



newsletter

Island Kids Philippines



2020/2

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Dear friends of IKP

In this newsletter we talk about the difficult situation in Cagayan de Oro during its Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), which the government imposed as a response to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

In two interviews Thomas Kellenberger and Susanne Stricker share with us how they experience the current situation. The strict measures during the quarantine, such as strictly enforced curfews, police checkpoints, lockdowns, closed provincial borders, schools etc. are slowly driving the poorest of the poor into a life-threatening situation. Almost all the children we are supporting come from parents who are working in the informal sector, without regular wages and without any social securities. Due to the ECQ many of these parents lost their livelihood. Left without any income and no savings, they have now an even harder time to provide food and other basic needs for their families. At the same time, PIKIFI (Philippine Island Kids International Foundation, Inc.) temporarily had to close its two community learning centers, which meant that the children could no longer be provided with lunch and snacks during break times. Despite the food packages distributed by the government, there is now a serious food shortage in poor communities.

We are very grateful that PIKIFI is able to offer help in this precarious situation. We herewith thank all of you, our most valued donors, for your precious donations.

We wish you good health and despite all the Convid-19 restrictions a memorable and joyful summer.

■ Interview with Thomas and Susanne

We asked Thomas Kellenberger (founder and head of PIKIFI) and Susanne Stricker (volunteer) a couple of questions regarding the situation in Cagayan de Oro City.



Thomas, how are the child beneficiaries of PIKIFI and their families coping with the new normal during the Covid-19 pandemic?

First of all, I would like to emphasize that the Filipinos are a very resilient and crisis-tested people. Natural disasters such as typhoons, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions etc., but also armed conflicts are the tough reality for the people here. Just a few weeks ago, typhoon "Vongfong" caused considerable damage and killed lives on the island of Samar.

Nevertheless, a lot of Filipinos are scared right now. The virus is a new form of threat - it is invisible and can affect anyone.

Also the government is afraid. It wants to prevent the spread of the virus at all costs, especially within the extreme densely populated urban slums. The government therefore took strict measures to contain the pandemic and continues to extend these measures as new cases are reported. This situation leads people into an economic emergency, which the government with the distribution of sparse rice rations and canned foods can hardly alleviate. In addition, domestic travel is currently prohibited, which has separated entire families. The uncertain situation leads to frustration and despair for many. Anger also arises when, for example, the financial aid promised by the government does not reach the people

and one wonders where the money has gone.

Already prior to the coronavirus crisis the children and families we are supporting belonged to the poorest of the poor in the city. All of them were working in the informal sector without any social security. Thus, they already literally lived from hand to mouth and are now once again particularly hard hit by this crisis.

How is team of PIKIFI coping with this situation?

Thankfully, our employees and volunteers are all healthy and doing well. Due to our daily work with the children in our Children's Village we are working in as well as the ongoing relief operations, we as social frontliners have more than enough to do. This is a blessing in disguise, as it diverts our thoughts, leaving us with only little time to reflect on our own personal problems and the overall negative effects of this crisis. We are also grateful that our workers have a job right now. Nevertheless, the situation in general, the arduous plight of the needy communities we are working with and the restrictions that affect the daily lives of all of us do not leave us indifferent.

What is the biggest challenge right now, for PIKIFI and for you personally?

In the Children's Village, we have to keep the children busy with meaningful activities every day and without violating the city's quarantine rules. Activities that had already been planned, such as the summer classes, the ADONIA musical camp, and the summer swimming courses all had to be canceled.

We are now providing the over 600 children and adolescents in our community-based program and other people in need with emergency aid packs containing essential goods.

We continue to make home visits and intervene when we receive reports of child abuse, etc. Our work with families living outside the city has become much more difficult. This is because due to the quarantine locations outside the city are difficult to be accessed.

