association**.

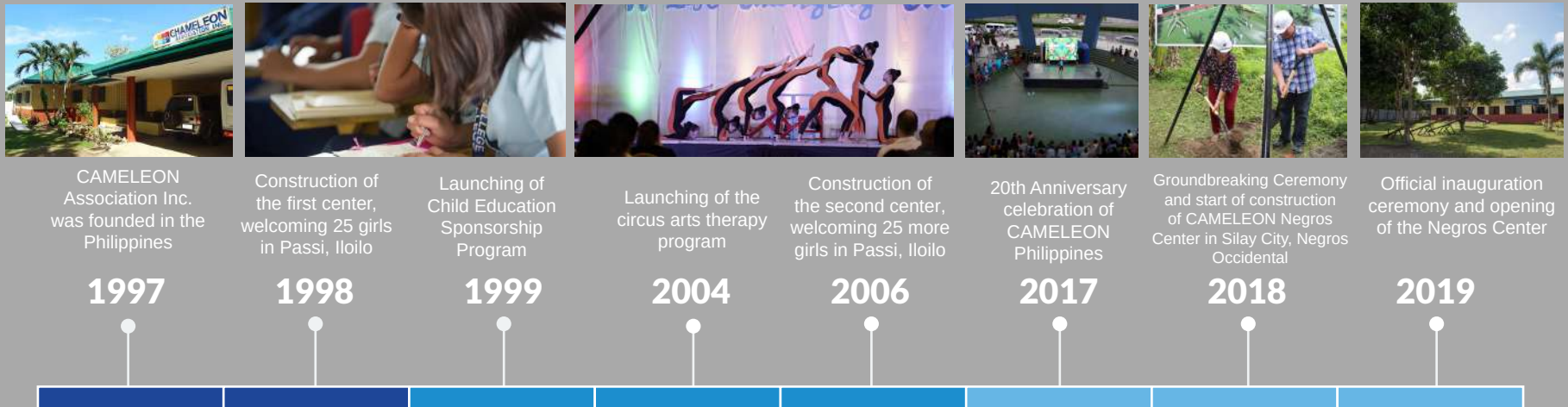
Quickly, her initiative grew and became an important actor in the Philippines. A few years after its foundation, CAMELEON Association Inc. was accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the country; opened two shelters for girl survivors of sexual abuse, organized several events gathering communities and developed the administrative core of the Association by opening branches and partnerships in France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Andorra, United States and Belgium. In 2017, CAMELEON celebrated its 20th anniversary.

In 2019, CAMELEON celebrated the official inauguration ceremony of the third center in Silay City, Negros Occidental together with its committed local and international partners. A milestone for Laurence and her team, as it emphasized the importance of their actions and the seriousness of their work.

Laurence Ligier is a recipient of several prestigious awards:

- Knight of the National Order of the Legion d'Honneur by French President François Hollande
- Knight of the National Order of Merit by French President Nicolas Sarkozy
- Philippines Presidential Award by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
- Women of Style and Substance - People Asia Award
- Presidential Award for Civic Spirit and Devotion by French President Jacques Chirac
- Clarins' Most Dynamic Woman of the Year Award

TIMELINE



OUR VISION & MISSION

OUR VISION

CAMELEON aspires to a world without sexual violence. In a world where sexual violence is insidious, common, considered taboo and rarely punished, encouraged by a culture of silence due to ignorance, fear, shame or denial, it is necessary to act.

OUR PROMISE

"Changing Colors, Changing Lives"

From a hostile environment to a warm and safe life, children change over the years. Like our multi-colored CAMELEON, they move slowly but surely, hesitating, sometimes by tumbling but never fall.

We are building safe structures dedicated to victims, helping them overcome their trauma and making it into a force for their rehabilitation. We offer a necessary cocoon to prepare their metamorphosis.

We aim to change minds and behaviors and are working to change societies and mentalities in order to protect childhood.

Children are at the heart of our action: changes are made by them, for them and around them.

OUR MISSION

CAMELEON develops a holistic approach to act on the causes and effects of sexual violence towards children and teenagers.

- Protecting and supporting victims of sexual violence in the Philippines by accompanying them with their families on the path to resilience.
- Encouraging our beneficiaries' autonomy and the socio-economic development of families in their communities.
- Training and accompanying beneficiaries and encourage them to get involved as spokespersons and active supporters of CAMELEON.
- Raising awareness among the general public, especially young people in the Philippines and in Europe, in order to promote Children's Rights and free the voices from sexual violence.
- Advocating for Children's Rights and against sexual violence to local, national and international institutions and the media.

OUR VALUES

Responsibility

- Our intention is to help children and families to become autonomous and sustainable. It is also to listen, act and encourage citizens to rally against sexual violence.
- We implement our projects and supporting our beneficiaries thanks to a multi-disciplinary, professional, specialized and upstanding team.
- We guarantee transparency and proper use of our funds: we develop and assess our projects with the help of precise and measurable indicators.

Dignity

- We recognize sexual violence as one of the greatest violation of dignity as it impacts the integrity of the human being, at the very core of his and her intimacy.
- We offer victims the necessary conditions to gain back their dignity, so they can respect themselves again and respect others.
- We fight for the dignity of everyone: we respect any individual no matter his or her age, sex, culture, religion or condition. We constantly adapt our actions to the local context.

Courage

- The need for courage, strength, willingness and time for children on the path of rehabilitation, never give up the fight against their perpetrators until they are recognized as victims and fully exercising their rights.
- The courage for all persons involved in this sensitive project, facing the emotional and physical pain of children who have lived the unspeakable.
- The courage and determination of the foundress, Laurence Ligier, for having launched a fight against sexual violence in the Philippines, where it is considered taboo, and risking our lives to defend the mistreated and underprivileged children.

Commitment

- We are committed to implement everything possible to protect, care for, rehabilitate, educate and warn. We accompany children, their families and their communities on the path to resilience and independence. Our employees and volunteers are fully committed to our beneficiaries and our cause.
- Sponsors are financially, morally and humanly committed for the long-term.
- The commitment of our beneficiaries who become actors in the fight for Children's Rights or the teaching of good health practices, in the aim of reducing domestic and sexual violence.

OUR MEANS OF ACTION





- The physical and legal protection, the personal rehabilitation, the reintegration of children victims of sexual violence, and the social support of the families.
- The education, health, professional insertion, the autonomy of underprivileged children and their families.
- The training, mobilization and promotion of former and actual beneficiaries to become ambassadors and change leaders: models of success, value-sharing, sustainability.
- The public and media awareness on Children's Rights, the prevention of sexual violence to shatter taboos and break the silence.
- The advocacy for a better protection of children to institutional leaders and politicians.

OUR EXPERTISE

- A program on the ground for 24 years recognized and legitimated by public authorities.
- A human-sized organization which encourages local exchanges and relationships with people.
- A geographical basis: the local team, 100% composed of Filipinos, works together with the communities where it intervenes.
- The teams accompany each child in the long term, up until university graduation, while at the same time preparing them for adulthood.
- The Association supports families in becoming more aware of their role as parents and encourages the preservation of family ties.
- Through the practice of circus, an unknown discipline in the Philippines used as an innovative therapeutic tool, the victims reclaim their bodies.
- The energy and the determination of the foundress is transmitted to the teams, the children and the parents who take ownership of the project bit by bit with audacity, passion and pride.
- The Association trains and accompanies beneficiaries, children and adults to become ambassadors of CAMELEON. The virtuous circle is born.
- Individual sponsorship: under its supervision, the Association favors the bond and exchanges between children and their sponsors.
- The awareness-raising in schools with the use of unique pedagogical tools, used during workshops dedicated to Children's Rights and International Solidarity.
- Based in Europe and in the Philippines, the Association thrives on intercultural North/ South exchanges and favors the sharing of expertise and good practice.



OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

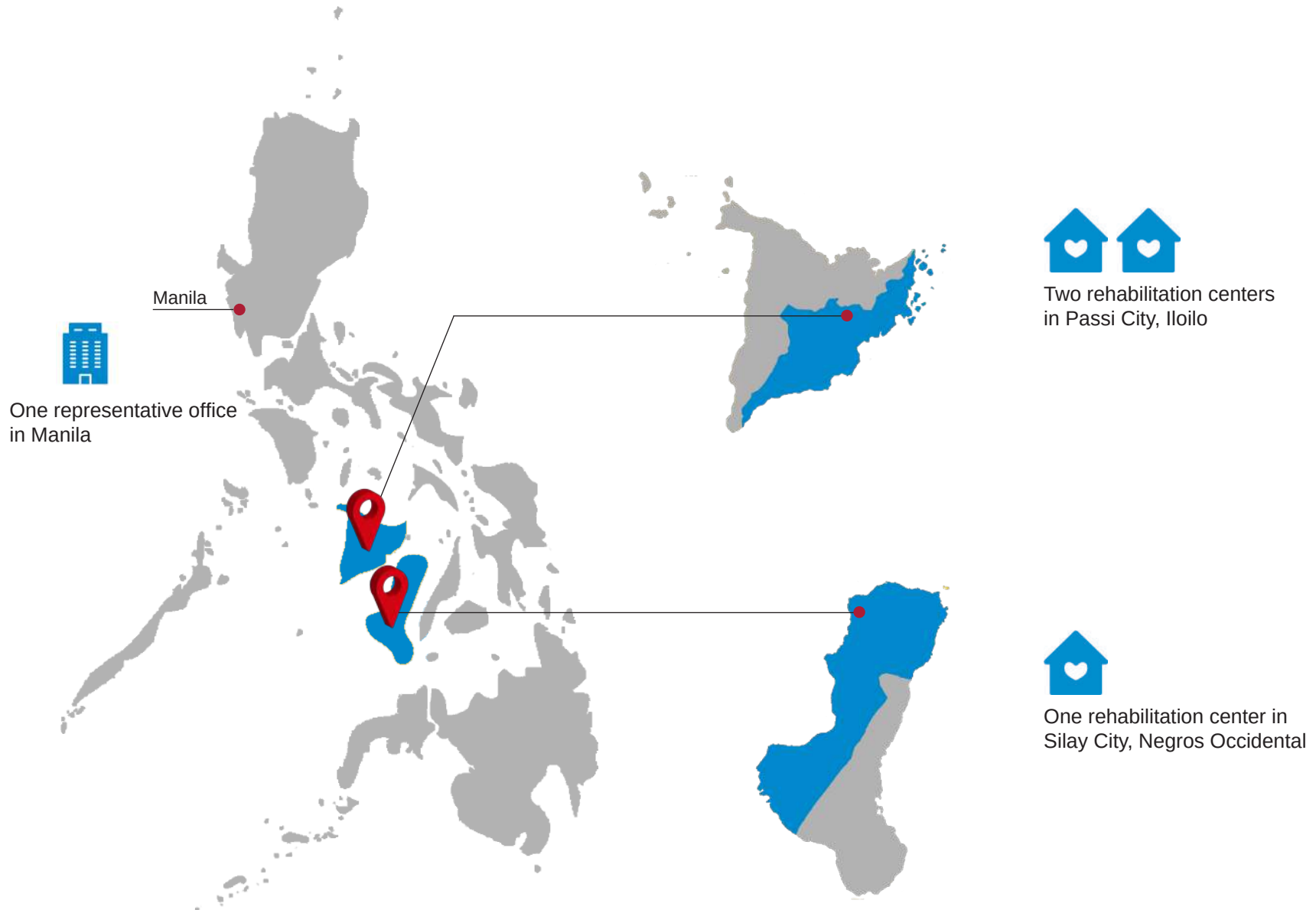
-  CAMELEON FRANCE
-  CAMELEON BELGIUM
-  CAMELEON LUXEMBOURG
-  CAMELEON SWITZERLAND



OUR WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

CAMELEON Association Inc. has two rehabilitation centers in Passi City, Iloilo and one newly opened in Silay City, Negros Occidental. The association also has an office, dormitory and learning center in Iloilo City, and one representative office in Manila.

