



PHOTO: PHILIPPINES LIVELIHOOD SKILLS PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

**RELEDEV
AUSTRALIA**

RELief, EDUcation & DEVelopment

Our projects provide relief, education and development at home & abroad.



RELEDEV'S VISION

Our vision is to alleviate poverty by building a culture where the dignity of each person is rediscovered through education, work and the spirit of service.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

As Reledev draws a close on our 26th year as an Australian NGO, we are pleased to announce that we have qualified for another 5 years of Australian Government support for our work in overseas development. Through this funding we continue our participation in the Australian Non-Government Cooperation Program (ANCP). We proudly continue to be a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) - the peak body for aid and development NGOs in Australia.

This year the Australian Embassy in Mexico nominated Reledev as a recipient for funding through the Development Aid Program (DAP). The extra assistance allowed our partner in Nicaragua to establish a business start up program for women that focussed on sewing items for commercial uniforms.

Our ongoing projects in the Philippines, Nicaragua and Bolivia continued to reach marginalised women assisting them with personal support and growth through education and training as well as helping them face added challenges arising from the Covid 19 pandemic. This pandemic has touched everyone's lives but we know the impact is greatest on those already facing social and economic difficulty. Reledev is grateful for the continued support of our Australian donors, who have partnered with us and our overseas partners enabling us to directly impact on the lives of 549 women.

As the pandemic-related restrictions continue to lift across the globe, we look forward to the coming year, with the hope of seeing a return of the Australian Youth Volunteering program. This program involves Australian young people in two ways: expanding our reach to refugee families in Australia through the Dream Project; and volunteering to work overseas during their holidays.

The Directors of Reledev Australia Limited ("the Company") present this Annual Report, together with the summarised Financial Report of the Company and the Auditor's report for the year ended 30th June 2021.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Agnes Barnard (Chair)
Elected: 2014
Current term expires: 2023



Audrey Abrams (Secretary)
Elected: 2013
Current term expires: 2021



Graham Duff
Elected: 2004
Current term expires: 2023



Anne Zahra
Elected: 2003
Current term expires: 2022



Eugene Choi
Elected: 2003
Current term expires: 2023



Marybeth Bartholemew
Elected: 2003
Current term expires: 2022



Maria Chin
Elected: 2021
Current term expires: 2024



Grace Anglo
Elected: 2021
Current term expires: 2024

COVID 19 RELIEF

PHILIPPINES: The pandemic created a need for our partner, Banilad Centre for Professional Development (BCPD) to move to online class delivery, and for students to access online classes via digital tablets. This was a new method for many students and they needed individual instruction on how to follow classes online. Despite many challenges, the BCPD course completion rates were higher than all other national training schools.

NICARAGUA: The pandemic situation exacerbated job losses within a shrinking tourism market. Our partners, Vega Baja, responded with distributing kits for growing vegetables at home as a way of helping families with low and unstable income. Food preparation courses were also offered, and focussed on micro-enterprise type products.

BOLIVIA: During lockdown, students from CEFIM reached out to women in their own communities who had existing micro-enterprises. They offered them encouragement and learning opportunities to support and improve their business skills.

Philippines

BCDP visited 155 remotely located students. Digital tablets was loaned to enable learning.



Nicaragua

Food growing kits with classes were provided to 80 families needing support for basic daily food needs.



Bolivia

Outreached to 52 women street vendors to provide classes and support their micro-enterprises during the pandemic.

ABOVE & BEYOND DURING COVID

On the first day of the hike into the remote mountainous area their pace was slowed by a day of torrential rains, they reach the first village by nightfall. The three days of trekking saw them climbing steep mountain trails and crossing rivers swollen by rains.

The FPTI-Banilad Centre for Professional Development (Banilad) in Cebu went to extraordinary lengths to enable their students to continue their studies when the Covid pandemic hit the Philippines, and the school on the island of Cebu needed to “lockdown” and students return to their villages.

The Banilad staff pivoted their delivery methods; moving to online delivery. However, many students being from poorer families did not have a way to access lessons online. The school sourced sponsor funding which enabled the purchase of tablets and internet data cards.

