

Now, more than ever

CHILDHOPE PHILIPPINES 2020 YEAR-IN-REVIEW



ABOUT US

Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit, non-government organization working to promote the rights and welfare of street children in the Philippines. It works toward the liberation of the child from the sufferings caused by working and living on the streets.

It traces its history back when Childhope International was founded in 1986 by individuals from agencies and organizations who saw the need to address the plight of children in need of special protection, specifically on behalf of street children.

In 1989, Childhope established a regional office for Asia, with its headquarters in Manila, after the First Regional Conference of Street Children in Asia was held. Since then, it facilitated networking and collaboration among the different agencies working with street children in the Asian region. When Childhope office in Asia closed down after a few months of operations, a group of individuals headed by its former director for Asia, Ms. Teresita L. Silva, decided to continue the mandate of the organization.

In 1995, Childhope officially became Childhope Asia Philippines, Inc. as registered under the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In 2013, the organization was renamed Childhope Philippines, emphasizing more its focus on working with Filipino street children.

Childhope Philippines officially became Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc. in 2015.

VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

- **Vision:** A Philippines where urban poor children, especially children in street situations, gain access to the fulfilment of their rights, and have them protected and upheld, for them to develop and become accepted and responsible members of society.
- **Mission:** To work towards the protection and fulfillment of children's rights through integrated direct service programs in education, health, and social services, aimed at the holistic development of Filipino street children in Metro Manila.
- **Core Values:** Compassion and Commitment to children, Integrity, Teamwork

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Childhope PH is governed by a Board of Trustees—volunteer professionals respected in their particular fields—with notable experience in social development work. Management of daily operations, development of strategy and leadership are delegated to the Executive Director, under the direct supervision of the organization's President of the Board of Trustees (see Appendix 2).

INTRODUCTION

The year 2020.

What we thought to be another “normal” year greeted the entire nation with a literal bang-- a volcanic eruption that displaced several thousands and left an aftermath of destruction and despair. With one of our staff severely affected by Taal volcano’s wrath, Childhope Philippines geared up to reach out and bring our expertise in psychosocial support to conduct debriefing sessions with displaced children and families in an area in Cavite.

Then Covid-19 happened. While struggling to respond to the needs of the victims of the previous catastrophe, little did we know that what started as a single case of the virus infection will become a huge wave of illness sweeping the world over.

The Philippines had its first Covid-19 case on January 30, 2020, and its first documented local transmission on March 7, 2020, after which the infection has steadily spread to almost all parts of the country. A public health emergency was declared on March 9, 2020. Metro Manila was placed under community quarantine (i.e., lockdown) on March 15, 2020, and just two days later, the entire Luzon was placed under enhanced community quarantine. All forms of public transportation stopped, and all schools, and public and private offices and establishments closed down, except for those providing necessary services. Barangays, municipalities, and cities have enforced their own lockdowns, and everyone (except for the healthcare frontline workers) are forced to stay inside their homes.

Amidst all these efforts to stop the spread of the virus, the vulnerable sectors of society, especially the poor and underprivileged, have suffered greatly as their sources of income, if any at all, were strictly prohibited. They were forced to rely on relief goods from the government and some private organizations. Living a hand-to-mouth existence before the pandemic, they have no money or savings for food and medical expenses. Worst of all, they have little or no means of avoiding and preventing the spread of the infection.

This already dire situation of street children in urban areas was exacerbated by the effects on education brought about by this Covid19 pandemic. Although the national Department of Education (DepEd) along with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has been trying to make ways for education to continue despite the odds, the disparities in access to the different learning platforms are more glaring. While those in the upper margins of society have access to technologies that aid in better learning—internet, mobile gadgets, laptop/desktop computers—there are these children in the outskirts of society that have limited to no access to these at all. With the new normal in education gearing towards online learning, the right to education of these vulnerable groups of children should be highlighted and put at the forefront.

Moreover, as we shift towards new learning platforms and new education practices, they are bound to encounter greater challenges, not only intellectually but also in emotional and mental aspects. That is why it is very important to provide psychosocial support for them through constant motivation and counselling. In addition, health is of primary importance

and good health is one of the keys to be able to pursue learning, especially amidst the health crisis we were all experiencing.