The provinces of Iloilo and Negros Occidental belong to Region 6, which are both approximately one hour and a half travel by airplane from Manila, the capital of the Philippines.



RAPE IN THE PHILIPPINE CONTEXT: CULTURE OF SHAME AND TABOO

THE CULTURE OF TABOO

In the conservative culture and social norms of the Philippines, rape is considered a sensitive and taboo issue. Due to this cultural and social stigmatization, victims who are often women or young children are forced to keep their silence and not report the crime to authorities. Unfortunately, rape victims are often at the receiving end of the public's judgement and not the perpetrator. This breeds the feeling of shame in the victim and further encourages the culture of silence.

Rape is the most prevalent crime committed against women based on studies and statistics. Imagine the numbers if more women choose to speak up and report the crime.

WHERE RAPE IS COMMITTED

Isolated areas, such as rural communities in the Philippines, are where most sexual violence is perpetrated. These areas have limited access to information, laws are not strictly enforced, and police forces are scarcely stationed. The locations of CAMELEON's projects (Panay and Negros islands) have high reported cases of rape.

POOR LIVING CONDITIONS

Poverty encourages many Filipinos to resort to criminal acts such as drugs, alcohol, and prostitution. These factors contribute to a threatening environment surrounding vulnerable women and children, leading to high risks of sexual violence.

IGNORANCE AND LACK OF EDUCATION

For uneducated members of the population, sexual violence remains to be a vague concept. Some far-flung areas have no access to education and usually have no tools to use for acquiring information beyond their own localities. As a result, these people living in such conditions lack awareness of responsible parenting and the rights of their children.

POOR JUSTICE SYSTEM AND TRADITIONAL FILIPINO BELIEF

Perpetrators are not easily prosecuted because of the poor justice system of the country and the traditional Filipino belief that the male figure of the family is the breadwinner. Losing him to prison profoundly affects the survival of the whole family. Cases of incest burden the child victims because family members would often convince them not to file a legal case. Thus, it would often go unpunished.

CAMELEON's work in breaking the silence starts with ending the culture of taboo and bringing light to the issue of rape to the vast public. Through its advocacy campaigns and legal assistance to victims, the organization hopes to end sexual violence against children and build a safe and secure environment for them to grow in.

RAPE IN NUMBERS

In the Philippines,

2.95 million

girl children have experienced sexual violence in 2017¹

1.25 million

children experienced sexual violence at home in 2017¹

1 in every 5

children experienced any form of sexual violence in any setting in 2017¹

.....
In Western Visayas Region VI,

295

total cases of child sexual abuse were reported in the Iloilo Province, Iloilo City, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, and Guimaras in 2020.²

201

total cases of child sexual abuse were reported in Bacolod City & Negros Occidental Province in 2020.²

These numbers show reported cases only. In reality, there could be ten times more children experiencing sexual abuse but are unable, even worse, threatened, to report to the authorities.

Sources:

¹Council for the Welfare of Children. (2018). *2017 quick facts on children*.

²Police Regional Office VI. (2020). *Statistics on Child Sexual Abuse - January- December 2020*.

INCREASE OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

Due to widespread unemployment caused by the pandemic, many impoverished families have fallen deeper into poverty. With increased poverty comes the question of survival: how will families who are already barely feeding themselves be able to cope? Several have found ingenious ways to earn an income, while others resorted to a grim solution: putting up their children for cyberpornography. The increased accessibility to the internet has enabled child sexual exploitation to spread online, and now, the Philippines has been identified as a “global hotspot” for online sexual abuse and exploitation of children.¹

264.6% increase of 202,605 more reports of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children during Enhanced Community Quarantine from March to May 2020, compared to the 76,561 cases reported during the same period in 2019.²

602 people were reportedly raped from March 17 to May 23, or an average of 8 people daily according to the data of the Philippine National Police (PNP).³

279,166 cyber tips received by the Philippine Department of Justice - Office of Cybercrime from March to May 2020.²

200% increase in posts on child sexual abuse forums that link to downloadable images and videos hosted on publicly accessible spaces on the internet, according to cybersecurity specialist Web-IQ data.⁴

FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO INCREASED ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN



Widespread unemployment and increased poverty push families to resort to coercing their children into cyberpornography for income.⁴



Closing of schools and shift of education to online classes expose children to the dangers of the internet, especially when left with limited adult supervision.⁴



Confinement at home leaves children to look for other sources of entertainment they can do indoors, to which the answers are often internet and social media.⁴



A survey by ChildFund Alliance showed that nearly 40% of surveyed children feel insecure on the internet, which makes them vulnerable and at higher risk of being targeted by offenders.⁴



Heightened stress levels, isolation and drastic change of lifestyle caused by the pandemic increases the likelihood of children to act on impulses - factors that most offenders are likely to exploit.⁴



Sources:

¹Lumawag, R. (2020, June 1). *Philippines global hotspot for online sexual child exploitation*. Sunstar. <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1858490/Davao/Local-News/Philippines-global-hotspot-for-online-sexual-child-exploitation>

²Reports of sexual abuse of children triple during lockdown. (2020, May 25). Rappler. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/doj-blames-telecoms-reports-sexual-abuse-children-triple-coronavirus-lockdown>

³Tupas, E. (2020, May 25). *8 raped daily during quarantine - PNP*. philstar.com. <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2020/05/25/2016374/8-raped-daily-during-quarantine-pnp>

⁴Online sexual exploitation during COVID-19. (2020). ChildFund International. <https://www.childfund.org/Content/StoryDetail/17179870043/>

OUR CORE PROGRAMS

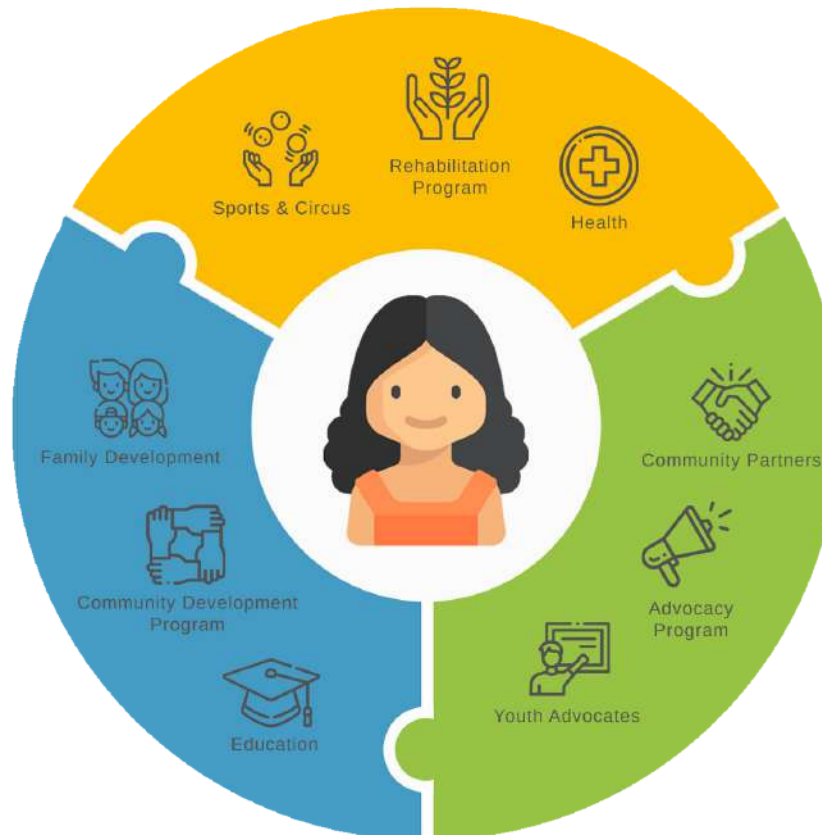
The programs of CAMELEON are founded on three major components: healing, prevention and building. Working together, these programs serve as catalysts for CAMELEON to achieve its mission: heal girl survivors of sexual abuse, prevent child sexual violence in the community, and build families and communities to become agents of change, thereby creating a safe and nurturing environment for all children in the Philippines.

HEALING

The main thrust of CAMELEON is the rehabilitation of young girl survivors of sexual abuse in Western Visayas. With our **Rehabilitation Program**, the girls go through two phases: Residential Care (In-House) and Post-Residential Care (After-Care). Aside from their basic needs, each survivor receives psycho-social support, legal assistance, and participation in circus and other recreational activities as therapy. After they have been assessed as ready for reintegration, the girls are then transitioned to the After-Care Program. In this phase, the girls are returned to their communities, to their families (if safe) or guardians. They can stay at the Iloilo Dormitory during their studies or they can rent a boarding house. The Post-Residential Care Program prepares these young girl survivors for independent living and nurtures them to become key members of the society.

BUILDING

With the help of our **Community Development Program**, sponsored children and their families within CAMELEON's communities receive support in their education, skills trainings, and livelihood needs. Sexual abuse of children often stems from the lack of education and absence of source of income within the family. Thus, our association works at building these foundations first in the family and going outward to the community. The program aims to develop children and parents to become actors of change and contribute to reducing domestic and sexual violence in families and communities.



PREVENTION

The **Advocacy Program** works as a prevention tool against child sexual abuse and violence. It runs advocacy campaigns, information drive in schools, and lectures on topics such as safe and unsafe touches for children, children's rights, and reporting of sexual abuse to educate parents, teachers, stakeholders and young children themselves. These methods serve as prevention and early intervention. Lobbying in both local and national legislative councils for child protection laws is an opportunity for the association to be the voice of sexual abuse victims and to help create a law that protects them and gives justice to the crime committed against them.





OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

In the face of the challenges and changes brought by the pandemic, our commitment to protect and heal girl survivors of sexual abuse and support children and families in the communities is stronger than ever.

Through resilience and tremendous support from our partners and sponsors, CAMELEON got through one of the toughest years in history. But most of all, we succeeded in continuing the services we provide to the children and families - all of whom are the purpose of our work.

REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Rehabilitation Program provides personal reconstruction to girl survivors of sexual abuse to help them recover from their trauma and become autonomous. They are provided with their basic needs as well as psycho-social intervention to help them with their healing process. They are also provided with legal assistance when they are determined to pursue their perpetrators. At the end of the process, they are reintegrated back to their families and communities if deemed safe. Otherwise, they are placed in a foster family, in their guardians' care or prepared for independent living. The program has two phases: Residential Care and After-Care.

RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAM (IN-HOUSE)

Girls admitted in the Residential Care Program are housed in the centers in Passi City, Iloilo and Silay City, Negros Occidental where they undergo psycho-social interventions to prepare them for reintegration into the mainstream society. In the three centers, the girls are provided with their necessities to help them rebuild themselves after the trauma of sexual abuse.

The girls, ages 5-17 years old, are referred by the Local Social Welfare and Development Office from Panay, Guimaras and Negros islands, and stay an average of 3 years in the centers.

Services



Basic Needs such as Food, Shelter, and Clothes



Educational Support



Psychosocial Intervention



Legal Support



Health Care



Protection & Safety



Sports & Circus therapy



Arts & Recreational Activities



Family Atmosphere



Skills Development & Capability Trainings



Preparation for Reintegration to Community



Spiritual Development



Parenting Skills Training to Families

“

I used to think I am the luckiest girl in the world until that incident happened to me. Night after night, I had nightmares. I thought I was worthless.

When I entered CAMELEON, I redirected my life. I learned how to cope with my new environment with the help of the people around me. I never thought the day would come where I will be the one to share my skills and coping strategies with the other girls and help them get through what they are going through. And for this, I am very thankful.”

- “Jessa”

2020 QUICK STATS

3

girls from Passi Center
filed lawsuits against their
perpetrators

18

girls from Negros Center
filed lawsuits against their
perpetrators

1

girl from Passi Center
won her lawsuit



33

new admissions from the
3 centers were served

82

girl survivors of sexual abuse
aged 7 to 18 years old were
sheltered in the 3 centers

45

family beneficiaries
benefitted from the services

87

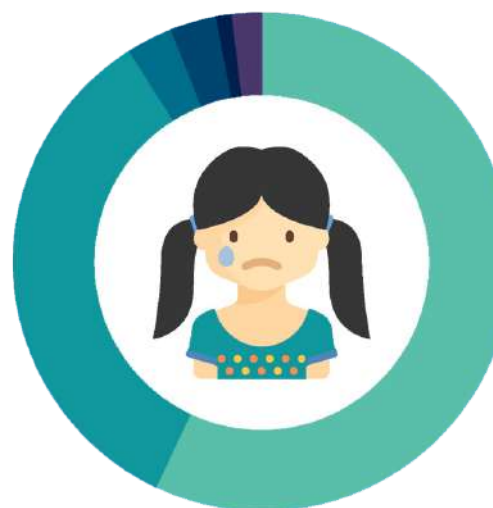
parents/guardians
participated in the Parents
Effectiveness Seminars



LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Out of 82 girls,

- 74% Secondary
- 18% Elementary
- 4% Special Education
- 3% College
- 1% Pre-School



INCIDENCE OF RAPE

Out of 82 girls,

- 57% Incest
- 34% Rape
- 3% Attempted Rape/Incest
- 3% Acts of Lasciviousness
- 2% Child Trafficking
- 1% At Risk

POST-RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAM (AFTER-CARE)

After graduating from the Residential Care Program and assessed to be ready for reintegration, the girls are transitioned to After-Care where they are prepared for independent living.

The After-Care girls are placed either in CAMELEON Dormitory in Iloilo City, reunited with their biological families (if deemed safe), or in boarding houses where they may be able to reintegrate into society and achieve autonomy. The girls are cared for until they finish their education, either in college or vocational school (formal or informal education). They are also provided with career guidance and professional orientation to help them secure suitable careers after graduating from college. These trainings ensure that they become self-sustaining when they leave the program.

Services



Appropriate
Placement in the
Community



Educational
Support



Psychosocial
Intervention



Career Guidance
& Job Placement



Skills Development &
Leadership Trainings



Legal Support



Sports & Circus
therapy



Health Care



Parenting Skills
training to families



Emergency
Assistance

A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Each family shares the responsibility of financing their child's education by contributing 10% of the school tuition fees. Through this, they are empowered to participate in their child's healing and development.

2020 QUICK STATS



66

girl survivors of sexual abuse
aged 13-24 years old were served
in the program

51 out of 66 girls filed lawsuits
against their perpetrators

30 out of 66 girls have ongoing
and pending legal cases

19 out of 66 girls won their lawsuits
against their perpetrators and
achieved justice

12 girls received awards &
recognition in their schools

67 girls have stable
employment since 1998

55 family beneficiaries
benefitted from the services

1 girl graduated from college
with a degree in BS Hotel &
Restaurant Management

PLACEMENT



32

girls are living with their
biological families

15 girls are living
independently in their own
boarding houses

10 girls are living in the
CAMELEON Iloilo Dormitory

9 girls are living with their
guardians

“

Accepting the fact that I must move on from the trauma of my past was never easy. But I chose to pursue my dreams and my education, and to move forward in my life. After a long journey, I finally finished my bachelor's degree in social work and now a proud licensed social worker. CAMELEON helped me grow as a person, as a woman and as a survivor. I learned to appreciate many things and embrace life's shortcomings. Now that I've graduated from the program, I will still continue to raise awareness on child abuse, especially now that I'm working as a social worker.”

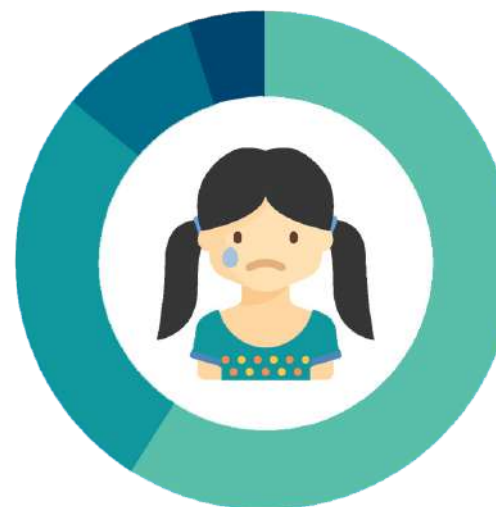
- “Mika”



LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Out of 66 girls,

- 39% Secondary
- 27% College
- 21% Senior High School
- 6% Short-Term Course
- 5% Elementary
- 2% Special Education



INCIDENCE OF RAPE

Out of 66 girls,

- 59% Incest
- 27% Rape
- 9% Acts of Lasciviousness
- 5% At Risk



“

When I became a CAMELEON sponsored child, my parents were eased from the difficulty of sending me to school. It meant that I can go to college and that my siblings can progress to higher grade levels without fear of stopping. CAMELEON's support impacted our way of living - that we shouldn't settle for less but find ways how to survive despite of being deprived of earthly comforts. The first and greatest dream I have is to raise my family from poverty. I wish for them to experience the good things in life. And through CAMELEON's help, hardwork and dedication, I will be able to fulfill this someday.”

- Kim Sison, a CAMELEON sponsored child for 6 years
BS Management Student at the University of the Philippines Visayas

*Photo taken in 2019

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Community Development Program addresses the issue of child abuse by providing education to least privileged but deserving children. Through education, empowerment, exposure, and leadership trainings, both children and parents become leaders in the community and actors of change to fight against child sexual abuse.

Every year, more than 300 children coming from poor rural neighboring communities of Passi, San Enrique and Bingawan are provided with the opportunity to continue their education as scholars. Each child has his/her own Sponsor who contributes to their financial needs until he/she graduates and lands a job. He/she also receives intensive career guidance, professional orientation and job placement support from the program. These trainings prepare Sponsored Children for careers that suit their skills and help them secure employment.

The parents of these sponsored children are provided with various vocational and livelihood activities that enable them to support their families and enhance their skills. They are assisted in creating their own income-generating projects and are supervised in their asset management.

Services



Educational Support



School uniforms & Supplies



Career Guidance & Job Placement



Skills Development & Leadership Trainings



Sports & Recreation Activities



Emergency Assistance



Health Care



Family Development Initiatives

2020 QUICK STATS

315

sponsored children aged 15 to 21 years old were supported in their education

15

new children were admitted in the program



160

sponsored children received academic awards

134

sponsored children were actively involved in various youth organizations & empowerment and advocacy initiatives

330

total children have found stable employment or source of income since 2012

392

total children have graduated from college since 2012

128

graduates participated in the development & advocacy initiatives in the communities

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

10

groups of trained Parent Leaders were actively involved in the Family Empowerment Sessions in the communities

67

families have established their income-generating projects at home

103

families were engaged in community savings scheme intended for family emergencies



39

organized and trained Parent Leaders were actively involved in the program operation at the community level

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Advocacy Program runs information campaigns to raise awareness and educate the public on child sexual abuse and to ultimately, prevent the proliferation of such crime. It serves as an early intervention and prevention tool of the association. The primary target audience of advocacy campaigns are parents, children, teachers, community and political leaders, and professionals. The Advocacy Program lobbies at the local and national legislative levels to push for child protection laws and policies.

Two youth organizations, Voice of CAMELEON's Children (VCC) and CAMELEON Youth Health Advocates (CYHA), actively advocate and raise awareness on children's rights and youth reproductive health in the communities through lectures and workshops.

CAMELEON Association was designated as the Region VI Coordinator for Child Rights Network (CRN), and a member of Civil Society Organization of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC Coalition), National Economic and Development Authority-Social Development Committee (NEDA-SDC), Area-Based Standards Network - Panay Cluster (ABSNET), Iloilo City Council for the Protection of Children, Iloilo Provincial Council for the Protection of Children, Iloilo Children's Welfare Foundation (ICWF), Bata Muna Network, and UGSAD Regional Gender Resource Center.

Through the Advocacy Program, the association lobbies in the Senate and Congress of the Philippines for the Increase of Age in Determining Statutory Rape and other laws for the protection of children through its partners UNICEF and Child Rights Network in Manila.

Actions



Advocacy Lectures & Workshops



Information Dissemination through Media



Partnerships & Memberships with Children's Rights Networks & Alliances



Lobbying in Local and National Legislative Levels for Child Protection Laws



Advocacy Events and Conferences



Mobilization of CAMELEON Youth Organizations

2020 QUICK STATS



100

multi-sectoral audience reached through special events

4

municipalities in Western Visayas were reached by advocacy campaigns

177,219

audience reached by advocacy campaigns in social media

300

parents were reached by advocacy lectures and campaigns

3

schools were reached by advocacy campaigns

2,133

students were reached by advocacy lectures and workshops

MEDIA



22

total radio interviews in local stations in Iloilo, averaging 3 minutes per interview

7

TV interviews in local & national media networks, averaging 3 minutes per interview

3

total publications in local and national newspapers



STATUTORY RAPE BILL MOVES FORWARD

House of Representatives approved the Bill to Increase the Age to Determine Statutory Rape to 16 years old

On December 1, 2020, the House of Representatives approved on the third and final reading the bill seeking to increase the age to determine statutory rape from 12 to 16 years old. A total of 207 lawmakers voted for the House Bill 7836 while only 3 voted against it.

