

Early childhood education in the Philippines. Helping children escape the cycle of poverty.

One of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is to achieve global primary education for all of the world's children by the year 2015. To support the MDGs and to prepare disadvantaged children optimally for primary school, the family and children's foundation "Karl Kübel Stiftung für Familie und Kind (KKS)" is implementing early childhood education projects in 30 villages in the Philippine province of Agusan del Sur in Mindanao.



The province of Agusan del Sur, Mindanao, is one of the poorest and most underdeveloped regions of the southern Philippines. And as a result of separatist conflicts that repeatedly flare up, the region is also seriously disadvantaged in terms of state services from the central government in Manila. The government's corresponding state education program (Education for All – EFA) reaches only 3% of all pre-school children. As a result the children often have no access to early childhood education, and if they do the quality is extremely poor and is not adequate to prepare them suitably for primary school. As a result of this many children do not attend primary school, or cease attending prematurely. But without an appropriate formal education they do not have the opportunity to acquire the basic knowledge necessary to find a good job later on, and hence to escape the vicious circle.

Particular attention is paid to children from very poor families. They also receive balanced meals in school, as many children are undernourished. In order to be able to improve the pre-school program in a sustainable manner, "JPIC-IDC", the local partner, is striving to achieve widespread networking. All the parties involved, such as the provincial government, the responsible social ministry, church organizations, school support staff, teachers, parents and the village communities, are included in the process. "JPIC-IDC" also places great importance on ensuring that the educational content is need-oriented. Because only if the children are educated and trained in a way that is adapted to their culture, their needs and their current situation, can they successfully complete their schooling, subsequently find a good job and hence a better future.

The project of the family and children's foundation "Karl Kübel Stiftung für Familie und Kind (KKS)", in cooperation with its local partner, "Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation – Integrated Development Center (JPIC-IDC)", intends to provide access to high-quality pre-school education in 30 villages in the province of Agusan del Sur. In order to ensure this, teachers of all educational levels will be regularly trained and the pre-school and school program will be suitably adapted. The parents will also be involved in the educational process so that the educational content and the values of the school match those of the parents.

Milestones:

- **Introduction of pre-school education in 30 villages in the province of Agusan del Sur, Mindanao**
- **2,100 schoolchildren, 700 families and 70 teachers benefit from the project**
- **At least 90% of all undernourished children receive a balanced diet**
- **Establishment of a network between school, parents, local authorities and church institutions**

Contribution of the UBS Optimus Foundation:
CHF 200,000 per year

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Thank you
This project was accomplished thanks to the commitment of UBS clients.