

2025



Save the Children

PHILIPPINES 2025

ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT US

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. In the Philippines and around the world, we do whatever it takes – every day and in times of crisis – so children can fulfill their rights to a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn, and protection from harm. With over 100 years of expertise, we are the world’s first and leading independent children’s organization – transforming lives and the future we share.

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Cover photos by Martin San Diego/ Save the Children

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FOR CHILDREN TO SIMPLY BE CHILDREN

A Joint Message from the Save the Children Philippines Leadership

Letting children be children means they can play, laugh with friends, ask questions, and try again when they make mistakes.

It means they can visit a health worker when they are unwell, go to school ready to learn, feel safe in their surroundings, and speak knowing that adults will listen.

For this to be real, childhood must be allowed to unfold at its own pace. It requires resisting the pressure to move children too quickly through loss, instability, or uncertainty. In a year marked by shifts in global funding and successive emergencies, some essential services were cut, and support was reduced or delayed.

When this happens, the strain reaches children. They are expected to adapt faster than their development allows and are drawn into adult realities before they are ready. This showed up in missed health care, breaks in schooling due to calamities, fewer safe places to feel secure, and limited chances to speak up about decisions affecting their lives.

When time is limited, adults have to move faster, so children do not have to.

For Save the Children, both globally and locally, this demanded difficult but necessary decisions. We reassessed priorities and redirected resources where they were needed most.

Through it all, we held firm to our responsibility to safeguard children's health, education, protection, and participation, even under constraint. With the continued support of our partners and donors, we pressed on with focus and resolve.

This report reflects how that commitment was carried forward, with children remaining at the center of our work. Their voices, ideas, and dreams shaped our priorities and actions in meaningful ways. Alongside them, our staff, caregivers, communities, and partners worked earnestly to sustain impact nationwide.

We remain hopeful that we will be able to continue doing so, ensuring children have the time and space they need to simply be children.



A. Bala
Alicia Dela Rosa-Bala
Chairperson, Board of Trustees
Save the Children Philippines



A. J. T. Muyot
Alberto Jesus T. Muyot
Chief Executive Officer
Save the Children Philippines

YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 Highlights



1.5 M

Children and adults reached nationwide



297 K

Children accessing essential health and nutrition services



534 K

Children receiving learning support, including temporary learning services and kits



105 K

Children assisted in emergencies, including typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and conflicts



473 K

Children engaged in protection activities online and offline, informed of their rights, and supported against poverty-related risks

Note from the editor: Figures may overlap, as some children participated in more than one area of support, reflecting our integrated approach across thematic areas.