In the Philippines, the Anti-Rape Law of 1997 states that sexual intercourse is only considered “statutory rape” if the victim is under 12 years old. This means that when the child reaches the age of 12, the law considers he or she is mature enough to give consent to another person for any sexual activity. It leaves children ages 12 to 17 years old vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation as the Philippines established 18 years old as the age of majority.

“This progress means a step closer to the justice we have been fighting for our children victimized by heartless individuals and the gap in present laws,” said *Tingog* Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez, Chairperson

of the House Committee on the Welfare of Children and one of the principal authors of the bill. She added, “I appeal to our colleagues in the Senate: let us pass this bill as a gift for and a commitment to the safety of our children. Child rape is an ugly and painful reality that we must collectively confront and address immediately and decisively.”

The bill also aims to expand the definition of rape to include other abusive acts of perversion not included in the two-decade-old law. It also holds those guilty of committing “grooming” when the act leads to rape and sexual abuse. Child Grooming refers to establishing an emotional connection with the child and lowering his or her inhibitions with the objective of sexual abuse.

The current statutory rape age is also inconsistent with scientific studies that show the brain’s development as well as physical and emotional maturity. “Various

studies have proven that the rational part of a person’s brain – the parts that respond to situations with sound judgement – will not fully develop until age 25,” the Child Rights Network said.

The next step is for the bill to be approved in the Senate of the Philippines, a progress that advocates and proponents are eager to see to fruition soon, especially with the increase of rape cases amid the pandemic as victims are isolated with their abusers at home due to quarantine protocols.

CAMELEON’s CONTRIBUTION

CAMELEON’s work in lobbying for the increase of age to determine statutory rape began in the year 2017 and involved many individuals and organizations. Our Advocacy Team met with several key persons who helped move the bill forward, including Cong. Divina Grace Yu (then House Committee Head on the Welfare of Children), Cong. Chiqui Roa (Member,

Committee on the Welfare of Children), and staff of Sen. Risa Hontiveros. Sen. Hontiveros is known for being a women’s rights advocate.

In 2018, through the office of the House Committee Secretary on the Welfare of Children, the team was introduced to Child Rights Network (CRN). Later on, CAMELEON joined the public hearing on the bill and met with the representatives of CRN, who are strong proponents in lobbying for the increase of age to determine statutory rape. Since that day, CAMELEON has been working with CRN to push for the passage of the bill. Along the way, CAMELEON was also able to network with Atty. Marj Ardivilla of UNICEF.

Presently, CAMELEON together with its partners continue to push the bill forward until it is approved in the Senate and passed into law.



*Photo taken in 2019

ADVOCACY IN NEGROS PROVINCE TAKES OFF

Our work in preventing child sexual abuse and educating the public on children's rights expanded to Negros Occidental province

The inauguration of CAMELEON Negros Center became the starting point of our advocacy work in the province of Negros Occidental. Replicating our campaigns in Panay island, our initiatives aim to educate the public on children's rights and contribute to the prevention of child sexual abuse in the province of Negros Occidental, where cases are rampant. With the help of our local partners we are determined to dedicate our efforts for the betterment of vulnerable children in Western Visayas.

Several advocacy campaigns and programs were launched in the Negros Occidental province after the opening of our Negros Center. Topics discussed focused on child sexual abuse and its prevention, how and where to report cases, teenage pregnancy, women and daughter empowerment, facts about sexual offenders, levels of intimacy, and tips in making decisions.

In November 2019, 63 mothers and women community leaders from the different barangays in Silay City were given a lecture on "Empowering Mothers to Empower Daughters" which aimed to educate mothers on teaching their daughters to protect themselves from anyone who might take advantage of them.

Our Advocacy Program also launched several child sexual abuse prevention forums and symposiums to high school students in the first few months since the program began in the province. An estimated total of 320 high school students from Silay City participated in these symposiums.

Promotion of our advocacy in the province was heightened by the media coverage of the Negros Center inauguration. ABS-CBN Bacolod, a regional broadcasting network, interviewed Foundress Laurence Ligier about the mission of CAMELEON in the province of Negros Occidental and featured the services of the association for children victims of sexual abuse. With an audience share of 53%, the said media coverage reached an approximate 230,000. During the inauguration, 400 individuals composed of representatives from the different local government units, government officials, local and regional government agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and international and local sponsors were also present, which helped expand our reach to stakeholders and potential partners in the province.

Our initiatives were also supported by local leaders of Silay City and Negros Occidental Province. **Congressman Francisco "Kiko" Benitez** (Negros Occidental 3rd District Representative) visited the Negros Center and discussed our work and advocacy with Foundress Laurence Ligier and Advocacy Program Officer Japhet Grace Moleta. Our team is grateful to Cong. Benitez for being one of the legislators who filed a bill relevant to the proposed amendments to Increase the Age to Determine Statutory Rape bill. In Silay City, our advocacy team have been working closely with **Councilor Lyndon Bernardo, Chairman of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs**, in organizing and facilitating advocacy activities. Their steadfast support made it possible for our actions to succeed.

PIONEERING ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

COURTESY CALL TO SILAY CITY MAYOR

Our Advocacy team, led by Program Officer Japhet Grace Moleta together with Advocacy Coordinator Antonnette Acupinpin and Advocacy volunteer Charlotte Pietri, met with Silay City Mayor Mark Andrew Golez for a courtesy call. Also present at the event was Councilor Lyndon Bernardo, Chairman of the Committee on Women and Family.

This activity signified the beginning of our partnership with Silay City Local Government to carry out our mission and advocacy in the locality.

LOCAL PARTNERS IN ADVOCACY

Our advocacy work in Silay City and Negros Occidental is only at its inception but through the eager and steadfast support of the local government leaders and government agencies, the program took off without a hitch.

With the support of Congressman Francisco “Kiko” Benitez (3rd District Representative), Silay City Mayor Mark Andrew Golez, Silay City Vice-Mayor Tom Ledesma, Silay City Councilor Lyndon Bernardo (Chairman on the Committee on Women and Family) and Marie June Pavillar-Castro (Council on Women of Negros Occidental Province), our advocacy activities in the local level were carried out smoothly and successfully.

FIRST ADVOCACY LECTURE IN SILAY CITY

The “Empowering Mothers to Empower Daughters” lecture aimed to educate 63 mothers and women community leaders on teaching their daughters to protect themselves from anyone who might take advantage of them. The lecture was part of the Silay City local government’s observation of the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) and Children, as spearheaded by the Committee on Women and Family.

It was the first lecture of the advocacy team on child sexual abuse and children’s rights in the City of Silay, Negros Occidental.



Silay City Mayor Mark Andrew Golez (center) and Councilor Lyndon Bernardo, Chairman of the Committee on Women and Family (6th from left) with the Advocacy team.



Silay City Vice-Mayor Tom Ledesma (1st from left), 3rd District Representative Cong. Francisco “Kiko” Benitez (5th from left), Silay City Councilor Lyndon Bernardo, Chairman of the Committee on Women and Family (2nd from right) with CAMELEON Executive Director Heide Foule (center).



Advocacy team, composed of Program Officer Japhet Grace Moleta & Advocacy Coordinator Antonnette Acupinpin, in a lecture as part of the Violence Against Women (VAW) celebration in Silay City.

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

Two youth organizations of CAMELEON actively advocate and raise awareness on children's rights and youth reproductive health. These youth-led organizations help expand the program's reach and multiply its advocacy efforts in the rural areas of San Enrique, Bingawan, and Passi, in different levels of schools, and several far-flung communities.

The **Voice of CAMELEON's Children (VCC)** is a youth group composed of CAMELEON's beneficiaries from the Rehabilitation and Community Development Programs. These young empowered advocates give lectures and workshops on

children's rights to educate and raise awareness to children, parents, teachers, and their fellow youth.

Similarly, **CAMELEON Youth Health Advocates (CYHA)** is also composed of CAMELEON's beneficiaries. The group aims to raise awareness and train the youth from local communities about reproductive health. CYHA advocates against teenage pregnancy, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases among the youth, and provides information on the different preventive measures related to reproductive health.

2020 QUICK STATS

VOICE OF CAMELEON'S CHILDREN (VCC)



100

youth and children in the communities participated in lectures and workshops on children's rights

2 public lectures and workshops were done

2 barangays were reached by public lectures and workshops

25 youth members of Voice of CAMELEON's Children carry out lectures and workshops

25 members were trained on children's rights

CAMELEON YOUTH HEALTH ADVOCATES (CYHA)



110

youth in the communities participated in lectures and workshops on youth reproductive health

5 public lectures and workshops were done

5 barangays were reached by public lectures and workshops

25 youth members of CAMELEON Youth Health Advocates carry out lectures and workshops

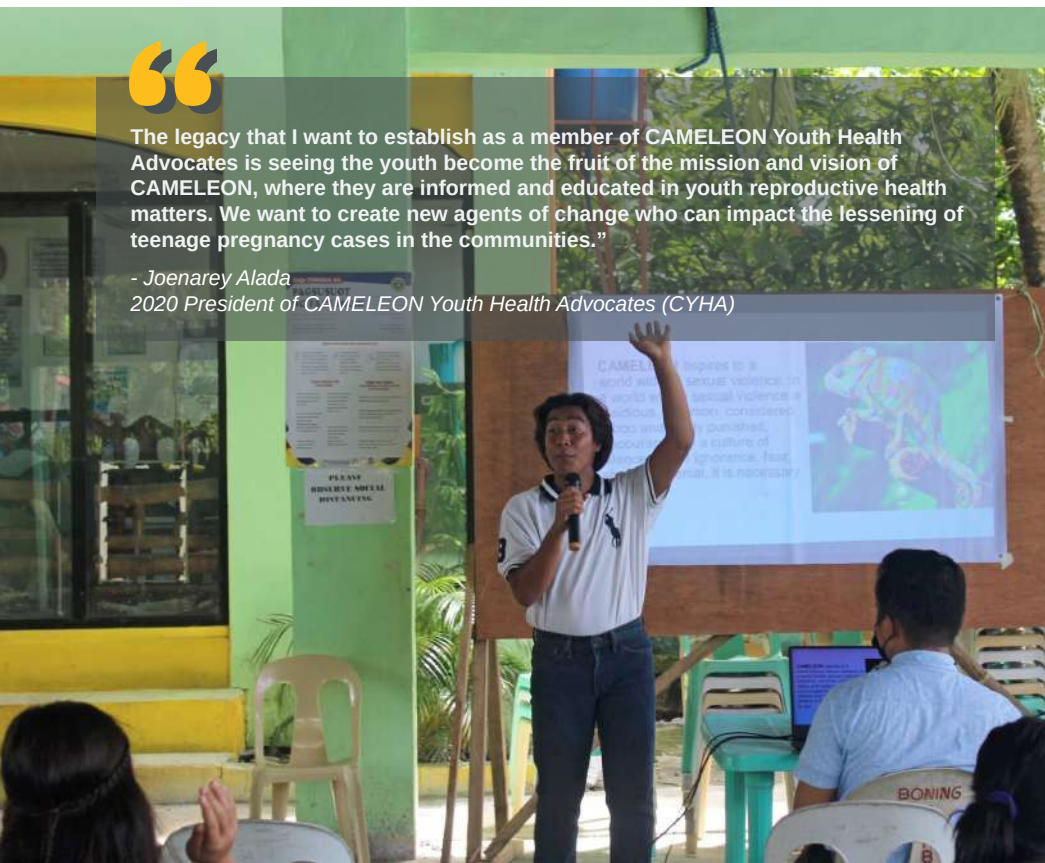
25 members were trained on youth reproductive health



“

The legacy that I want to establish as a member of CAMELEON Youth Health Advocates is seeing the youth become the fruit of the mission and vision of CAMELEON, where they are informed and educated in youth reproductive health matters. We want to create new agents of change who can impact the lessening of teenage pregnancy cases in the communities.”