The new school year will also be a major challenge for us. According to the latest official statement of the president, the government does not intend to reopen schools with face-to-face classes until a vaccine against Covid-19 has been developed. Certainly, school classes in their old form will no longer be possible. New issues such as "Social Distancing" and disinfection areas at the school entrance and within the classrooms are currently being discussed. For us at PIKIFI, this also means a

structural redesigning of our two learning centers. The start of constructions of our Child Development Center (social therapeutic prevention and intervention center), which was planned for early May 2020, had to be postponed. We also had to interrupt and postpone our job interviews for urgently needed new employees. Of course, we are also concerned about the financial future of PIKIFI in the face of this global crisis. However, we are currently experiencing a great deal of solidarity, for which we are heartily grateful to all of you, our loyal donors.

Personally, I am also concerned about future travel regulations and the corresponding costs. The annual visits of donors as well as the fundraising activities in Switzerland and Germany are a very important part of my work. Last but not least, spending quality time with my beloved family and my dear friends in Switzerland is important to me.

In your opinion, what impact will Covid-19 have on the near future of the communities you are serving?

At this moment, I find it still difficult to make any predictions. However, I believe what is most important for everyone is that the economy will be ramped up again the soonest possible, so that people can once again earn their own income. In the landfill community, for example, we had three suicides within two weeks. In at least one case, there were strong indicators that the suicide was a direct result of the economic poverty caused by the corona crisis.

Nevertheless, every crisis also brings opportunities. For example, all street families and street children were housed in evacuation centers by the authorities at the beginning of the Enhanced Community Quarantine. Ever since then, we have seen almost no street children nor child prostitutes in the city center. It is now up to the social services of the city, in cooperation with the NGOs (non-governmental organizations), to work out a concept for these children and families for the time after the loosening of the corona measures.

If you had one wish today - what would you wish for?

Of course, I hope that all of our children, employees, trustees and donors will stay healthy throughout this pandemic. At the same time, I hope that this crisis will not keep us humans permanently at a distance from each other. I hope that, in the long run, the crisis will unite people rather than creating more suspicion in our minds. "Social Distancing" is not really an issue within

our Children's Village. Physical closeness, such as hugs, is important for the children. However, as soon as you leave the Children's Village wearing a facemask is mandatory and people practice social distancing. More than that, people are now suspicious of each other - a strange feeling.

Susanne, this is already your second term as a volunteer for PIKIFI. What was/is your motivation?

I really liked my first stay here. Despite the fact that the individual fates and stories of the children affected me, I felt that I was useful and able to help a lot. There was work everywhere: in the Children's Village, in the school of the Learning Center... it never got boring. When I had to say goodbye, I already knew that it was not a "goodbye" but rather a "see you soon again".

It was actually planned that you would return to Switzerland early August 2020.

My return flight is still written in the stars! Let's see what will happen... When this whole Corona thing broke out, I paused for a moment and considered flying out while it was still possible - I decided against it.

Are you happy that you decided to stay or are you homesick?

I am very happy that I stayed here! I facilitate recreational- and learning activities for the children in the Children's Village and help with the distribution of the survival packages during relief operations. I am really needed here, which makes me feel good. With so much going on, I don't even have the time to be homesick.

Can you give us an idea about your daily life in the Children's Village?

At 6am we start the day with jogging on the school ground or zumba. After breakfast, the children who are grouped into different groups begin with their activities, such as drawing (arts), sewing and dressmaking, beauty care, baking, gardening and handicrafts, followed by classes in English and math. After the morning program, the children have their lunch and siesta. Later, at 3pm, the groups have their afternoon activities, which alternate daily with either two hours of sports and group games or learning activities with lessons in English and math.

If you had one wish today - what would you wish for?

At the moment, I believe, everyone has the same wish: that we all stay healthy and that we will continue to be spared from the virus. My personal wish has to do with food: Swiss chocolates! I really miss them here!

Thank you very much, Thomas and Susanne, for your great commitment, especially in this difficult time. We wish you the strength and wisdom you need to continue to be there for the people you are serving. We also wish you lots of energy, joy and good ideas for your work with the children of PIKIFI.

■ **«Survival packs» as emergency aid for slum dwellers.**

The situation in the slums of Cagayan de Oro is dramatic. Many people go hungry, as they barely have anything to eat in a day. Our very generous donors made it possible for PIKIFI to conduct a series of relief operations to fight food shortage among the hardest hit communities. During three relief operations, essential food and hygiene products were purchased, repacked into a total of 2,590 relief packs with the help of the children and youths living in the Children's Village, and distributed by our team.