WHERE WE ARE

04

Offices

13

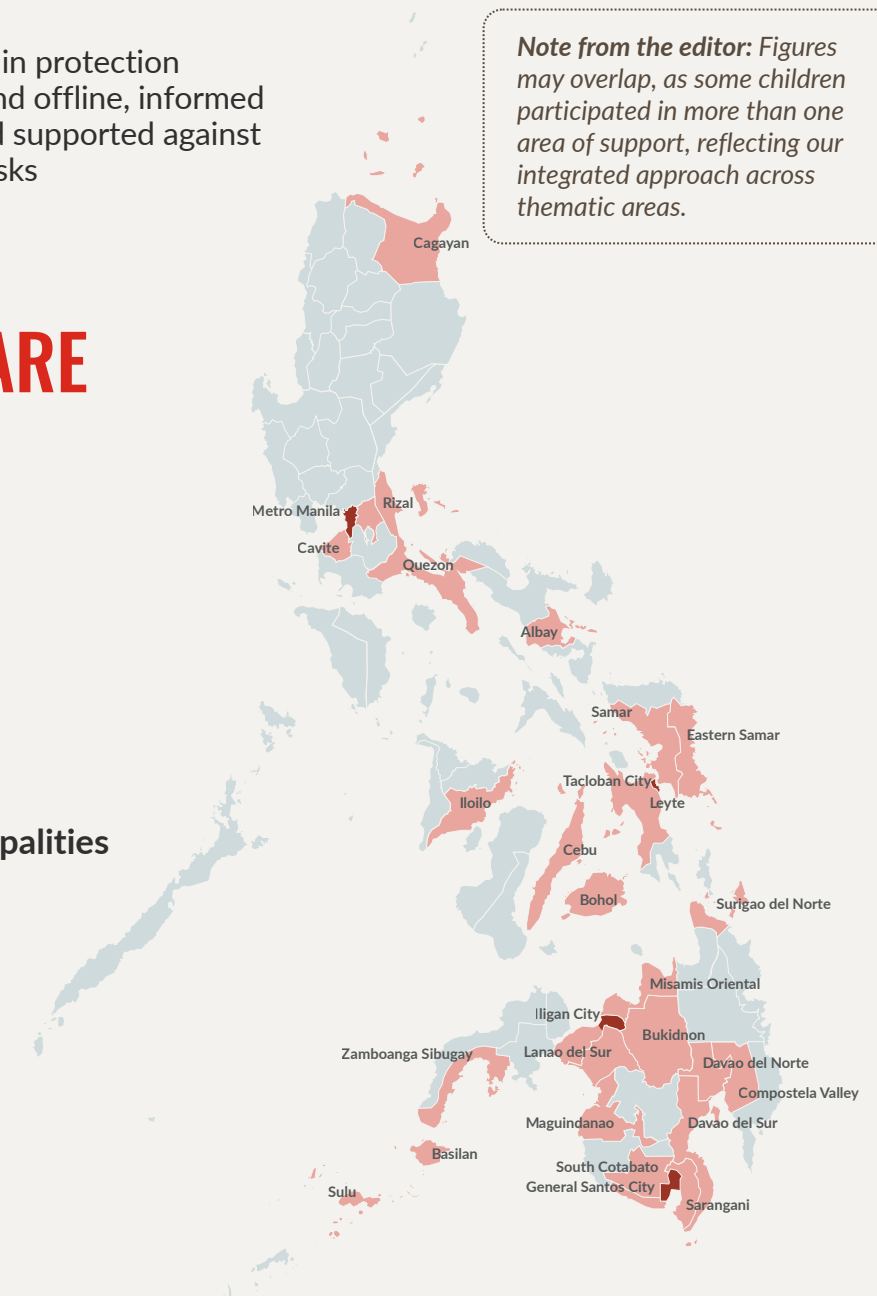
Regions

26

Provinces

78

Cities/Municipalities



HUMANITARIAN ACTION EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

In 2025, communities across the Philippines faced one emergency after another. Heat waves, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and successive typhoons affected many areas, on top of ongoing conflicts in some communities. In situations like these, children are often the most affected. Their health, learning, and safety are disrupted.

When disasters strike, Save the Children works to be on the ground as quickly as possible. Teams assess the situation, speak with children and their families, and work with local authorities to understand what support is most needed. This helps ensure that assistance is practical, relevant, and something families can use to recover and rebuild.

At the same time, the work also focuses on what happens before disasters occur, supporting anticipatory action so communities can prepare early and reduce the impact on children.

~P30 million in cash assistance reached 3,100 households through multi-purpose or conditional grants that families used for urgent needs such as food, children's schooling, and restarting livelihoods.

835 households received shelter repair kits with materials such as plywood, waterproof tarpaulins, and basic tools to help families repair damaged roofs and walls and make their homes safe again.

5,600 children received back-to-school kits or continued learning through temporary learning spaces after schools were damaged or used as evacuation centers.

Eight Temporary Learning Spaces were set up in Cagayan, Cebu, and Masbate, giving children a safe place to resume classes while their schools were being repaired.

650 students accessed WASH facilities and hygiene kits, helping them stay healthy despite disrupted water and sanitation services.