- Joenarey Alada
2020 President of CAMELEON Youth Health Advocates (CYHA)



“

We aim that every child learns their basic rights and knows how to seek help if they experience abuse. For the children who participate in our lectures, we envision that they may feel their importance in the society and community. And for the parents that they may realize their crucial role in nurturing and caring for their children. Each child has the right to grow in a loving family that protects and cares for them.

- John Vincent Caldemon
2020 President of Voice of CAMELEON's Children (VCC)



SUPPORT PROGRAM

HEALTH

The Health Program ensures that all CAMELEON's beneficiaries are in good health condition by giving them access to health care and medical services such as vaccination, hospitalization, dental care, medical consultation and psychological aid. Through this, CAMELEON can continue building a community where children can grow healthy both in body and mind.

The program also trains the young members of CAMELEON Youth Health Advocates (CYHA) on various health topics that they can include in their public lectures.

2020 QUICK STATS

113 girls received flu vaccinations

14 girls were diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

20 girls were taken to health specialists for consultations

60 girls have normal body mass index (BMI)

3 girls were admitted in the hospital



63

girl survivors of sexual abuse were healthy and fit throughout the year

50 girls were given dental health care



**Photo taken in 2019*

SUPPORT PROGRAM

SPORTS & CIRCUS

These are unique interventions that help beneficiaries from both Rehabilitation and Community Development Programs build their self-confidence, character, athletic skills, as well as learn values of respect, discipline, perseverance, and teamwork. Circus, on the other hand, is a therapeutic tool for girl survivors of sexual abuse. It's a means of self-expression, where they can develop a positive image of themselves, regain control of their bodies, and nurture trust with their fellow girls.

2020 QUICK STATS

10

circus shows were organized inside the center as part of the girls' culminating activity

66

girls from Residential and Post-Residential Care programs actively participated in the trainings

31

girls are official members of Círculo de CAMELEON



160

circus training sessions were organized and facilitated



80

girls actively participated in different sports activities

71

girls participated in the Summer Camp held in the 3 centers

Sports & Recreation activities organized in 2020:

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Rugby
- Swimming
- Volleyball
- Wall climbing
- Dance



“

Before I entered CAMELEON, I was always sad and all I could think about were my problems. But now that I'm here and I've joined in the sports activities and circus, all my problems seemed to disappear. I am now able to focus in the present, to enjoy my life here in CAMELEON, and to learn how to manage myself even without the support of my real family.”

- “Helena”

TEAM-BUILDING

To encourage collaboration rather than competition, CAMELEON beneficiaries participate in different team-building activities that aid in the development of their values and skills, promotion of unity amongst each other, and encourage camaraderie and teamwork.

Team-building activities are organized every year. Under normal circumstances, it is facilitated during the Summer Camp activity, where all beneficiaries are gathered together. All beneficiaries from the Rehabilitation and Community Development Programs are combined then grouped equally. With this, children from different programs can interact and build relationships with each other, learn to communicate, and most importantly, nurture trust with their fellow beneficiaries.

Goals



Build trust and
camaraderie



Develop
communication skills



Practice teamwork



Develop values
and skills



**Photo taken in 2019*



SPORTS & CIRCUS

CIRQUERA DE CAMELEON

Cirquera de CAMELEON, composed of girl survivors of sexual abuse from the Rehabilitation Program, is the official troop of girls performing high-level circus acts under the training and guidance of the association. The girls are highly-skilled performers who train regularly, and select members are designated as trainers to the other girls. Together, they achieve extraordinary milestones that not only nurture their self-confidence but also give them a sense of fulfillment.

Cirquera de CAMELEON exhibit their talents in public circus performances that help promote the mission and advocacy of CAMELEON.

Every year, the number of troop members vary depending on each of their progress. Currently, Cirquera de CAMELEON has 31 official members who perform and train in circus.



SOCIAL CIRCUS

Social Circus is a new initiative by CAMELEON that uses circus as a medium to foster personal and social development to children in the marginalized sectors of the community. The girls of Cirquera de CAMELEON bring their circus activities/therapy to communities outside of the Rehabilitation Centers, thus the term “social circus”.

The circus skills taught to girl survivors of sexual abuse are fundamental in helping them appreciate themselves as a person with unique competencies and capacities. Consequently, these skills they learned are used in reaching out to other children to nurture their self-esteem, trust in others, develop their potentials and inspire them to become active citizens.



Social Circus is brought to the communities through the youth organizations of Voice of CAMELEON's Children (VCC) and CAMELEON Youth Health Advocates (CYHA) during their advocacy lectures. Parent and youth leaders in the communities take charge of gathering the participants. Girls of Cirquera de CAMELEON then teach basic circus skills such as juggling, rola bola, diabolito, acrobatics and dance to children in attendance.

Aside from being a form of therapy and healing for the girls, this is also their way of spreading awareness about child sexual abuse in their locale. It's their own way of paying it forward and being advocates themselves. Through this, CAMELEON hopes to encourage people to report cases of abuse and help ease the integration of abuse survivors in the home and community.

VOLUNTEERS

With their selflessness and dedication, the volunteers at CAMELEON made it possible to expand, and even train, the association's manpower. They come from different parts of the world (deployed by CAMELEON France) and of the Philippines. Together with the local staff of CAMELEON, they work to achieve the association's mission.

Most of this year's volunteers were only able to carry out their mission from January to March due to the COVID-19 protocols and quarantine measures implemented in the country. Several of them had to return to France earlier than expected for their own safety. Only two volunteers, Charlotte Pietri and Charlotte Bayart decided to extend their stay until June 2020.



(L-R) Charlotte Bayart & Charlotte Pietri join the girls in a cultural dance.



After having practiced the profession of lawyer in labor law for more than four years in Paris, I made the decision to leave my daily comfort to commit myself as a volunteer with CAMELEON and to go to the field in the Philippines. For more than six months, I had the chance to share the daily life of the girls accommodated in the reception centers in Passi, to be able to provide my help and to set up exchanges of good practices with the local teams. Indeed, the actions of CAMELEON seemed to me to be, if not useful, above all very essential."

- Charlotte Pietri, volunteer for Advocacy and Legal Lawyer

2020 QUICK STATS



Volunteers lent their hands, shared their knowledge and skills to help CAMELEON in the:

Sports & Circus Program
Computer Development & IT
Advocacy Program
Resource Mobilization

10

volunteers shared their expertise and time for the mission of CAMELEON



(R) Charlotte Pietri works with Advocacy Program Officer Japhet Moleta.



(R) Michel Labrosse teaches the Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) to the girls in Negros Center.



Football Side, composed of Florian Guillemot, Charlie Hacquin, Thibault Rémy, Michaël Nivet and Messilia Ourak, pose for a photo with the girls in Passi Center after a football training session.



(L-R) François Lançon & Michel Labrosse meet with the staff of Negros Center.



Annaelle Toutounji (Service Civique) experiences the Gines Farm in San Enrique.



(Above & Below) Football Side trains the children in the communities and girls in the center.



EMERGENCY AID RELIEVES FAMILIES AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS

For many Filipinos in the Visayan region, the year 2020 was not only about the pandemic but also about recovery after Typhoon Phanfone and an earthquake affected several families and disrupted lives. Rising again after the said natural disasters was a challenge but it was made easier by the people and organizations who responded to help families and children in need.

On the Christmas Eve of 2019, Typhoon Phanfone, a strong typhoon comparable to Typhoon Haiyan, lashed through central Philippines leaving at least 16 people dead and several homes damaged.

Locally known as Typhoon Ursula, the typhoon packed sustained wind speeds of 150 kilometers (93 miles) per hour, with gustiness of up to 195 kilometers (121 miles) per hour. It brought heavy rains and storm surges on its path. After making its first landfall in Eastern Samar, it continued to wreak havoc as it moved to the Western Visayas region, toppling electricity lines, tearing roofs, and damaging more than 2,000 homes.¹

According to the Philippine National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), Iloilo on Panay Island in the Western Visayas had the highest number of casualties with 13 out of the total 28 reported deaths.¹

Only a day after Christmas, December 26, an earthquake with a magnitude of 4.8 hit San Enrique, Iloilo, a neighboring town of Passi City. An intensity 4 was recorded in Passi City, Capiz and Dingle, Iloilo.² Although there were no reported casualties, the effects of the earthquake became another burden to those who were already affected by Typhoon Phanfone.

In the aftermath of the typhoon and earthquake,

the houses of 4 children beneficiaries and 4 staff were left severely affected and in need of immediate repair to keep them protected from the elements. Made from light materials such as nipa for roofs, iron sheets for walls and bamboo slats for floors, their houses were not able to withstand the strong winds and heavy rains.

In early 2020, **Fondation Artelia and La Voix de l'Enfant** in France made commitments to help with the repair and renovation of the houses of CAMELEON's beneficiaries and staff, as well as the damages in the gym's roof and crack in the walls of Passi center that were due to the typhoon and earthquake.

Within the year, the houses were rebuilt. Most of them required new materials to replace the ones that were damaged while others needed complete repairs and renovation to make it suitable for living again. The damaged houses of the girls and the staff were repaired and rebuilt using cement, hollow blocks, and other sturdier materials. The repairs required in the facilities of Passi center were also carried out successfully.

The support of Fondation Artelia and La Voix de l'Enfant made it possible for our beneficiaries and staff to live in better and safer homes.



