



**H L A F**



# About Us

The Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (HLAF) is a non-government and a non-profit organization registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Founded in 2001, HLAF envisions a world order founded on the universal respect for human rights, especially for the right and freedom against arbitrary and unjust imprisonment, in all its forms.



# Our Team

## Diversity.

We are a lean organization composed of staff coming from diverse backgrounds with different expertise.

## Inclusivity.

The age of our staff is as varied as our background: we employ young staff, as well as senior citizens.



## Authenticity.

We have lawyers, social workers, community organizers, and other professionals.

# Our Values

Loving Kindness and  
Non-Injury

Generosity and Non-  
Stealing

Honesty and Non-Lying

Moderation and Non-  
Excessiveness

Constancy of Aim and  
Effort (One-Pointedness)  
and Non-Laziness

# Our Philosophies

No person shall be deprived of liberty without due process of law.

Every person who is arbitrarily and unjustly deprived of liberty should be released immediately.

The Duty-Bearers, the Community, and the LGU are knowledgeable of the proper implementation of the law to ensure the right to liberty of persons are secured and protected.

Incarceration has unintended negative consequences to PDLs; this is the reason why they need to be reintegrated into their families and communities.

HLAF's projects should be designed to be institutionalized and replicated.



H L A F

# HLAF's Year of Perseverance



# 2020 HLAF's Year of Perseverance

A Calm Bearing of Challenges

The Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation Inc. was swift in adapting to the new normal.

- Work from home. Since HLAF has implemented the work from home scheme during the last quarter of 2019, it was easier for the organization to implement the scheme to respond to the pandemic.
- More frequent Kumustahan with the staff. HLAF also made staff meetings more frequent, as compared to the usual monthly meetings. As part of the work from home implementation, HLAF ensured the staff's internet connectivity, with the internet allowance and per diem for the meetings.
- Mental Health Care. Because the pandemic has taken a toll on many, HLAF was able to conduct mental health sessions to give space for processing most of our stakeholders' and beneficiaries' thoughts and suggestions.
- Online implementation of the projects. To ensure that HLAF keeps connection with our stakeholders, HLAF established the eSkwela Webinar Series and the eTambayan platform. Both are online mediums where duty bearers and beneficiaries can share their experiences and challenges while being in the Pandemic.

# Our Programs

---



Jail  
Decongestion



Center for  
Restorative Action



Focused Reintegration  
Program of Ex-Detainees

# Jail Decongestion



Jail Decongestion is HLA F's flagship program. It has been running since its establishment and has evolved from a traditional lawyering project into an alternative lawyering program aimed to decongest jails by focusing on the perspectives, attitudes, and knowledge of duty-bearers and the community.

The program focused on upholding human rights in jail facilities by capacitating both Persons Deprived of Liberty and Duty Bearers on the rights of PDLs during detention.

## Jail Decongestion

The program also handled Law Students Internship Program, where they are given a chance to immerse themselves with PDLs and jails and be nurtured with alternative lawyering and legal practice.

In 2020, HLAf pushed the limits of conducting Jail Decongestion by experimenting with online means of serving the needs of PDLs and Jail Officers and other duty bearers.

The continuous effort and activities made by HLAf made PDLs and Jail Officers comfortable and feel safe even while battling against the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Jail Decongestion Program in 2020

---

01

## Partnerships with Schools

HLAF capacitated Law Students with knowledge on Alternative Lawyering and Legal Practice. Interns and Volunteers helped HLAf follow up and consult cases, conduct training in jails, and facilitate the release of PDLs.

---

02

## Task Force Katarungan at Kalayaan

HLAF organized the TFKK, a platform to link agencies to help PDLs receive the right to a speedy trial. This is formed by several services and office members who aim to dispose of cases in certain timely criteria.

03

## HLAF Paralegal Trainings

These are activities to educate and equip PDLs, Jail Guards, and other jail personnel on legal and informative matters to the Rights, Welfare, and Well-being of PDLs.

---

04

## HLAF Welfare Missions in Jails

The Welfare Missions in Jails are donations of necessities, goods, and medicines for PDLs severely affected by the pandemic.

## **Jails in the time of COVID-19: A ticking time bomb**

Crowded detention facilities are fertile grounds for highly communicable diseases, especially during the pandemic where no one knows if they carry the virus. Although face masks have been distributed to all detainees, many say it is uncomfortable to wear them in the sweltering summer heat and in spaces that are so cramped that it is impossible to walk two steps without bumping into someone else.