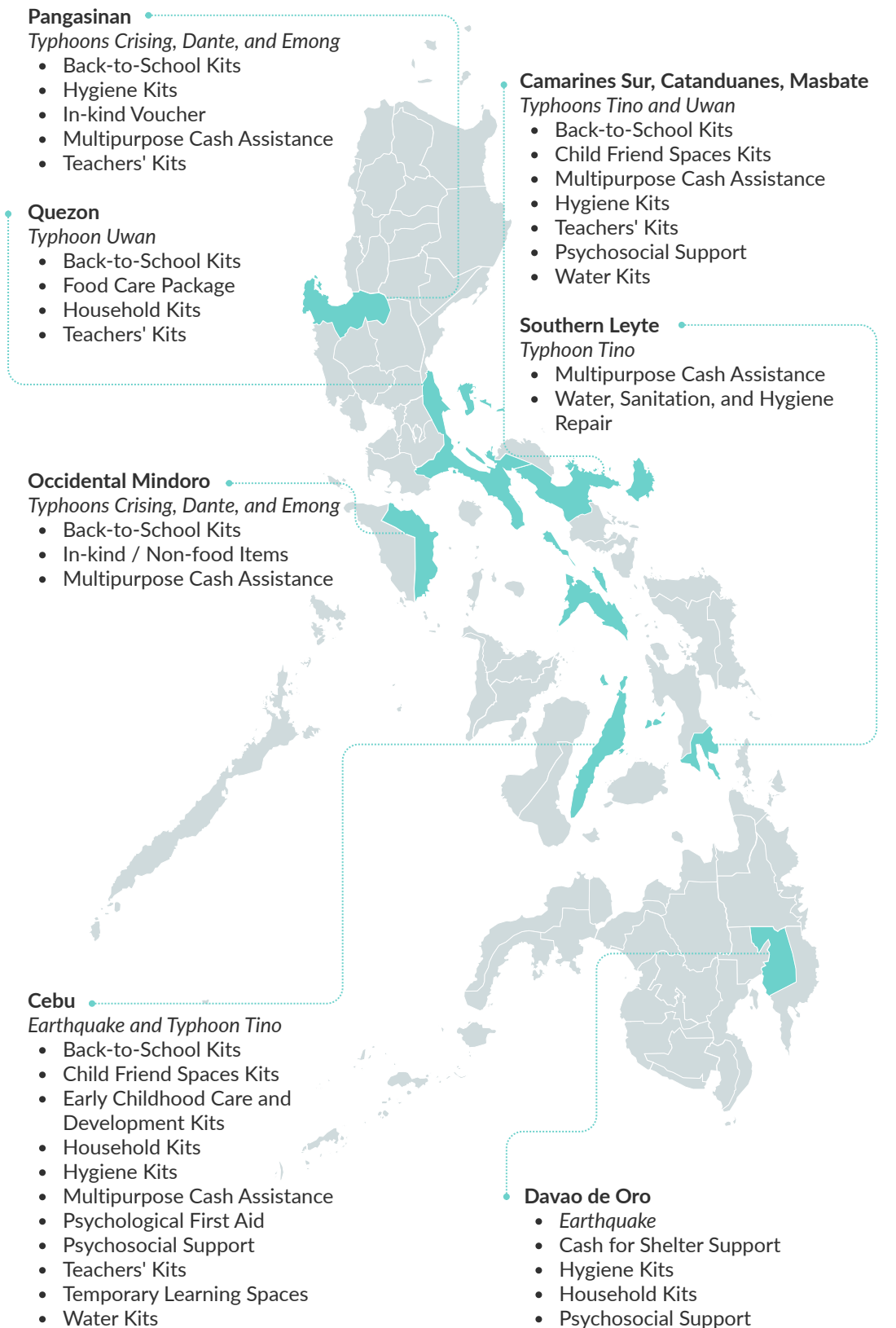
417 children joined psychosocial support sessions that helped them process their experiences and cope after the disaster.

194 households across four barangays in Tanay, Rizal received in-kind vouchers for food, household items, livelihood support, and shelter protection materials, helping them prepare ahead of an approaching typhoon.

12 local government units advanced the adoption of the Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children (CEPC), a framework that helps local governments plan and deliver child-focused services before, during, and after emergencies.

11,805 learners participated in sessions using Youth for Environment in School Organizations (YES-O) materials, focused on climate resilience and environmental protection. These were adopted for rollout in the Department of Education Eastern Samar Division, and recommended for national use.

WHERE WE RESPONDED



Aina* (not her real name), 13, walks three hours each day to attend school in Matalam, Cotabato. Her barangay is affected by sporadic incidents of conflict that disrupt classes and uproot families. The uncertainty can empty classrooms overnight.

Still, Aina shows up.

In school, she excels. A natural leader and at the top of her class, she is known for her stories. Peers gather around her to listen. Even when lessons are interrupted, she holds on to her place as a learner.

When conflict forces classes to stop, children like Aina risk falling behind.

Through the European Union-funded ACCESS consortium, Save the Children helped learning continue during emergencies. School kits provided students with basic materials, while sessions on mental health and psychosocial support gave them space to process their experiences.