CHILDHOPE PHILIPPINES' RESPONSE: RETURN TO THE FRONTLINES

Childhope Philippines (Childhope PH) was not spared of the wrath caused by Covid-19. The organization temporarily suspended operations starting March 15, 2020. Its banner program, the Street Education and Protection (STEP) Program is anchored mainly on face-to-face, physical, direct interactions with street children, their families and the communities where they are often found. Our alternative education sessions, counselling sessions, skills development activities, and even health and medical services were put on hold as movement restrictions were imposed during the lockdown.

But not for long.

Even as the direct services halted, Childhope PH was keenly observing and following the situation on the streets. We noted a surge of messages on our social media page, informing us of the status of our beneficiaries, their needs and fears. Three primary concerns from among our beneficiaries arose:

- (1) food security, since movement and livelihood were restricted and they were dependent on earning a living through activities on the streets,
- (2) health concerns, as they know very little or even nothing about the deadly illness and were afraid they might get infected, and
- (3) fear and anxiety over what will happen to them, their concerns about how to continue their education, and how it will affect their interactions with families, friends and the community

With a firm resolve, the Childhope Philippines Team unanimously agreed to act on the call of our beneficiaries. We are needed now more than ever. And so, only after 5 days of suspension of operations, we returned to the frontlines—responding to the most pressing needs of our clientele.

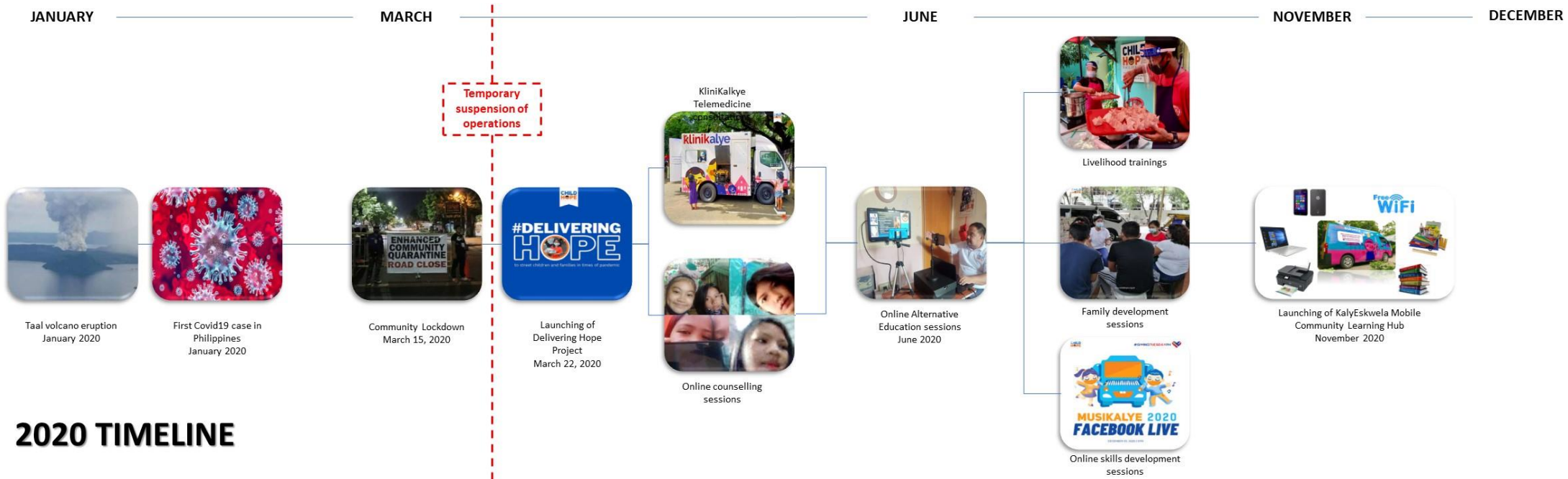


Figure 1. Childhope PH 2020 timeline of operations

I. THE #DELIVERINGHOPE PROJECT



Figure 2. The DHP calls for donations from the public to provide relief goods for 500 street children and youth

The #DeliveringHope Project (DHP) was at the forefront of Childhope Philippines’ Covid-19 response. DHP aims to conduct relief efforts, focusing on augmenting the need for food as well as hygiene and sanitation needs which are important for the deterrence or prevention of the spread of the dreaded illness.