Source:
Horton, A. (2019, December 27). Death toll rises in Philippines after Christmas Eve typhoon. CNN. <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/12/26/asia/philippines-typhoon-phanfone-toll-and-fk/index.html>
Gonzales, C. (2019, December 26). Magnitude 4.8 earthquake hits San Enrique, Iloilo. Inquirer. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1206324/magnitude-4-8-earthquake-hits-san-enrique-iloilo>

As Typhoon Phanfone made its way through Western Visayas, the heavy rains and strong winds also damaged the CAMELEON office in Iloilo City.

A portion of the office's ceiling collapsed due to vast amount of rainwater that accumulated on the already decrepit rooftop. The rainwater then flooded the office, damaging wooden chairs, office desks, and soaking some documents. Our employees had to relocate to the training center in the other side of the property which served as the temporary office.

With the financial support from **Fondation Engagés Solidaires**, we were able to repair and renovate our Iloilo Office. New furnitures, including desks and cabinets, were also made to replace the damaged ones. The training center was converted into a new office for Finance, Advocacy Program, Communications, Administration, as well as a space for the office of the Executive Director.



DAMAGE FROM THE TYPHOON AND FLOOD



AFTER THE RENOVATION AND REPAIRS

The old office, now repaired and brand new, serves as the Post-Residential Care girls' study room and staff's office. Computers for the girls' online classes were stationed in the new space. Having a dedicated area for their studies helps the girls concentrate in their classes and provides an environment conducive for learning. It also serves as a venue for the staff to facilitate and organize activities for the girls.

Now that the repairs and renovations were finished, our staff can now fulfill their roles in a more comfortable, secure and safe office space.

All of these improvements in our Iloilo Office and dormitory were carried out through the generosity of Fondation Engagés Solidaire.



A LIFE DEDICATED TO CAMELEON

A tribute to former CAMELEON employees who dedicated years of their lives for the healing of girl survivors of sexual abuse, and for the improvement of the lives of less privileged children and their families

HEARTY MEALS COOKED BY A MOTHER WITH A BIG HEART

Cooking is no easy task. It takes patience, passion and most of all, love. While cooking for oneself is a necessity, cooking everyday for 50 children and 20 staff including volunteers is a special kind of task that only a person with a big heart can do consistently and tirelessly. This is what **Teresita Mingo** did for 17 years of her service in CAMELEON. She retired in December 2019.

Teresita Mingo, or “Nanay Tesing” as what the girls and staff fondly called her, was a cook in Passi Center for almost two decades. Three times a day and six days a week (sometimes more when the situation called), she cooked meals that are not only filling but also nutritious. As the cook of the center, she went to the market almost everyday to buy all the necessary ingredients for her dishes. In all her years of service, she ensured the safety of the food she cooked. She was very thorough with her work, and because of it, no case of food poisoning was ever reported during her tenure. Nanay Tesing would seek the opinion of others and advice of the dietician to make sure that the meals she cooked would satisfy everyone in the center.

Aside from the hearty meals that she cooked, Nanay Tesing also brought joy and energy to the center. Her co-workers

described her as cheerful, friendly, and a jokester. The staff would have a lot of laughs when they were with her. Not only her jokes entertained everyone but her dance moves did as well. Nanay Tesing would never shy away from the dance floor and busted her moves whenever the opportunity presents itself. She's a good-natured person, both a friend and a mother to everyone in the center. She truly was a “Nanay”, which is the Ilonggo translation of mother.

When it comes to the girls, Nanay Tesing was stern yet always brimming with motherly love. She was a disciplinarian when it comes to teaching the girls the values of hardwork, respect, cleanliness, good manners and attitude. Despite being strict in the kitchen, the girls would always jump at the chance of cooking with their Nanay Tesing as they loved her company and positive spirit.

It's a rare chance in life to meet people as loyal as Nanay Tesing. She dedicated her life in service to the girls, the staff, and even the volunteers who came to the center. She was hired by Foundress Laurence Ligier back when CAMELEON was at its early years. Her loyalty to the organization helped change many lives, especially those of girl survivors of sexual abuse whom she directly served for almost two decades. And for that, we are deeply thankful.





A SERVICE OF DELIGHT AND JOY

Sweets and sugar can make anyone feel better. Whatever you're going through, a small dose of something sugary can surely make you feel infinitely better. For CAMELEON, that little dose was Tita Candy. Her nickname suits her perfectly as Tita Candy can make you feel lighter with her soft voice and affectionate smile.

Candelaria Santillana, or Tita Candy as she is known by everyone in CAMELEON, was the Livelihood Project Coordinator under the Community Development Program for 6 years and retired from service in August 2020. Tita Candy was in-charge of the implementation, monitoring and overall facilitation of livelihood projects in the rural communities of Passi, Bingawan, and San Enrique. Tita Candy led the organization of 3 community-based livelihood groups focusing on bakery, sewing and farming. Her work inspired 140 parent beneficiaries to improve their livelihood activities at home and use them to earn their own income. Through Tita Candy, the parents were able to access free trainings and livelihood support offered by local government agencies and private institutions.

Compassionate, loving and a good listener, Tita Candy was the go-to person for the staff when it comes to motherly advice. Her genuine concern for others

was evidence that she was not only a co-worker but a friend who cares. She was always sincere in her intentions and that made her a trustworthy colleague and confidant. Aside from the testaments to her good character, Tita Candy's "golden voice" during karaoke was also one other thing that the staff would stand by with.

While working for the parent beneficiaries, Tita Candy also never overlooked the needs of girl survivors of sexual abuse under CAMELEON's care. She reached out to girls in the Residential Care program to provide workshops and talks on values formation and spiritual development - trainings that will aid in nurturing the children to become kind-hearted and empathic adults later on in their lives. She was a good motivator and speaker on family and spiritual development.

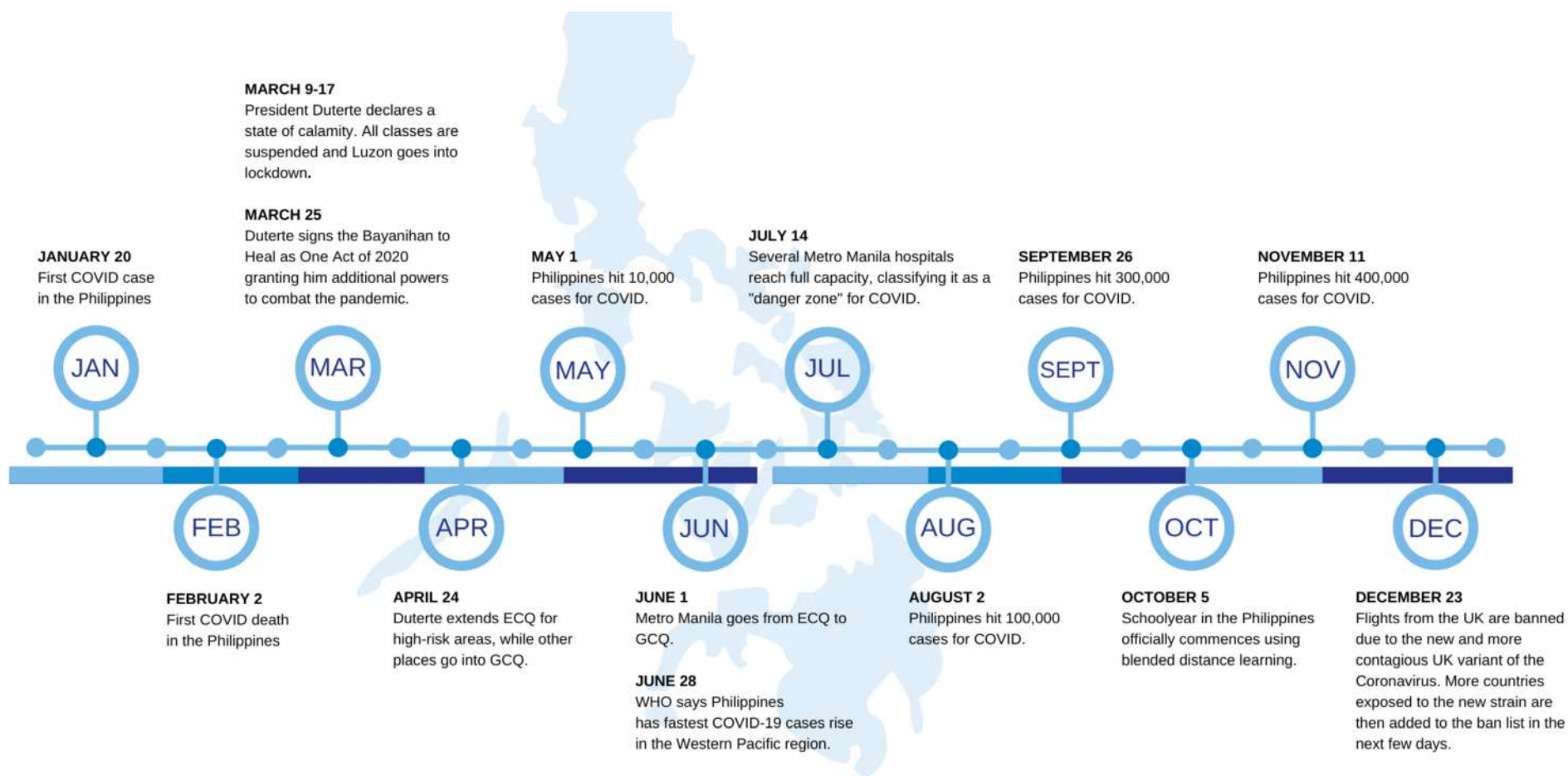
Tita Candy's service was marked by her good-natured character and always with a touch of genuineness. Much like her nickname, she brought joy and delight to her co-workers, but most especially to the parents involved in the livelihood projects she managed and to the girls in the center who learned from the training skills she facilitated. For these and many others, we are beyond grateful to her.

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

Throughout the ups and downs of the pandemic, we remained tenacious in delivering our work to young vulnerable children. Although several activities had to be cancelled for safety reasons, we were able to strategize alternatives to engage the girls in the center during the lockdown and remained supportive to the needs of the children and their families in the communities. Furthermore, we also implemented necessary measures for the staff to keep them safe from the COVID-19 virus.



TIMELINE: COVID-19 IN THE PHILIPPINES



SAFETY PROTOCOLS, EQUIPMENT AND ORIENTATION

At the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak in the Philippines and following the local government's directives, CAMELEON implemented strict safety and precautionary measures in its rehabilitation centers and offices to protect its beneficiaries and employees.



Provision of adequate personal protective equipment such as face masks, shields and sanitizing alcohol to girls and staff.



Limited entry to the rehabilitation centers in Passi and Silay only for select staff and families of the girls.



Implementation of skeletal workforce and work-from-home scheme for the employees at the height of the outbreak.



Practicing frequent handwashing, regular disinfecting, daily temperature check, and proper social distancing in the centers and offices.



Postponement and cancellation of group events and activities.