Behind Aina's steady return to school is a teacher who also refuses to give up. Iyah, 29, volunteers at the same school and facilitates Return-to-Learning sessions. These help children resume lessons and regain a sense of normalcy after disruptions.

Each day, Iyah rises before dawn to prepare for her learners aged 4 to 6. Even when gunfire is heard in nearby towns, she goes to school if learners have arrived, believing teachers are responsible for both children's safety and education. She also guides them through social and emotional learning to help them cope with the effects of violence.

With support from ACCESS, including learning and teaching kits, a new water source, and a toilet, more children like Aina are returning to class.

For Aina, the long walk each day still leads to a place where learning continues, even in the face of conflict.





► A boy plays with blocks during a mental wellness activity in Taguig City, where children practice breathing, stretching, storytelling, and grounding to express their emotions. Christopher Limos/ Save the Children

EDUCATION

Many children in the Philippines continue to struggle with reading, comprehension, and numeracy skills. Without these basic competencies, children face greater difficulty keeping up in school, especially younger learners and children with disabilities who often encounter additional barriers to learning and support.

In response, Save the Children focused on strengthening these foundations through play-based catch-up learning, early childhood development support, and services that help children with developmental delays access appropriate care.

Working with families, teachers, and local partners, these efforts help children build the skills and confidence they need to continue learning and participate fully in school.

Our Catch-up Clubs, a remedial learning program for school children, was adopted and institutionalized within the Department of Education Region 12.

240 children who were behind in reading joined our play-based Catch-up Clubs for seven months, which also support social and emotional skills.

65% or 143 of assessed children improved by at least one reading level, progressing within the set of levels: Beginner, Letter, Word, Sentence, Story, and Story with Comprehension.

The Early Childhood Care and Development Systems Act (Republic Act 12199) was enacted, strengthening services for children from birth to age 8. Save the Children Philippines contributed to key provisions on local emergency preparedness, integrated health and nutrition for young children and mothers, and inclusive services for children with disabilities.

101 children showing signs of developmental delays received assessments from developmental pediatricians.

50 children with diagnosed developmental delays or disabilities accessed up to 24 speech and occupational therapy sessions, with meals and transportation support provided.

9,047 learners received oral health services, reducing absences linked to dental problems.

35 schools in Rizal and Antipolo City improved water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions, increasing access to safe drinking water, handwashing facilities, and adequate toilets for students.

Yana* (not her real name), 12, still remembers the first time learning felt like play.

When she was in Grade 6, she could only read at the Letter Level. She recognized letters and their sounds but could not yet read words or simple sentences on her own. In class, this made lessons harder to follow and stories difficult to understand.

Her day begins before the sun gets too warm. She takes a quick bath, slips on her worn slippers, and sets off with her pink backpack, a gift from her mother. She avoids wearing shoes because she has to cross a river downhill from their house. From there, she walks about 3.1 kilometers along the national highway to school, a journey that takes nearly an hour.

The walk is long, but she looks forward to what comes after her regular classes. That school year, she joined Catch-up Clubs, a play-based reading program adapted by her school in Maasim, Sarangani, from Save the Children for learners who needed extra support.

At 10:30 a.m., just after recess, she heads to the school gym for the sessions. She recalls their first activity, passing a ball and introducing themselves, with cheers and laughter filling the space. That day changed how she saw school. Learning, she realized, could also be fun.

When rain pours in the afternoon, Yana leaves her bag behind to keep it dry and walks home soaked. She never misses a session, even when regular classes are suspended.

By the end of the school year, Yana was reading stories with comprehension.

On weekends, she now teaches her toddler sister what she has learned. “Pag muuli ko gikan eskwelahan, tudluan nako siyag A, B, C, D” (“When I get home from school, I teach her A, B, C, D so she can learn”), she said.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Children's health and development begin long before birth and continue through the critical years of childhood and adolescence. Ensuring that children survive, grow, and thrive requires consistent care at every stage of life, from pregnancy and the first days after birth, through early childhood, and into adolescence.

Save the Children works with children, families, health workers, and local governments to strengthen systems of care so services remain connected and responsive across these stages. By linking maternal and newborn care, child development support, and adolescent health services with community monitoring and referral systems, these efforts help ensure children receive appropriate care when they need it.

262 pregnant and newly delivered women in the cities of Taguig and Muntinlupa accessed maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition services.