At the onset of the project, our aim was to reach 500 children and youth beneficiaries who are part of the STEP Program. Childhope PH prioritized those who are members of street families who have nowhere else to go to for shelter or get food supplies from the local government. We reached out to beneficiaries from the cities of Manila, Caloocan, Pasay, Paranaque and Quezon City--delivering much needed food supplies and hygiene materials to help augment the need for such during the enforced community quarantine.

Table 1. Package contents

Food Relief Pack	Hygiene Kit
10 kilograms of uncooked rice	Washable face mask
Instant noodles	Reusable face shield
Ready-to-eat foods (canned fish and meat, biscuits, powdered milk, instant coffee, sugar, etc.)	Disinfectant cleaner
	Isopropyl or Ethyl alcohol (70% v/v)
	Bath soap
	Multivitamin supplements

After creating a campaign strategy, Childhope Philippines immediately reached out to the public for donations. Our social media accounts were maximized and flooded with information on the situation at the community level, and along with a call to action to provide much needed help to the street children, youth and their families. Our plans were communicated with our partners and grant donors, like Mission Inclusion, to request for a portion of the approved budget to be reallocated for use in the relief operations—the

amidst the enforced community quarantine. The following table lists down the key accomplishments of the DHP from March 22, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Table 2. Key accomplishments of DHP

Total amount raised	Php5,182,065.13
Food relief packages distributed	5,441
Hygiene kits distributed	1,916
Hot meals prepared and distributed	2,231
Recipients of nutritional supplements	1,172
Recipients of school supplies	294
Barangays who received relief assistance	32
Total number of recipient families	1,472



Figures 8-12. DeliveringHope Project: distribution of relief packages among children and youth beneficiaries and their families

Among the first to heed our call for donations were our friends and partners ACC21, Mission Inclusion, St. Charles Borromeo-Philippine Medical Mission, The Vienna Group (headed by Dr. Isabel Aleta), Child Future Network (Japan) and Access Travel. For complete list of donors and breakdown of donations received, see Appendix 3.

II. ONLINE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION SESSIONS

Two months into the community quarantine, Childhope PH still committed to delivering agreed targets to our donors, despite the challenges encountered. The idea of shifting to online classes was put into light. To find out if this is feasible, the organization examined the data on its social media followers and noticed that a lot of them are actual beneficiaries of the STEP Program.

An informal survey among the beneficiaries was conducted, which was aimed at gathering data on their access to mobile phones that can make use of the online platforms like Zoom, Google Meet, Teams, Messenger and YouTube. Significant results of the survey were as follows:

- About sixty percent (60%) or about 300 of our street children and youth beneficiaries listed in the database have access to mobile smart phones
- The said smart phones are either (1) owned by a family member, (2) owned by a close relative who lives nearby, or (3) owned by the children and youth themselves
- The main concern about online access, aside from the availability of the gadget to be used, is the mobile load credits which need to be purchased from resellers or prepaid load stations

Using these data, the next step was to create a plan on how the target participants will be able to utilize these platforms through these gadgets. Street educators were tasked to talk online with the children’s parents, guardians or relatives who own the smart phones, and ask for their permission to let them (children/youth) use these phones at specific schedules within the week.

After arranging the schedules for the sessions and upon the guidance of their respective supervisors, the street educators were allowed to create videos that they will use to conduct the alternative education sessions online. Equipment such as mobile phone holders, led lights, and lapel microphones were provided to street educators for use in creating their videos. Mobile internet access was ensured through a technology grant from Mission Inclusion, allowing the purchase of mobile pocket Wi-Fi devices with corresponding monthly load allowances.

Childhope PH’s official YouTube channel (HopeOrgPh) was used as the central repository of lecture session videos made by the street educators on the following module topics: (1) online safety and prevention of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, (2) primary health care, highlighting information about Covid-19 and disease prevention, (3) gender sensitivity, and (4) adolescent sexuality and reproductive health—all of which are part of the approved modules for alternative education sessions under the Mission Inclusion 2020 grant.