The Director and her staff made the monumental decision to hike into the rural areas and deliver the tablets to their students. The trek was any eye-opener for staff, with them coming to understand the determination of students who walked these same rural trails into the school, enduring rainy days with flooded or slippery paths, and rugged conditions; yet still managing to arrive at school or at their on-the-job training workplace clean and on time!

During their trip, staff were overwhelmed by the gratitude of students and parents alike. Despite the poverty in these homes, staff hiked back down the mountains with gifts of vegetables, root crops, fruit, plants and flowers.

Beth Lopez commented:

“What teacher would not dedicate themselves to these students who have nothing but are so motivated by a great desire to please their parents and siblings? Without Covid challenges, I would not have discovered the beauty of these students.”



LASTING IMPACT EDUCATION

Philippines



148 STUDENTS QUALIFIED IN HUMAN RESOURCES

Young People from remote areas of Cebu completed their vocational training certificates for entry level employment into tourism and hospitality jobs.

31 TEACHERS received professional development training through online education courses and learnt to utilise online teaching methods.

HOME IMMERSION PROGRAM - An ingenious pivot for On-the-job placement was created while the face-to-face Industry experience options were closed

Bolivia

44 WOMEN TRAINED IN GASTRONOMY JOB READY

Bolivian women, mostly indigenous, completed a Diploma Technical Certificate in Gastronomy, and are ready for employment.

44 WOMEN RUN A STUDENT ENTERPRISE

Students created their own new product and developed the business by adapting to selling products online.

52 WOMEN WITH A MICROENTERPRISE received support and training. Most are single mothers with home-based catering businesses, forced to close during the pandemic.



Nicaragua



48 WOMEN RECEIVE A TECHNICAL DIPLOMA

Nicaraguan women are trained in cooking and house-keeping, and are qualified to obtain work.

51 WOMEN RECEIVE A SEWING DIPLOMA

Now equipped with abilities and skills in producing sewn products, enabling them to establish an alternative income within their local communities.

49 WOMEN COMPLETE ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSES

Women who have a product or micro-enterprise learn necessary business skills; taking their businesses and skills to the next level.



HOPE IN DESPERATE TIMES

Milena del Carmen Gutierrez is 34 years old and has 3 small children. The family's livelihood was dependent on her husband's stone loading work in the quarry. However the work is poorly paid and with irregular work shifts, which means that sometimes they cannot meet basic living needs.

Milena entered the sewing course at Vega Baja Education Centre with a desire to learn how to make clothes and various household items, and be able to provide another source of income for her family.

She also became an active member of the Vega Baja Sewing Workshop where she learnt to sew and sell face masks.

This greatly assisted her family, enabling them to be able to buy basic food for every day living.

Milena's confidence increased and she learnt to sew household items, such as curtains, bed covers, sheets and bags, and she now sells these in her community.

In Milena's words:

"I am very grateful to the Vega Baja not only for the quality of education and the personal treatment that we receive from them, but also because they are giving us an opportunity to generate an income at a time of great need for our families".

DEVELOP ENTREPRENEURS



PHILIPPINES

LIVELIHOOD TRAINING was undertaken with 35 women in rural communities, fostering micro-enterprise initiatives with locally acquired products.

DISABILITY LIVELIHOOD TRAINING was provided to 32 persons with disability. Modules in culinary and basic business skills were completed as part of a local NGO program supporting these beneficiaries

NICARAGUA

ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE - trained 49 women in remote locations. 35 of these women have either started a micro-enterprise or intend to start one after further improving other specific skills.

BUSINESS START UP - a new program gave 20 women a 1 year of intensive training in product creation and business skills to enable them to generate their own income through sewing items of use to local industry such as commercial uniforms.

BOLIVIA

LA ESPECIARIA CAFE - 36 women were involved in running this student-operated cafe. The move to online delivery continued the cafe's momentum, with 3 commercial campaigns and some larger catering orders.

52 WOMEN WITH MICROENTERPRISES - Cefim students facilitated women (mostly) single mothers to receive online support and training for their business to face the challenges of Covid 19.