This includes early risk identification, post-discharge care for premature and low birth weight infants, guidance on caregiving practices, and community-level support for child development.

328 adolescent girls in our program areas who had limited access to public services sought and used essential sexual and reproductive health services, including counseling, family planning guidance, and referrals for care.

Program data shows girls strengthened their knowledge, built more positive attitudes, and practiced healthier behaviors. These include body awareness, protecting themselves from abuse, making informed decisions, and knowing where to access services.

Cities of Caloocan, Malabon, and Navotas approved the Adolescent Health Councils with formal participation mechanisms.

All 85 barangays in Real, Infanta, General Nakar, and Panukulan (RelNaPan) in Quezon now have operational Barangay Epidemiology and Surveillance Units, strengthening early detection of illnesses, outbreak response, and child health monitoring at the community level.

The RelNaPan Interlocal Health Zone was reactivated after five years, restoring regular coordination among municipalities, strengthening disease detection and referral systems, and improving the use of health resources to better protect children from preventable illness.

Polomolok, South Cotabato issued an Executive Order creating an Integrated Information and Service Delivery Network, strengthening the municipality's Teen Center and linking health and social services to improve coordination and referrals for adolescents.

Referral systems and guidance were strengthened in Caloocan, Malabon, and Navotas, as well as in Tupi and Polomolok in South Cotabato, and Alabel and Maitum in Sarangani, to better connect adolescents to the services they need.

► In a geographically isolated barangay in General Nakar, Quezon, an infant receives his first oral polio vaccine at six months. Ronald Ofilan/ Save the Children



“Gusto ko na lang ulit maging bata,” (I just want to be a child again), Sara, 16, said as she reflected on becoming a mother while still in senior high school.

Sara* (not her real name) once promised her father she would finish college. He often told her he hoped to see her become a police officer or work in a bank.

When she told her family that she was pregnant with her partner, John* (not his real name), 17, they were shocked and upset. Sara remembered her father looking as if he was about to cry.

After the initial emotions, both families chose to move forward and support the young couple. Sara moved into John’s family home so she could continue her studies while preparing for motherhood.

Sara attended regular prenatal checkups at their local health center and joined counseling sessions for adolescent mothers. There, she learned about proper nutrition, newborn care, and the importance of avoiding another early pregnancy.

She also shifted to online classes so she could remain in school.

“Some young people do not have anyone helping them. That is why centers and programs really help young parents who still do not know how to take care of a baby,” she said.

In Malabon City, Save the Children supports the Adolescent Health Council to help strengthen access to adolescent health information and services. For families like Sara’s, knowing where to go for care and guidance made a difference.

Now caring for her daughter, Sara hopes to finish her studies and build a stable future for her child. With the support of her family and access to essential services, she continues to move forward.

PROTECTION

Children today navigate both physical and digital spaces where risks can emerge in different forms, including unsafe interactions, abuse, and exploitation. Keeping them safe requires stronger awareness, supportive families and communities, and systems that can detect and respond when they are at risk.

In 2025, Save the Children worked with children, families, schools, and local governments to strengthen protection efforts across program areas. Children themselves played a key role in promoting digital safety and leading campaigns among their peers and schools, while engaging local governments to advocate for stronger policies and budget support.

13,627 children across Luzon joined learning sessions on their rights, protection, digital safety, and recognizing online and offline abuse or exploitation.

867 children in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, and Navotas showed improved understanding of their digital safety skills, including greater caution with strangers, improved communication with parents, and more proactive reporting of concerns.

110 households identified as facing high risks of OSAEC received livelihood support to strengthen income and protect their children.

Save the Children contributed to the development of Project SAFE, a Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) program that provides coordinated prevention, case management, and safe reintegration support for children affected by OSAEC. It is now being piloted in three hotspot regions.

Six of nine LGUs we worked with passed policies to better protect children from OSAEC, while eight set aside funds to support prevention and response efforts.

Trained officials improved the detection of OSAEC cases, with Caloocan City reporting 20 cases in 2025, up from fewer than 10 previously, and Navotas City and General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite, recording their first reported cases.

Save the Children's parenting module was adopted by the DSWD, with guidelines issued by the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) for its roll-out of the Family Development Sessions.

Malabon City allocated P500,000 to support Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) awareness in schools, helping reduce discrimination and violence against LGBTQI+ learners.