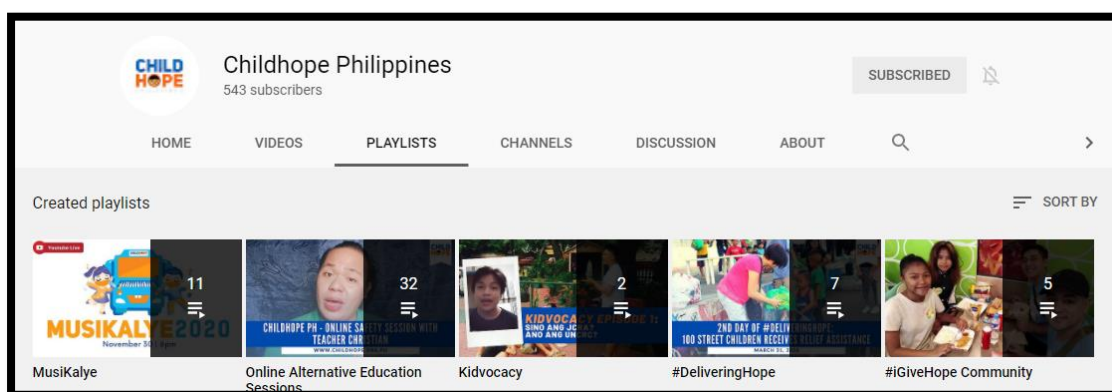


Figure 13. Childhope Philippines YouTube channel serves as repository of alternative education videos

Participants were grouped into “classes” with designated schedules for live viewing of the video topic for the day. This is much like conducting the sessions on the streets with a group of identified children participants, using the mobile education van. Access to the internet was made possible by contracting prepaid mobile load suppliers to send load credits to the registered phone numbers of the participants, for them to watch the video with the group (group viewing) and participate in the discussions facilitated by the street educator—online, in real time.

Table 3. Online alternative education sessions

Activity/Session	Target number of participants	Actual number of participants
Alternative education sessions for children and youth	120	135
Alternative education sessions for parents/guardians of children beneficiaries	45	42

Documentation of the sessions was through submission of feedback reports by the street educators, along with attendance sheets and screenshots showing the actual participants who attended the session.



Figure 14. Online alternative education sessions facilitated by street educators through Facebook Messenger



Figure 15. Street educator’s essential equipment in conducting online sessions

III. ONLINE COUNSELLING

As the lockdown progresses through 2020, we received reports from the ground that a lot of our beneficiaries were experiencing fear and anxiety—issues that may greatly affect mental health. As such, our social workers have been on board since we resumed operations—providing much needed counselling among children, youth and their families.

Table 4. Psychosocial interventions in 2020

Activity/Session	Target	Actual
Individual counselling	88	130
Group counselling	181	93
Family counselling	4	23
Home visits	30	26



Figure 16. Online counselling session by one of our social workers with a family

The same procedures as the online alternative education sessions were utilized for online counselling sessions, with Childhope PH providing the mobile load credits to the beneficiaries so the social workers can talk to them and get updated on their current psychosocial state.

When the community quarantine restrictions were slightly relaxed, our social workers were prepped to go back to the communities in order to follow-up on the status of the clients, do face-to-face counselling as deemed necessary. Childhope made all the necessary precautions such as providing personal protective equipment (PPE) like face masks and face

shields to our staff, as well as provision of hygiene kits containing disinfectants, soap and supplements to strengthen the immune system.

In order to properly address the clients' needs as well as the staff's, a Mental Health Awareness webinar was also conducted among the staff.