House Mothers regularly check the body temperatures of the girls to monitor their health.

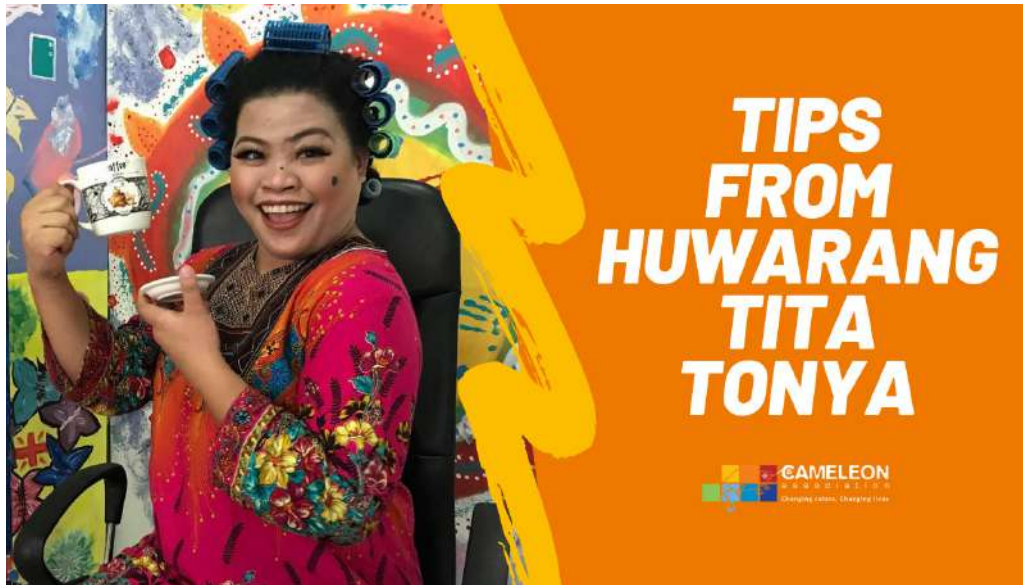
SHIFT TO DISTANCE LEARNING EDUCATION

Tutors were hired for girl survivors of sexual abuse in the center to support them in their class modules, while mobile load and flash drives were provided to sponsored children to aid them in their modular learning at home.

Girl survivors of sexual abuse learn from their modules within the safety of the center. They were grouped according to their academic capacities and grade level to ensure the girls receive the appropriate lessons. Computers were provided for some girls in higher education so they can attend their online classes.

Meanwhile, sponsored children in the communities learn from their homes or in common venues in their localities. The children study by themselves, guided by the modules given by their respective schools. Online classes are also conducted and require laptops and computers. However, as most of the beneficiaries belong to low-income families, several of them settle in using their mobile phones and data.





ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS GO ONLINE

Due to the prohibition of mass gatherings, the Advocacy team had to come up with alternative ways to continue their campaigns and engage the public. Thus, online lectures and workshops were done. The team also came up with “Tita Tonya of CAMELEON,” a 5-minute video series featuring one of the advocacy staff as Tita Tonya. In her videos, she shares useful tips such as how the youth can stay safe online and a guide for parents on how to safeguard their children from the dangers of the internet. Tita Tonya also gives important information on child sexual abuse prevention.

In response to the increased number of child sexual abuse and exploitation cases, especially of cyberpornography during the pandemic, the Advocacy team worked with its local partners in compiling police and social welfare hotlines from all over the Western Visayas Region for individuals to call when reporting a child sexual abuse case.

SUPPORT FOR FRONTLINERS

In their own words and written poems, the girls showed their gratitude and words of encouragement to all the frontliners fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The girls aspire to spark hope and inspiration to the heroes of the global crisis by showing solidarity.

The girls also wrote the lyrics to the original song “Modern Heroes” which was performed by French artist and CAMELEON Ambassador Morgane Imbeaud. The song is a tribute and symbol of gratitude to the modern heroes: the medical workers who risk their lives to save others, the donors and sponsors who continue to give despite the economic crisis brought by the pandemic, and to all selfless individuals who serve and help others survive in this difficult time.

Children in the communities also shared their messages of thanks and encouragement. They even volunteered in humanitarian aids in their own towns and villages.



ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES TO COPE WITH COVID-19

To adapt to the changes caused by the global health crisis, CAMELEON made changes to the activities and services it implements under its programs.

Previously, trainings and seminars brought together up to 50 participants. Now, participants are clustered into a maximum of 10 per session, which ensures the safety of the beneficiaries. Home and school visits done in person are now replaced by personal video statements, which are footages of the beneficiaries themselves sharing updates about their studies and family conditions. Despite the distance and border restrictions between communities, these personal videos allow CAMELEON to keep in touch with the sponsored children regularly. Lastly, online trainings for the girls in lieu of the face-to-face workshops ensure that the girls' growth and development are not hindered.

Engaging activities were also organized in the CAMELEON centers to motivate the girls and help create a positive atmosphere amidst the isolation caused by quarantine. Due to the restrictions, the girls were no longer able to see their friends in school, visit their families, and see their loved ones. The disruption in their normal daily routines affected their mental and emotional well-being. To address this, CAMELEON involved the girls in several different activities.

Gardening, team-building, mini Olympics, skills trainings such as sewing and cooking, sports tournaments and circus among others kept the girls moving and gave them something to look forward to everyday. They learned valuable skills, strengthened their camaraderie with other girls, and most importantly, learned to adapt to the situation. Within the safety of the center, the girls remained mentally and physically

active, productive and positive throughout the days of quarantine.

On the other hand, in the Post-Residential Care Program, the girls were put in different placements where they would be most safe during the quarantine. Some of them stayed in the Passi Center, others returned to their families, and the remaining girls remained in the Iloilo dormitory where a skeletal workforce of social workers watched over them.

To keep the girls occupied and continuously motivated, online activities were organized weekly including discussion and reflection on values of self-awareness, personal goals, decision-making and stress management.

The health of the girls and their families were monitored closely through requiring them to take their daily body temperature. Dialogue sessions were done online or via phone calls. Health concerns were addressed immediately, especially when they seemed to be symptoms of COVID-19. Fortunately, none of the girls and their families contracted the virus during quarantine.

One house mother shared her experience during the lockdown with the girls in the center:

"It took us time to get used to the fact that we can no longer hug or touch the girls, especially when we want to comfort them. But we used the time in quarantine to bond with them and find other opportunities to develop our relationship with the children. We were each others' support system. Although we had a hard time devising other activities to engage the girls, our priority was to always keep them safe and provide their needs."



ASSISTANCE TO FAMILY BENEFICIARIES

300 parents and families of the Community Development Program received 25 kilograms of rice as part of CAMELEON's continuing efforts to support its beneficiaries in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Families from Passi City, Bingawan and San Enrique municipalities all benefitted from the assistance. It was apparent that the impact of the pandemic was felt even in the farthest towns and villages in rural areas, which hindered the mobility and capacity of many families to sustain their needs, especially their children's.

With this simple contribution, CAMELEON hoped that the families may somehow find comfort from the burdens of COVID-19 and its debilitating social and economic effects.

"The support of the association and the staff is very heartwarming. CAMELEON never left us, especially during this difficult time. They never made us feel alone in fighting and surviving this pandemic," shared Marta, one of the mothers who received support from the association.





Assertiveness Training



Self-Care Training



Enneagram Personality Workshop

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Capacity trainings, self-care workshops and staff development activities for the staff are crucial for CAMELEON to function and succeed as an organization.

MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

On September 2020, Fr. Jomar Valdevieso (expert counselor in Panay Island) led the activity “Appreciating Your Own Being”, which tackled discussions related to “resting inner turmoils and resetting focus” in order to appreciate the essentials of life. During the session, the staff made a “Paper Child Me” of themselves which represented their fondest memories as a child and the negativity they wanted to throw away.

Amidst the threats of the pandemic, the Mental Wellness Activity reaffirmed the staff’s contribution to the mission of CAMELEON, renewed their vigor for work despite the setbacks and revived their spirit to keep going.

ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING

On November 2020, the staff participated in 4 sessions of Assertiveness Training conducted by social psychologist Cynthia Baga.

Discussions on Interpersonal Attitude, Ego States and Social Dynamics of Community Life among others were taken up during the sessions. As part of the activity, the staff made masks that represent themselves and how they want to portray themselves to others. It was followed by sharing and reflection which allowed the staff to learn from others as well. The trainings aim to help them get to know themselves more and improve their confidence in dealing with others.

SELF-CARE TRAINING

Together with her team of experts, Dr. Maria Lourdes “Honey” Carandang, a leading psychologist in the country, led the staff in a one-day Self-care online session on December 2020.

The session reminded the participants to be mindful of their own needs, that the body needs rest, and to balance work and personal life. She also emphasized to be kind to oneself because kindness is important to everyone’s lives.

ENNEAGRAM PERSONALITY WORKSHOP

On December 2020, the staff participated in an Enneagram Training, which taught them about the nine personality types and which one they belong to. The training helped them make the most of their strengths and addressed their weaknesses to achieve their potentials and the radiances of themselves. They also discovered other types that contribute to their overall personality.

We are grateful to Consuelo Foundation for sponsoring these trainings and for supporting our initiatives in developing the capacities of our staff.

OUR DONORS & PARTNERS

From the bottom of our hearts, we are grateful to the selfless and generous individuals, local and international foundations, associations, private corporations and public agencies that helped us get through the challenges and difficulties of the pandemic. [Maraming salamat po!](#)



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DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et européennes

Louis Dreyfus
Fondation d'entreprise



Cocktail Scandinave
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LA VOIX DE L'ENFANT
Notre combat, c'est leur avenir