PHOTO: UPPER ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE NICARAGUA
LOWER: BOLIVIA SINGLE MOTHER W/ HOME ENTERPRISE



RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CHALLENGES

Winnie Yarichimo Pariamo is from a rural mining area in Mapiri Larecaja Province, 314 kms from the capital city of La Paz, Bolivia. She has Multiple Congenital Arthrogryposis (AMC), a disability that affects mobility in her right hand and arms.

Not only facing these physical challenges, she faced additional family issues with the death of her mother in 2020. Despite all these factors, Winnie persevered in her studies, training in bakery at Cefim's technical institute, and successfully completed the course, graduating with a grade average of 78.17%.

Her determination and strong resilience has been an encouragement and positive example to everyone who knows her.

Winnie expressed that she is exceedingly grateful to Cefim, and to staff who showed such faith and belief in her capabilities.

Highly creative and with her new growth in confidence she has set her future goals: to start her own business, and to be able to pass on her skills to others.

RELIEF IN AUSTRALIA



NAIRANA STUDY CENTRE, MACKSVILLE WORKCAMP

January 2021 saw a group of 14 young men spend their holiday time in Macksville NSW volunteering to assist BlazeAid Inc and farmers on bushfire ravaged properties.

The volunteers spent 6 days on 10 different properties, clearing and rebuilding ruined fences for farmers who had their property ravaged by the 2020 bushfires.

Over the course of the week, the volunteers worked in small groups and became proficient in such techniques as: twitching, digging holes, installing stays, running the wire, straining it and tying it off.

The groups were able to clear around 1.5kms of burned and broken fences and put up approximately 2.5kms of new fences. Following the bushfires, farmers could not purchase new cattle due to the lack of fences to contain them; these fences were of critical importance to enabling the farmers to restock their properties.

Although more than a year had past since the fires, many of the people the volunteers met were still deeply affected by the experience; having suffered themselves, or known farmers who had perished, or ones who were so traumatised by the event that they had moved out of the region.

The volunteers' assistance to the farmers of the Macksville region was of tremendous value. It was obvious that having a group of young men from outside the community volunteer their time to assist, positively impacted on the morale within the farming community.

RELIEF IN AUSTRALIA



DREAM AUSTRALIA

CARE PACKAGES

DREAM Project workshops were curtailed by pandemic restrictions but our volunteers offered another kind of help, supplying care packages to families of refugee backgrounds.

These packages were prepared by volunteer families and contained non-perishable food items, stationery, toiletries, toys, nappies, baby formula, etc. A welcomed support as donor families selected items based on the information provided by Fairfield High School's Intensive Education Centre.

REFUGEE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Dream began to provide workshops to a Syriac Catholic Church community as they have a significantly sized youth program. The youth program works with about 70 young people, with most of them being from Iraqi refugee families. In December the Dream program donated second-hand computers to refugee families within this community to assist with educational studies.

IMPROVED PROGRAM DESIGN

An intensive 2 week planning workshop was attended by eight Dream volunteers. The aim of the workshop was to create and develop new content for the Building Character program. This material forms the basis for programs that will be offered in 2022.



ANCP ACCREDITATION

Australian Non-Government Cooperation Program (ANCP) is managed by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT). The program provides funding for accredited organisations of the program to improve developing nations and promote Australian national interests contributing to the reduction of poverty and positive growth of nations.



ACFID
MEMBER

ACFID MEMBERSHIP

Reledev, as a Member of ACFID, complies with the ACFID Code which guides good practice and ethical conduct in an effective, transparent and accountable way.



AUSTRALIAN CHARITY STATUS

Registered Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC). Reledev also has Deductible Gift Recipient status (DGR) through the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Donations over \$2 to Reledev are tax deductible in most cases.



FEEDBACK & COMPLAINTS

Reledev upholds the principal of transparency and welcomes feedback about our organisation or any of our projects. Feedback or any complaints may be made via email, phone or in writing to:

Reledev Australia

PO Box 224

Kingsford NSW 2032

email@reledev.org.au

Ph. +61 2 9663 2628

To make a complaint to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee, send an email to: code@acfid.asn.au

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