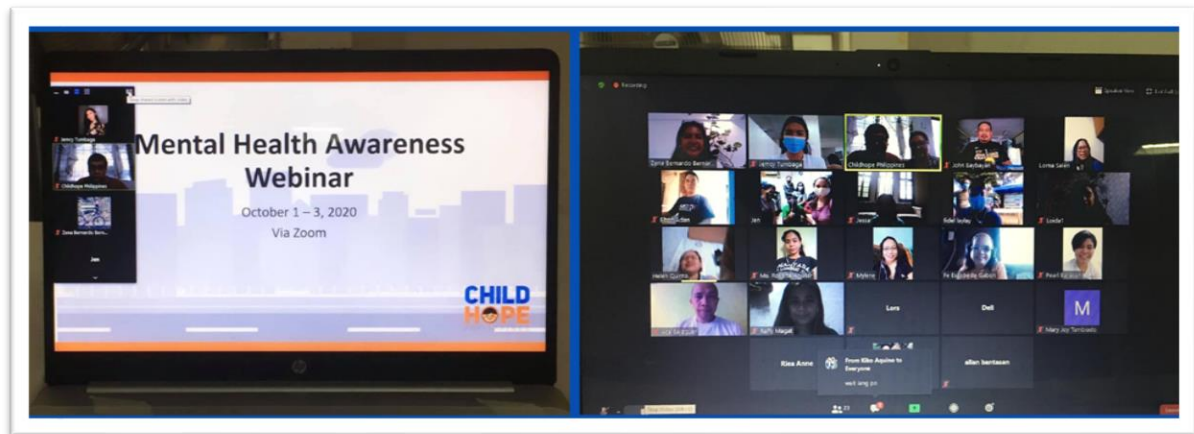


Figure 17. Mental Health Awareness webinar conducted among Childhope staff

IV. TELEMEDICINE CONSULTATIONS

One other service or project that was put at the forefront was our health and medical services through the KliniKalye (mobile health clinic). Since prohibitions against children and youth below 18 years old were still in effect, Childhope PH shifted to providing medical consultations and check-ups through telemedicine—another milestone achievement for the organization. It utilized the same online platforms such as Facebook Messenger, Zoom and Google Meet for our medical doctor to see the physical appearance of the patient-beneficiary and perform limited check-up and consultations.

After the teleconsultations, the medicines were prepared by the KliniKalye staff (a trained first-aid responder) and distributed to the patients within the day. Those needing further laboratory tests were accompanied by social workers to the nearest referral facility, while those needing further management of illnesses were referred to partner hospitals or health institutions.

As above, when the community quarantine restrictions were slightly relaxed, our KliniKalye team immediately went back to doing medical consultations in the areas of operation. The staff were provided with level 3 PPE's and the clinic van itself was fitted with protective barriers and equipment like air purifiers with HEPA filters and UV light to aid in filtering and disinfecting the air while conducting the medical consultations inside the clinic van. All of these innovations were recommended and approved for use by local health authorities.

Table 5. KliniKalye 2020 accomplishments

SERVICES	TOTAL
Sick child consultations	150
Well child consultations	409
Consultations by indirect beneficiaries	24
Provision of multivitamins, medicines and supplements	583
Disabilities	0
Deaths	0



Figures 18 -19. Left: The KliniKalye (mobile health clinic) van during one of its face-to-face clinical operations on the streets. Right: KliniKalye staff wearing recommended level 3 PPE during area operations.

V. LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS AND MICROFINANCE

Among the most devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic was its impact on the income-generating activities of the poor. Many of the youth and adult family members of our street children beneficiaries lost their jobs or means of earning a living, most of which were associated with their everyday connections to the streets. Those who have regular employment were retrenched due to the closure of several businesses that were not allowed to operate during the community quarantine which lasted for 8 months in 2020.

To provide alternative sources of income, Childhope Philippines conducted livelihood training seminars among street-connected youth and adult family members of our street children beneficiaries. These trainings were conducted face-to-face in the open grounds of the Childhope office to ensure that proper health protocols were strictly followed to keep everyone safe and to minimize the risk of infection.

A small capital was also made available for the graduates of these trainings through loan with minimal interest, payable within 3 months. The use of the loan was monitored to ensure that they will be used for starting their own business or augment existing small

business ventures of the participants. Funds for trainings and microcredit loan were provided through a grant by ACC21, a partner NGO based in Japan.



Figure 20. Livelihood training seminar on food preparation conducted at the Childhope office



Figure 21. Processed meat products prepared by livelihood training seminar participants

Table 6. Key accomplishments of livelihood trainings and microfinance

KPI's	Total
Training batches organized	2
Number of graduates	30
OJT	-
Employment	3
Started their own business	7

VI. THE KALYESKWELA MOBILE COMMUNITY LEARNING HUB (KMCLH)

With school opening in October, Childhope Philippines answered the need for better access to technology and other learning materials through launching the new KalyEskwela Mobile Community Learning Hub (KMCLH).



Figures 22-25. The KalyEskwela Mobile Community Learning Hub vans were donated by Mission Inclusion and Mme. Lemay, Dell, Transurban and International School Manila Class of 2019.



