

Toward No Child Living on Streets
– Let's Make 370,000 Street Children in
the Philippines ZERO!

Crowdfunding by ACC21 & ACRP TOKYO
(April 12-May 31, 2023)





ご寄付は、ストリートチルドレンのための現場の活動の支援や、キャンペーンの推進のために活用させていただきます。

Let's work together to make 370,000 street children in the Philippines ZERO by 2030, the final year of SDGs!

According to the survey conducted by LifeBank Microfinance Foundation, Inc. and Social Weather Stations (SWS), there are about 370,000 "street children" as of 2015 who spend most of the day on streets in the Philippines. Such children are more common in urban areas. While they have their respective reasons to spend their time on streets, their main reasons are rooted in poverty of their families. Some children beg on streets, scavenge for leftover food or smoke addictive paint thinner to drown their hunger. Others earn a little by collecting garbage and peddling small items to help their parents in making ends meet. Due to the spread of COVID 19 in the past years since 2020, the living conditions of these children have deteriorated even more.

The Asia Community Center 21 (ACC21), an Approved Specified Nonprofit Corporation with the special status of tax-deductible contribution granted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace Tokyo (ACRP Tokyo), have launched an international campaign to help make street children in the

Philippines ZERO by 2030, the final year of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Why don't we work together to realize SDGs' basic idea of "leave no one behind" and help street children to have a decent life where they can have secured access to food and clothing, live in a safe environment with their family, study at school and be productive members of the society by enabling them to pursue their chosen careers? Let us join hands to realize the goal of no street child in the Philippines by 2030!

Calling Organizations

Asian Community Center 21 (ACC21)

ACC21 was established in 2005 with the vision of "Creating a socially just and peaceful society in Asia where people live together and support one another".

As one of its main projects, it serves as the Secretariat of the Asian Community Trust (ACT), the first charitable trust established in 1979 based on bequests and donations from citizens and business corporations in Japan. Since its establishment up to March 2022, the end the fiscal 2021, ACT provided a total of 814 grants for projects conducted by local NGOs for marginalized people in education, health, environmental protection and rural development. The grants covered 15 countries and regions in Asia, amounting to 888 million Japanese yen (about 6.34 million US dollars). Among others, Philippine NGOs received the largest number of grants. ACC21 also serves as the Secretariat of the Japan-Philippines NGO Network (JPN) composed of Japanese NGOs concerned with Philippine development and protection of natural environment. ACC21 initiated the establishment of JPN in 2006. Thus, ACC21 has long-standing and extensive networks with Philippine NGOs.

In 2018 ACC21 started its voluntary project "Street Youth Empowerment Project" (now called "Project Bamboo") for the youth living on streets in selected cities in Metro Manila in partnership with the Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc. In 2020, the height of the COVID 19 pandemic, ACC21 extended emergency assistance consisting of food and hygiene kits to street children and families with help of the Foundation.

More information: <https://www.acc21.org/en/>

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Asian Conference of Religions for Peace Tokyo (ACRP Tokyo)

ACRP Tokyo was established in 2017 when the secretariat of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace was placed in Japan. In addition to the secretariat services for conferences and conventions of the ACRP, it promotes peace activities and relief operation to victims of natural disasters, refugees and displaced people in conflict areas in cooperation with religious organizations and NGOs/NPOs in Japan. It also promotes one of the ACRP flagship projects in the Philippines by working with its members to stop trafficking of poor women and children.

More information: <https://rfpasia-tokyo.org/tokyo-sec/>

Why do we support street children in the Philippines?

✧ **To ensure Children's Right and Human Dignity**

Many parents of street children suffer from extreme poverty. They migrated from the rural areas to find jobs in the urban centers but there are no decent jobs available for them due to their lack of education and vocational skills. Consequently, their children are not given enough food and proper education, instead they are forced to engage in begging, peddling on streets to help support their family. Some children hunt for leftover food or smoke addictive paint thinner to quench their hunger.

Some street children run away from parental abuse and start living on the streets where they sometimes get involved in crimes. Others are sexually exploited. In the evening, some sleep in the shade of buildings or in a gutter by the road. These children are pushed to the margins of society and forced to live in such conditions that trample their "human dignity".