Quezon City issued a Gender-Inclusive Healthcare Ordinance to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services and ensure affirming care for transgender individuals, including young people.



► Ruby sits beside her son, K*. During the pandemic, she turned to social media to ask for help. Since then, she has learned how images of children can be misused online and now takes steps to protect her child's privacy. Archive/ Save the Children

Justin, 18, is a trans council leader in Malabon City. She spends time on TikTok and enjoys doing makeup, which she describes as a way of coping and expressing herself. In a community where children with diverse SOGIESC* often face discrimination, she grew up aware of how stigma can shape daily life. "Before, it was like they saw us as 'just gay,' like a plague," she recalled.

Online, that stigma followed her. She began receiving friend requests from dummy accounts with no photos, sometimes appearing to be from other countries. Strangers asked for personal details. Then unsolicited nude photos arrived in her private messages. "The very first thing I felt was fear," Justin said. She worried that the people behind the accounts might know where she lived. It felt like she was being followed.

She blocked the accounts but did not report them. Looking back, she believes that was a mistake. She was more afraid of being blamed or mocked than of the abuse itself. "I think it was wrong that I didn't immediately report it to someone close to me," she said. Her silence reflected a common fear among young people, especially those who worry they will not be believed or will be judged because of who they are.



After joining a community training on child rights and the prevention of online sexual abuse or exploitation of children supported by Save the Children, Justin began to understand the tactics perpetrators use. She explained that offenders often pretend to be friends to gain a child's trust and obtain content they can later use to harm them.

Through practical activities, she and other participants learned to spot red flags, strengthen their privacy settings, and report safely.

Today, she shares these lessons with other children in her community. She develops awareness materials and speaks to peers online and offline. "It's like a ripple effect," she said. "When I help one child, they share it with their peers."

Justin now calls for stronger local programs and trained frontline workers to better protect children online.

**Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, and Sex Characteristics*



► Qwyncy and Xyrene, members of the Batang Empowered and Resilient Team (BERT) from Malolos, Bulacan, engage House lawmakers to amend the Children’s Emergency Relief and Protection Act to cover more emergencies and ensure the participation of children with disabilities and those with diverse SOGIESC. Paul John Domalaon/ Save the Children

PARTICIPATION

Children are not only participants in programs. They are leaders in shaping the changes they want to see in their schools and communities. In 2025, Save the Children prioritized meaningful child participation by supporting child-led groups to identify issues affecting them and speak up about solutions.

Through these groups, children led advocacy and campaigns in their schools and communities. With support from their parents, community support groups, and partner civil society organizations, they raised issues that matter to them and helped shape solutions that respond to the realities in their own communities.

Their efforts are beginning to show results, with local governments listening to children’s voices, considering their recommendations, and supporting related policies and budget allocations.

43 Child-Led Groups and over 25 Community-Support Groups and Civil Society Organizations

trained and supported to develop and implement advocacy plans on issues raised by children.

The groups engaged directly with barangay, municipal, and city governments, contributing to policy improvements and budget allocations.

In Quezon City,

children advanced advocacy on mental health services, raising awareness and calling for stronger local support and funding.

In Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Pateros, and Taguig,

children promoted disability inclusion and safe spaces, advocating for equal opportunities and improved access to developmental assessments.

In Caloocan, Malabon, and Navotas,

children led campaigns on children’s rights and adolescent sexual and reproductive health, including community signature drives and learning sessions with local government units.

In Eastern Samar,

children co-designed climate-smart initiatives such as solid waste management, solar-powered greenhouses, and rainwater catchment systems, while contributing to tools that raise awareness on climate change.

In Regions 8 and 12,

children strengthened their participation in Local Councils for the Protection of Children, presenting issues and recommendations directly to local decision-makers.



Andre, 17, has sat in meetings where children were invited to speak, but not always heard. A regional Children's Welfare Council representative from Muntinlupa City and a school leader, he has seen how young people's presence can become tokenistic, with little space to influence real decisions.

"Our voices are often ignored, and there is no platform for children to express their thoughts, ideas, and needs," Andre said.

In June, he joined hundreds of other children at the child-led "Bata Muna" (Children First) National Congress to set their advocacy agenda for the current legislative term.

For months leading up to the event, around 700 children across the country took part in consultations, learning sessions, and youth-led activities.

Held online and onsite in Quezon City, the congress became a space where children presented their shared priorities to one another and prepared for regular engagement with newly elected local and national leaders.