Figure 26. KMCLH equipment and services available for student-learners

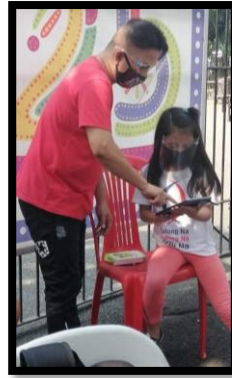
The KalyEskwela vans are redesigned and equipped with free Wi-Fi, mobile tablets, laptop computers and printers which the children can borrow and use for online learning and to accomplish the tasks their teachers assigned to them. Furthermore, aside from bringing technology closer and providing free access to children-students, the KalyEskwela also carries reference materials like books and magazines, as well as school supplies that the children can get for free. The street educators also serve as guides/tutors to help the children out in doing their school tasks.

Table 7. Key accomplishments of the KMCLH in 2020

Activity/Session	Number of children served/assisted
KalyEskwela Mobile Community Learning Hub area operations and tutorial sessions	88

The KMCLH was piloted in early November in three (3) different areas using one (1) van, with scheduled visits of at least once a week per area. The eighty-eight (88) children above were the student-learners who was able to access the KMCLH services from November to December 2020, with 100% of them regularly utilizing the services provided.





Figures 27-30. Student-learners attending online classes through the KMCLH

LOOKING AHEAD: 2021 RECOVERY PLAN

Planning ahead while anticipating the continued impact of the pandemic on its children and youth beneficiaries, Childhope Philippines sees the need to continue and strengthen the following services/projects under the Street Education and Protection (STEP) Program, as part of the recovery plan:

1. Continuation of the #DeliveringHope Project (DHP)

As per assessment of the situation of the beneficiaries, Childhope Philippines sees that there will still be a need to continue with the #DeliveringHope Project, most probably until mid-2021. This is because the Philippine economy has been badly hit by the pandemic—forcing businesses to close, leaving millions of people jobless. As a matter of fact, even those whom the organization helped to find employment lost their jobs and are now dependent on the aid that the government and organizations like us provide. It will take long before a better solution to the crisis can be implemented (i.e., a vaccine) in order to gradually return to normal.

2. Strengthening of primary health care services of the KliniKalye (Mobile Health clinic)

Aside from the food relief distribution and hygiene kits, we also aim to strengthen our primary health care initiatives, carried out under our primary health care services provided by the KliniKalye (mobile health clinic). This includes free medical consultations and assistance for those who may need hospitalization. Moreover, health education is also an intrinsic part of the holistic solution that the organization has been doing for the past years—this time focusing more on understanding the Covid19 illness and how to prevent from being infected, including vaccine education among beneficiaries.

3. Provision of psychosocial interventions, especially counselling and mental health awareness

As most beneficiaries have fear from uncertainty and other emotional and mental stress brought about by their experiences during this pandemic, our social workers have a great role to perform in counselling and mental health awareness-raising. They will continue their work on the streets and online.

4. Offering microfinance and more livelihood trainings

Livelihood trainings and microfinance are integral parts of the recovery plan for street-connected youth and adult family members of our street children beneficiaries. Since employment through the food sector businesses may still be scarce in the next months, we are looking into encouraging more of them to dwell into entrepreneurship activities which they can do in their own homes while selling their wares online. Furthermore, we aim to also increase the number of youths who can avail of the loan to use as start-up capital for their own businesses.

5. Scaling-up the KalyEskwela Mobile Community Learning Hub

We plan to expand the geographical reach of the KalyEskwela Mobile Community Learning Hub (KMCLH) to include all of the 14 areas in Metro Manila where we have student-learners under the STEP Program. Moreover, we will also strengthen the collaboration with local government units, especially the barangays, in order to achieve the goal of providing better access to technology to our street children beneficiaries who are continuing their schooling.

In order to carry out these plans, Childhope Philippines commits to continue raising funds, calling for donations and forming strong partnerships with different stakeholders. Overall, the year 2020 made the organization stronger, with its Board, management and staff more committed to fulfill its mission for the Filipino street children. Though we anticipate more challenges ahead, we will continue to re-assess our response, innovate our strategies and adapt to the call of the times—for the benefit of the vulnerable street children.