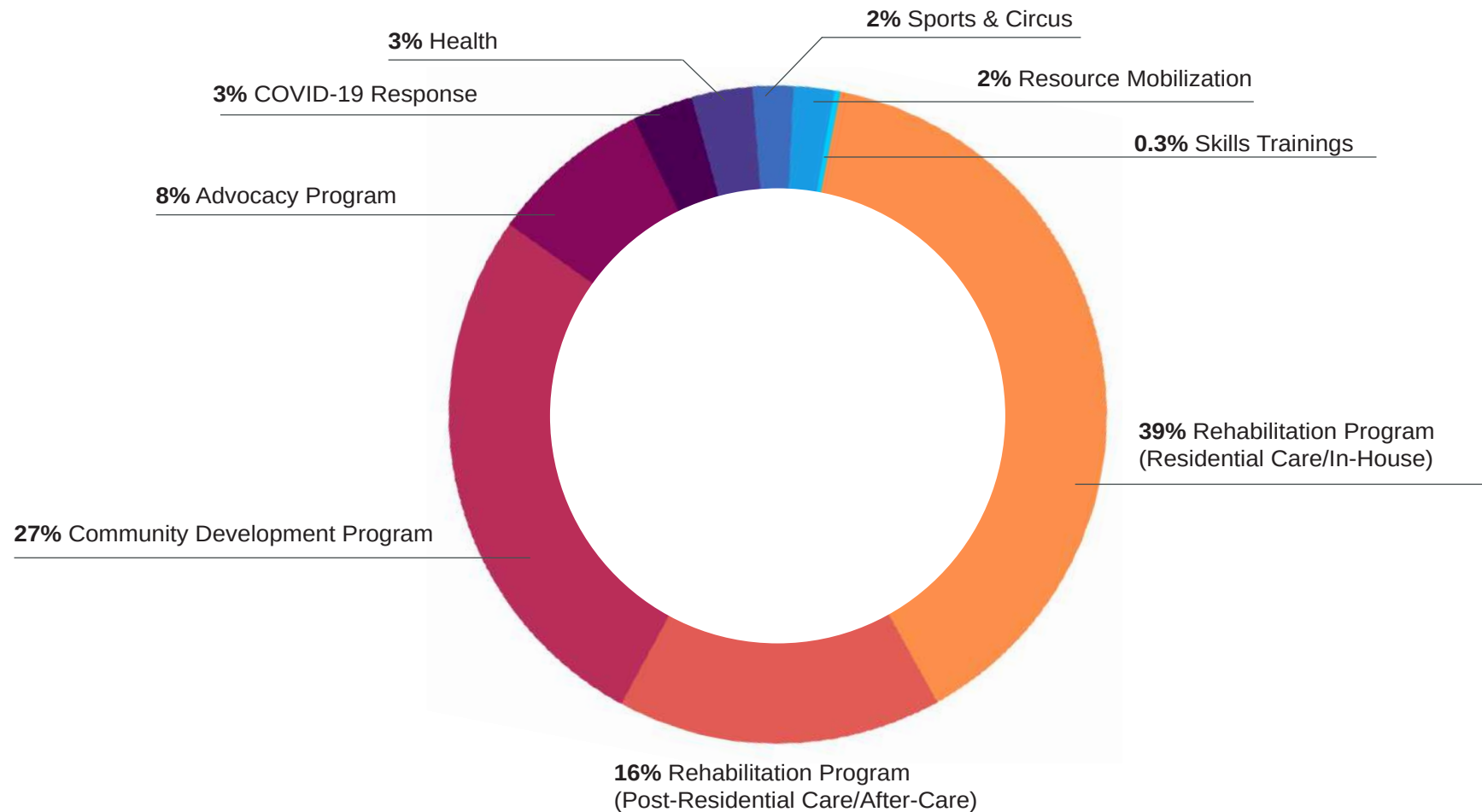
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- Clarins France
- Cochingyan & Partners Law Office
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- Councilor Denden Velez of Silay City, Negros Occidental
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- Couture4children
- Dance4children
- Daniel Johannot
- Delta Trailers
- Department of Agriculture-Iloilo
- Department of Education-Iloilo
- Department of Health- Iloilo Province
- Department of Interior and Local Government-Capiz Province
- Department of Labor and Employment, Region VI
- Department of Science and Technology-Iloilo Province
- Department of Social Welfare and Development Region VI
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- Galvin Cruz
- Global Giving
- Great Women Healing Circle
- Honeymoon House Co.
- I-Care
- Iloilo City Local Government Unit
- Iloilo Convention Center
- Iloilo Prima Galaw
- Iloilo Provincial Health Office
- Iloilo Science and Technology University
- Infants Del Mon (IDM)
- Jonathan Meyer
- KC Concepcion
- King Baudouin Foundation (Belgium and US)
- Fonds L'Oreal pour les Femmes
- La Voix De l'Enfant
- Lily Chan
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- Local Government Unit of Iloilo City, Iloilo
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- Local Government Unit of Passi City, Iloilo
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- Municipality of San Dionisio, Iloilo
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- Municipality of Sigma, Capiz
- Municipality of Tapaz, Iloilo
- Mycel Yusay and friends
- National Bookstore Foundation
- National Economic & Development Authority (NEDA) Region VI
- Negros Hornbills Rugby Team
- Optique CAMELEON
- Passi City Health Office
- Passi City Local Government Unit
- PhilAm Life – Iloilo
- Philippine National Police – Women & Children Protection Center – Iloilo Province
- Philippine National Police – Women & Children Protection Center – Iloilo City
- Philippine National Police – Women & Children Protection Center – Silay City, Negros Occidental
- Philippine Rugby Football Union
- Prima Stella Management
- Provincial Government of Capiz
- Provincial Government of Iloilo
- Provincial Government of Negros Occidental
- Puratos
- Richmonde Hotel Iloilo
- Rita Dy
- Rotary Club of Metro Passi
- Saint Gabriel Collective
- San Miguel Foundation
- Tess Golez
- The Hustle Club PH
- Tiffany Gabriel Lee
- UGSAD Regional Gender Resource Center Western Visayas
- Unicef Philippines
- University of the Philippines Visayas
- Vinaya Estalilla
- West Visayas State University – Medical Center
- Zonta Club of Bacolod
- Zonta Club of Makati & Environs
- Zonta Club of Makati-Ayala

Media

- ABS-CBN Iloilo & Bacolod
- Aksyon Radyo - Iloilo
- Bombo Radyo - Iloilo
- Home Radio - Iloilo
- Panay News
- Radyo Pilipinas Iloilo
- RMN Radyo - Iloilo
- Super Radyo - Iloilo
- The Daily Guardian
- The Philippine Star

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

PROGRAM EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



*Source: Audited Financial Statement 2020

Program Expenses:	PHP 30,169,834 (77%)
Administrative Expenses:	PHP 9,109,559 (23%)
Total Expenses:	Php 39,279,393

Foreign Donations	PHP 51,060,827 (94%)
Local Donations	PHP 3,260,753 (6%)
Total Donations:	PHP 54,321,580

Perspectives of 2021 & Beyond:

Where is CAMELEON Philippines headed?

Administration

- Leveling up of programs and services by strengthening management capacity, good governance and efficacy of monitoring.
- Application for Level II accreditation from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to ensure eligibility for government grants and continued accreditation.

Programs & Operations

- Strengthening Rehabilitation Program's case management, capacity building and hiring of qualified staff. Case management includes case admission, healing and recovery process, reintegration and girls' sustainability under the After-Care Program.
- Intensify advocacy campaigns and develop communication strategies for a stronger impact in promoting CAMELEON's programs against child sexual abuse.
- Promote the involvement of CAMELEON's main actors, especially its many Youth Advocates and Alumni, in carrying out and achieving the association's mission, and to shape them to become actors of change.
- Operate as an environment-friendly organization with conscious efforts of using biodegradable, reusable containers, renewable energy, backyard agriculture, and solid waste management.
- Job Placement Program is now part of the organization's structure. The program focuses on the professional orientation and integration of the beneficiaries from Rehabilitation and Community Development Programs. It will enable the transmission of professional skills to ensure that the beneficiaries land a job at the end of their education.
- Qualify as "Best NGO" awarded by the Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Philippines national level.

Financial and Institutional Sustainability

- The exchange of good practice and expertise between CAMELEON Philippines and CAMELEON France in terms of staff methodology and monitoring.
- Membership in the network of foundations to widen CAMELEON's network and access to resources.
- Continued expansion of network in the public and private sectors to intensify local fundraising.
- Mobilization of local government units to develop and monitor child protection plans and programs, and strategize/lobby for increasing their counterpart.
- Exchange of good practices and expertise between CAMELEON Philippines and CAMELEON France in terms of Youth Advocates and Advocacy program.



ACCREDITATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS



Regional Gender and Development
Council of RDC Region VI



National Economic & Development
Authority Region VI

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

Passi City Local Government Unit / Bingawan Municipality, Iloilo / San Enrique Municipality, Iloilo / Iloilo Provincial Government / Iloilo City Local Government Unit / Silay City Local Government Unit, Negros Occidental / Negros Occidental Provincial Government / Capiz Provincial Government / Roxas City Local Government Unit / Aklan Local Government Unit

HOW YOU CAN HELP US

SPONSOR

Help a child go to school and contribute in the continuation of our programs by becoming one of our sponsors.

ADVOCATE

Speak up! Give your voice to the fight against child sexual abuse.

Join our actions and movements at:

 @cameleonphils

 @cameleonphilippines

 @CAMELEONPH

 CAMELEON Association Inc. Philippines

 CAMELEON Association

NETWORK

Help us expand our networks through partnerships. This opens up opportunities for the association to further develop our services for the benefit of the children in our care.

VOLUNTEER

Share your skills, expertise and time for a good cause.

Our volunteers accomplish their missions with a sense of purpose and fulfillment, fully knowing that they not only contribute to the manpower of our association but are also instrumental in creating opportunities for vulnerable children to better their lives.

DONATE

Each donation you make goes a long way. Every gift you give makes a difference. It means food, shelter and health care for girl survivors of sexual abuse, education to nourish and develop their young minds, and most importantly, it means necessary interventions to heal them from their trauma.

By helping a child and his/her family, you also help them become actors of change in their communities.

As a Donee Institution, donations to CAMELEON Association, Inc., are full deductible expenses for tax purposes and exempted from the donor's tax. We issue an Official Receipt and a Donor Certificate duly received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the Philippines.

PHP Account

Banco de Oro (BDO)

CAMELEON Association Inc.
Passi City Branch, Iloilo 5037
Account number: 008240043459
SWIFT Code: BNORPHMM

Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)

CAMELEON Association, Inc.
E. Lopez Branch, Jaro
Iloilo City, Iloilo 5000
Account Number: 001333-3095-44
SWIFT Code: BOIPHHMM

USD Account

Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)

CAMELEON Association Inc.
Lolita Building, Gen. Luna St.
Iloilo City, Iloilo 5000
Account Number: 002894-0009-13
SWIFT Code: BOIPHHMM

PAYPAL

www.paypal.me/cameleonphilippines

IN-KIND DONATIONS

For in-kind donations, you may email our Donors Relation Officer Shaline Gamala at donorsrelation@cameleonph.org. You may also mail it directly to CAMELEON Association Inc., Brgy. Sablogon, Passi City, Iloilo 5037, Western Visayas, Philippines.

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Jean Pardilla
House Mother

Kathrine Palmes
House Mother

Felomina Senina
House Mother

Maricel Cabale
House Mother

Jocelyn Ladiet
Cook

Rechelle Palmares Somosera
Nurse

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Negros Center

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Center Head

Joann Melocoton
Social Worker

Mary Grace Baguio
Senior House Mother

Pinky Alcala
House Mother

Dolores Mercedes
Cook

Levy Placio
Driver

Charise Rodino
Nurse

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(After-Care)

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Social Worker

J-Ann Somoria
Social Worker

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Administrative Assistant/IT

Ludovico Lamit Jr.
Driver

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Ground Maintenance

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EDITORIALS & LAYOUT

Pia Carlyn Montales
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<https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/12/1/house-approves-bill-raising-statutory-rape-age-16.html>



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