Among those who took the floor was Andre. He spoke about why participation matters, saying children's voices are often ignored, and platforms to express their thoughts, ideas, and needs remain limited. Even with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in place, he noted that awareness remains low, especially among some public officials.

For Andre, child participation is a must. "It is necessary for future generations, so they can grow up confident in speaking up and taking part in decisions that affect them," he said.

Bata Muna is a child-led movement supported by Save the Children Philippines, the Child Rights Network (CRN), and 27 partner groups. The Congress findings were shared at the CRN General Assembly to inform the network's advocacy, including efforts on child participation, positive parenting, adolescent pregnancy prevention, and climate action.

In November, during the celebration of National Children's Month, their agenda was formally turned over to the House of Representatives with the hope that legislators would take this forward through concrete policies and adequate funding.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Working for and with children means working alongside partners who share the same commitment. Support from the private sector organizations and their employees continues to be essential in helping us reach more children and sustain our work. In 2025, this translated into:



Partner with us to support children across the Philippines and help improve their everyday lives.

ENGAGE EMPLOYEES IN MEANINGFUL INITIATIVES



Foster team building and promote your company's social investment strategy through our various engagement opportunities.

SUPPORT TIMELY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES



Be a leader in the wake of an emergency and show your commitment to children and their families affected by a crisis.

PROVIDE GRANTS FOR PRIORITY PROGRAMS



Partner with Save the Children Philippines through co-developed and co-designed multi-year programs for and with children.

DRIVE IMPACT THROUGH CAUSE-RELATED MARKETING



Join forces on an integrated consumer-facing campaign to increase sales, engage new consumers, and build consumer loyalty.

A PARTNERSHIP BUILT FOR PREPAREDNESS

Disasters are a recurring reality for many Filipino families. Typhoons, earthquakes, and other hazards affect communities year after year. But while these events cannot always be avoided, communities can be better prepared for them.

Strengthening that preparedness is at the heart of the partnership between Save the Children Philippines and the QBE Foundation. Since 2020, the collaboration has combined humanitarian assistance with longer-term efforts to help communities build resilience against disasters.

Through this ongoing partnership, families affected by major emergencies, from Typhoons Rolly and Odette to more recent storms and the Cebu earthquake, received timely support to meet urgent needs. In 2025, QBE's support enabled Save the Children to assist nearly 4,000 children and adults.

Recognizing that response must be matched with preparedness, the partnership also focuses on helping communities act before disasters strike.

In Tanay, Rizal, Save the Children, and QBE launched Project SECURE in 2024, a three-year initiative to strengthen the readiness of children, families, and local institutions to prepare for and respond to emergencies.

"Resilience isn't built in moments of crisis. It is shaped long before them. Through our partnership with Save the Children, the QBE Foundation supports communities to prepare, adapt, and recover from the challenges they face," said Jo Cruz, QBE Group Shared Services Centre's Head of Communications & Branding and Co-Chairperson of the Foundation.

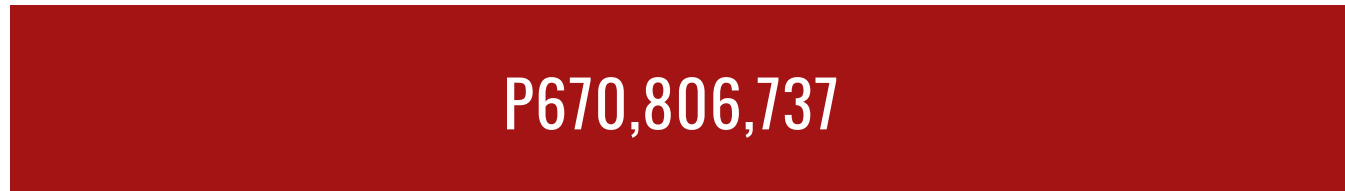
Project SECURE supports local governments in developing inclusive Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans while helping families prepare for emergencies at home. By 2025, nearly 10,000 families, especially women-led households, had taken part in emergency readiness training and received family preparedness kits tailored to their needs.

QBE employees also contribute through volunteering and matched donations. In 2025, staff contributions, matched by QBE, amounted to nearly P200,000.