As fellow human in our society, we consider it our duty to provide opportunities for street children to live in an environment that

promotes “human dignity” and to enjoy children’s rights set out on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



✧ **To implement a SDGs guiding principle: Leave No One Behind**

Leaving no one behind is the central promise and guiding principle of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which was adopted by the United Nations member countries in 2015. This guiding principle stresses combating inequalities and discrimination against individuals, families and whole communities marginalized and excluded. Street children are among the poorest of the poor who have been left behind for decades. It is the responsibility of the international community to prioritize and embrace this principle.

✧ **To ascertain children as treasures and the future of human society**

Whatever nationality children hold, they are treasures and the future of human society. They have potential to grow themselves and contribute to the advancement of society by using knowledge and skills which they can acquire through proper education.

Childhood living environment has a great impact on the future of children affecting not only their career but also their personality. It is wise to provide children with proper education, which should include children on streets, and encourage them to become productive members of society. Children are the treasures of the next generation.



- 1** ストリートチルドレンのための現場の活動の支援
- 2** フィリピンのNGOや政府・自治体とのネットワークづくり・連携
- 3** 日本国内での啓発活動や、市民・政府・NGO・民間企業などとの協力関係づくり

What actions do we take?

1. Raise awareness among Japanese citizens, government agencies concerned and business corporations about the current situation of street children in the Philippines.
2. Extend financial support and/or collaborate with Philippine local NGOs engaged in protection and support of street children.
3. Develop cooperative relationship with the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), the focal inter-agency body of the Philippine Government for children and local government units concerned with street children.

How will your donations be used for fiscal 2023?

Your donation will be used for street children-related projects implemented by two Japanese NGOs listed below and for necessary costs incurring in the administration of monitoring the funded projects, the donor relations and other necessary services.



ストリートチルドレンのための現場の活動支援費



路上で暮らす若者の自立支援

(実施団体：ACC21、70万円)



路上の子どもの予防と早期介入のための基盤構築

(実施団体：認定NPO法人アイキャン、70万円)



キャンペーンの推進のための事業管理費 (60万円)

Two Projects to be Funded:

✧ **Project Bamboo: Street Youth Empowerment Project by ACC21 conducted jointly with Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc.**

This joint project started in 2018 with the aim of helping youth to be equipped with knowledge and skills to secure decent jobs. It is for the youth aged 16-24 who have participated in the Street Education and Protection (STEP) Program of the Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc. (* see Partner Organizations below for the organization overview) with two batches of education/trainings being conducted annually.

One batch extending over 6 months is composed of the following education and trainings:

- 1. Alternative Education:** The sessions are life skills-based modules designed to equip the youth with values and necessary knowledge and skills to protect themselves while on the streets.
- 2. Financial Education:** The sessions provide the youth with knowledge and ability to understand the complex principles of earning, spending, saving and investing. The youth is expected to develop the ability to control properly over their money and other financial resources.
- 3. Vocational-technical skills training:** This training focuses on providing youth with lectures as well as hands-on experience in jobs like housekeeping, hotel and restaurant services, cookery, baking, cosmetology, etc. The youth participants attend the courses offered at the Manila Manpower Development Center (MMDC). The resource persons are the trainers certified by the Philippine Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).
- 4. Entrepreneurship:** The sessions are designed to encourage youth to have an interest in starting a small business and learn the fundamentals of entrepreneurship. It aims to build skills and knowledge necessary to succeed as an entrepreneur.
- 5. Livelihood training:** This training provides youth with an understanding of business concept that they can choose to start on their own. Among these are food processing, t-shirt

printing, making of perfume, dishwashing liquids and fabric conditioners.

6. Skills Enhancement for Employability: The sessions aim to provide enhancement of skills that equips the youth to have higher chances of getting a job. It includes making of resume, personality development and job interview coaching.

In addition to the above six education/trainings, Project Bamboo provides **microcredits** for capital assistance among youth who have good business ideas but do not have the money for start-up. The loans are repaid on a regular basis with very minimal interest to familiarize them also with how loans and credits work.



The photo on the left shows youth acquiring life skills. The photo on the right shows vocational technical training (barista).

Your donation will be used to cover the costs for the education/trainings of the youth such as teaching materials, transportation and meals, and honoraria for resource persons.

❖ **Sport-based Life Skills Training for Street-Connected Youth Leaders by ICAN**

The second project to be funded is the "**Sport-based Life Skills Training for Street- Connected Youth Leaders**" Project implemented by ICAN, a certified NPO that has been supporting street children in the Philippines since 1994. (*see Partner Organizations below for the organization overview)

Most children on the streets in the Philippines have low self-esteem due to discrimination from other people and a lack of experience with being praised or relied upon by adults, as well as limited exposure to role models for them. As a result, their consciousness is confined to the status quo: they believe that they cannot change their current situations.