Our aid campaign was launched last May 4/5, 2020. The first relief operation was made possible by Aid Line Philippines-Swiss (ALPS) from Manila. Thanks to ALPS, we were able to distribute a total 750 relief packs. ALPS supports humanitarian disaster relief with a focus on sustainable livelihoods. ALPS has been our important longtime partner in disaster relief and rehabilitation.

On May 14/15, 2020, our second relief operation was conducted with a total of 840 food packs distributed to needy families. This time, the very generous donation came from Indigo Children's Fund, a British charity that has already financed the construction of two of our girls' homes and presently supports the construction of our Child Development Center.

Thanks to fundraising campaigns launched by Schubiger Möbel from Switzerland and by our current Swiss volunteer, Susanne Stricker, and thanks to many individual donations from our loyal donors, we were able to conduct a third relief operation last May 28/29, 2020. During this latest operation a total of 1,000 relief packs were distributed. Schubiger Möbel has been a loyal supporter of different projects ever since the construction of our Zion Community Learning Center in 2013.

Our next relief operation is scheduled for the last week of June 2020.

In the name of all the recipients of the relief packs, we thank you as our precious donors wholeheartedly for your most valuable support in this time of global crisis!



Contents of a relief pack:

- 3 kg of rice & 1 kg of potatoes or 5 kg of rice & 500 g of potatoes
- 1 pumpkin & 4 Sayote (large, durable vegetable)
- 1 whole chicken
- Onions, garlic, ginger
- Soy sauce, vinegar & oil
- 500 g sugar, coffee, powder milk
- Washing powder, body soap, shampoo, toothpaste

Help us to take further action to ensure the minimum support for the poorest families.

With CHF 11.50 / Euro 12.- you not only give a family a package with food and hygiene articles, but also hope. Thank you for your support!

For deposits in Switzerland:

IBAN: CH84 0079 0042 4190 1489 2
Account 30-106-9, Berner Kantonalbank, Bundesplatz 8,
3001 Bern

Recipient: Island Kids Philippines, Vorholzstrasse 12,
3800 Unterseen, Note: „Survival package“

For deposits in the Philippines:

Account Number: 410170001079
Swift Code: PNBMPHMM
Philippine National Bank, CDO-Corrales-Chaves,
Corrales Ave. cor. T. Chavez St. Cagayan de Oro City 9000

Note: Pls. send us the note "Survival package" with your full name and the amount you deposited to
info@islandkids.ch.

■ No one is too small.....



The magazine «School Tool» 1/2020 from HP (Hewlett Packard) recently published an article about a Swiss girl named Jana. The theme of the article was "Child-School-Digital Media". The fourth-grade student loves baking with the help of online recipes. Inspired by UNICEF's "children helping children" Jana was selling her self backed muffins and donated all the proceeds to IKP. She and her brother decided to add their pocket money to the income earned from the muffin sale, so that we finally received the precious amount of CHF 90.-. Thank you so much Jana! Keep having fun with baking.

■ Annual report Island Kids Philippines Switzerland

New on our homepage, you can now read the 2019 annual report, for the first time according to Swiss GAAP FER-21 standard

www.islandkids.ch/de/aboutus/jahresberichte.html.

Through the report we want to be transparent about the use of our funds. Our special thanks for the very professional report go to our two accountants, Dominik Lüscher and his wife Barbara.

With the amount of CHF 24'500.- per month we can fully operate our programs and services with 50 children and youths under fulltime care, over 600 children in our community-based program with complete education, health services and recreational activities as well as other community-based programs for urban poor families and child protection.

■ Production of facemasks

On April 30, 2020, PIKIFI managed to finish the production of 500 facemasks ordered by the office of the city Mayor. Our two tailors Genelie and Nelia sewed almost day and night to complete this large order on time. The proceeds worth Peso 4'500 (around CHF 90.-) are important for PIKIFI, not only materially but also psychologically.