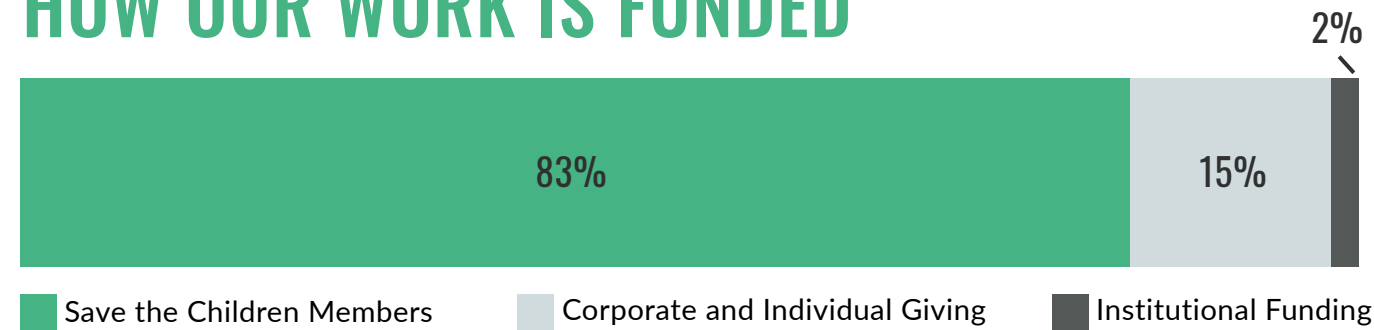
"We are proud to work with Save the Children, whose deep expertise makes them a trusted partner in delivering meaningful and long-term impact," Cruz said.

FINANCIAL REPORT

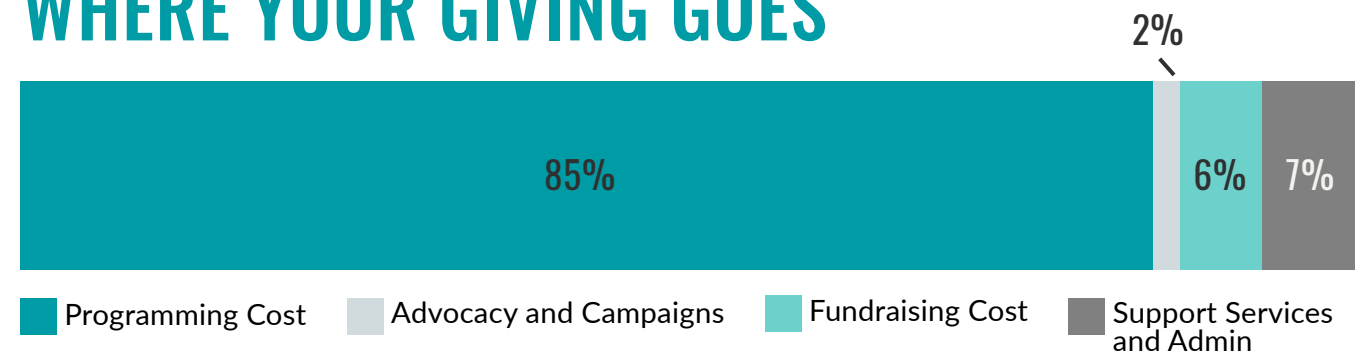
TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED



HOW OUR WORK IS FUNDED



WHERE YOUR GIVING GOES



OUR DONORS

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- Books Atbp.
- Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
- Canva
- CARE Nederland
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia
- DermAid
- Dyson
- Ericsson
- Euronet Philippines
- European Union Foreign Policy Instruments
- European Union INTPA - International Partnerships (European Commission)
- European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- Fountain Pen Network
- FRI - The Norwegian Organisation for Sexual and Gender Diversity (Government of Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
- Gates - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- GCash
- Gelcaps
- Global Giving
- Globe
- Goodera
- H&M Conscious Foundation
- Henkel Philippines
- Hitachi
- Humanity and Inclusion
- Insular Life Foundation, Inc.
- Johnson & Johnson
- Just Add Water Productions
- Kenvue Philippines
- Lifstrong Marketing Inc.
- Marriott Worldwide Business Council Philippines
- Mars Wrigley Foundation
- Opella Healthcare Philippines, Inc.
- OVA Virtual Technologies
- PepsiCo Foundation
- Philips Foundation
- Pru Life UK
- Prudence Foundation
- QBE Insurance Group
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- RIA Money Transfer
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Science
Physical Change