In partnership with its long-time partner, KALYE, a cooperative made up of former street youths, ICAN will raise awareness of children's rights among the public and government officials. This will be done through training street-connected youth leaders who advocate children's rights, so that preventive measures and early intervention system for street children could be put in place.

In the project, 46 street youths and orphans will receive leadership training as well as sport-based life skills training. Through team sports like basketball, soccer and volleyball, they can gain a sense of accomplishment, a sense of fulfillment, and success by working together. The trained youth leaders will then pass on to the 40 children on the streets what they have learned in the project. In addition, the project will also hold a "Youth Leader Congress" to share what they have learned and the future action plans at the end.

Donations will be used for court maintenance, training venue costs, transportation expenses for participants (vehicle rental fees, gasoline costs) and staff salary.



Children at sport-based life skills training

✧ **Administrative Costs**

Your donations will also be used for administrative and promotion costs of the Campaign. The main costs included are as follows:

- (1) monitoring the above funded projects and report back on their progress and results to donors
- (2) continuing the campaign for years to come by raising awareness among Japanese people about the current status of street children in the Philippines and raising necessary funds by holding public seminars and events
- (3) developing cooperative relationship with Philippine NGOs, government agencies and other international NGOs concerned with street children in the Philippines by visiting on site and promoting dialogues with them.



Partner Organizations

Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc.

Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc. (Childhope in short) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization for children in the Philippines that works to promote, advocate for and protect the rights of children living on the streets. It traces its history back to when Childhope International was founded in 1986. Individuals from children's agencies saw the need to address the plight of children needing protection, especially those living on the streets. In 1989, a regional office for Asia was established in Manila after the First Regional Conference of Street Children in Asia. This forum facilitated networking and collaboration among agencies working for street children in the Asian region.

After Childhope International ceased its operations in 1989, Childhope (Asia office) still continued its operations. Projects included outreach, protection, and education on the streets program, and technical assistance to other Asian nations who wanted to address similar problem in their country.

In 1995, Childhope (Asia office) officially became Childhope Asia Philippines, Inc. registered under the Securities and Exchange Commission. In 2013 its name was changed to Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc. and began to show its focus on streamlining programs and services for Filipino street children.

Childhope currently promotes the Street Education and Protection (STEP) Program, basically to children under 18 years old. STEP carries the following four activities: (1) alternative education for street children through videos and interactive learning sessions; (2) social welfare interventions through counselling and therapy; (3) primary health care such as preventive and curative health care, medical assistance and health education using mobile clinic and (4) skills development in music, sports, volunteer outreach and youth leadership. Additionally, street youth empowerment project, now called Project Bamboo, has been carried out since 2018 jointly with

ACC21 for the youth aged 16-24 who attended alternative education as mentioned in item (1) above.

STEP Program is conducted in 14 different areas in 3 cities of Metro Manila: Manila, Caloocan and Paranaque. Approximately 500 children and youth are benefited by the Program annually.

Childhope is staffed by 30 full-time workers and 1 part-time worker as of April, 2023. They include, among others, 2 top management, 1 Program Manager, 6 Street-social workers and 6 Street educator-alternative education teachers who are engaged in STEP Program, 1 Project Officer and 1 Project Assistant for Project Bamboo.

More information: <https://childhope.org.ph/>

ICAN

ICAN is an international NGO that works to improve the lives of children living on the streets and people living near dumpsites in the Philippines. It addresses issues by bringing individual actions together. ICAN was established in 1994 by a Japanese office worker, who saw the children on streets under extreme poverty in the Philippines and thought about "There must be something I can do." Its motto is Not "for" the people, but "with" the people.

More information: <https://ican.or.jp/>

Please join us to make 370,000 street children in the Philippines ZERO by 2030, the final year of SDGs!

To ensure children on the streets restore “human dignity” and enjoy children’s rights set out on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child so that they can receive education and lead healthy and productive lives as recognized members of the society.



Tax incentives for donations

Donations to this campaign will be managed by the Asia Community Center 21 (ACC21), that serves as the secretariat of the Campaign. Donations are eligible for tax benefits. For more information, please [visit the ACC21 website](#).

Inquiries

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