■ New IKP-gift item available

Whether you want to make yourself or others happy, with the new photo flip from IKP you can do both! Hobby photographer Daniela Steffen worked as a volunteer for PIKIFI in the Philippines back in 2014 and is now a board member of IKP Switzerland. She has visited us in CDO several times since her first stay. During her latest visit, last February 2020, she photographed beautiful portraits of children who are beneficiaries of our projects. With these portraits Daniela created a high-quality photos flip, which is now available.

Photos flip with 12 glossy photographs with cardboard stand and spiral binding. Size 12.6 x 16.7cm

Price: CHF 19.90 plus shipping costs

Order slip can be found in the attachment.

Company details



For Switzerland:
Island Kids Philippines
c/o Ruth Kellenberger
Vorholzstrasse 12
CH-3800 Unterseen

info@islandkids.ch
newsletter@islandkids.ch

Donations account Switzerland:
Berner Kantonalbank, 3001 Bern
IBAN CH84 0079 0042 4190 1489 2



For Germany:
Island Kids Philippines
Deutschland e.V.
c/o Familie Erzinger
Gartenstraße 36
D-14548 Schmiedeberg

deutschland@islandkids.ch

Donations account Germany:
IBAN: DE55 1605 0000 1000 9063 84
BIC: WELADED1PMB

Pictures:
Island Kids
AdobeStock.com

Compilation German: Christina Kurzen
Layout/graphic: René Müller

Actual information you'll find as well
www.islandkids.de
www.islandkids.ch

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Dramatic situation

The situation in the slums of Cagayan de Oro (Philippines) is alarming; many people are experiencing food shortage and hardly have anything to eat in a day.

Emergency aid

Philippine Island Kids Foundation launched its first relief operation last May 5, 2020. In three consecutive relief operations a total of 2,590 needy families were provided with essential food and hygiene products. More relief operations are in the planning.



Please help us to help

With CHF 11.50.- only you can donate one survival pack with food and sanitary products. With your important help we can continue our relief operations and ensure the survival of the people in our communities.

**11.50 Swiss francs
for 1 survival pack
for 1 family**

For deposits in Switzerland

IBAN: CH84 0079 0042 4190 1489 2
Konto 30-106-9, Berner Kantonalbank,
Bundesplatz 8, 3001 Bern
Recipient Island Kids Philippines,
Vorholzstrasse 12, 3800 Unterseen

Note «Survival package»

For deposits in the Philippines

Account Number: 410170001079
Swift Code: PNBMPHMM
Philippine National Bank, CDO-Corrales-Chaves, Corrales Ave. cor. T. Chavez St. Cagayan de Oro City 9000

Note: Pls. send the note "Survival package" with your full name and the amount you deposited to info@islandkids.ch

**Thank you very much for
your most precious
support!**

**Island Kids
Philippines** 



Island Kids Philippines offers neglected, abused and abandoned children temporary shelter with fulltime care as well as complete education with integrated feeding. Currently around 50 children are living in our Children's Village, 450 children are attending classes in our two learning centers, and 250 young people are enrolled in national high schools and universities.

www.islandkids.ch / info@islandkids.ch

Foto-Flip-Bestellung

Ab sofort gibt IKP ein Foto-Flip mit 12 Fotos von IKP-Kindern für die Schweiz heraus. Als Geschenk oder Deko ein bisschen Philippinen für zu Hause. Die Fotos wurden im Februar 2020 auf den Philippinen erstellt. Island Kids Philippines wurde vom Schweizer Polizist Thomas Kellenberger gegründet und setzt sich seit 2007 aus Nächstenliebe und Überzeugung für Strassen- und Wertstoffsammlerkinder in der südphilippinischen Hafenstadt Cagayan de Oro ein.



WE HAVE HOPE
AND WE HAVE DREAMS,
HELP US
TO HAVE
A FUTURE!

Fester Kartonständer, Spiralbindung, Grösse: 12,6 x 16,7 cm

Bestelltafel:

Bezahlung via Rechnung. Lieferfristen ca. 1 Woche

Foto-Flip à CHF 19.90 zzgl. 2.-- Porto/Versand

Anzahl Exemplar:

Name:

Vorname:

Adresse:

PLZ und Ort:

Telefon:

Einsenden an: Daniela Steffen, Untergässli 19, 4934 Madiswil oder per Mail: projekt@islandkids.ch