## HLAF's Face Masks and Disinfectants distribution

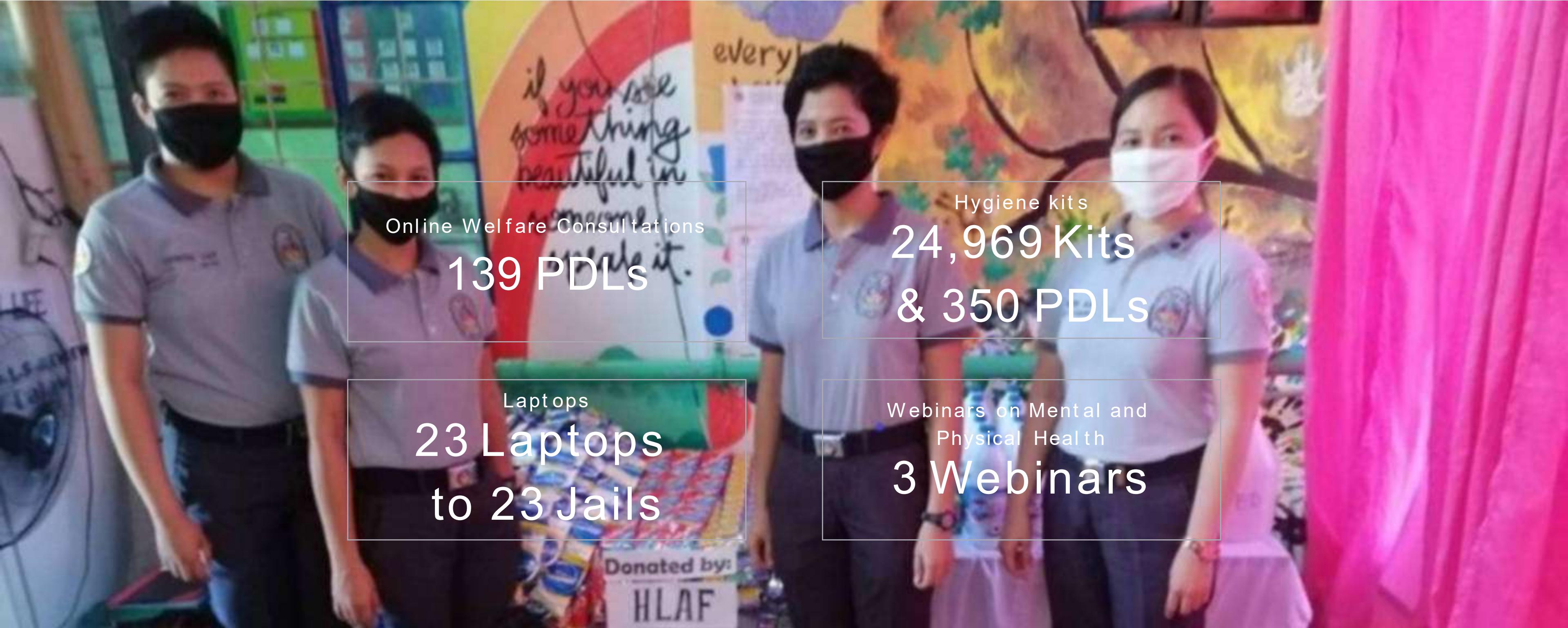
Together with the generous donors who partnered with us, especially the MCKSCaring Heart Foundation, we were able to distribute 34,850 Masks and 51 Liters of Disinfectant to Jails in Metro Manila and nearby areas Bicol Region, and in some parts of Mindanao.

Face Masks Distribution  
**34,850 Masks**

Disinfectants  
**51 Liters**



**HLAF**



Online Welfare Consultations

**139 PDLs**

Laptops

**23 Laptops  
to 23 Jails**

Hygiene kits

**24,969 Kits  
& 350 PDLs**

Webinars on Mental and  
Physical Health

**3 Webinars**

Our Online Welfare Consultations made Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) comfortable and reduced their stress due to the limited time offered by their families' online visitations. The Mental and Physical Health Webinars created an alley for PDLs and Jail Officers to promote their welfare and well-being during the Pandemic's challenges.



## Partner Law Schools



### Online Alternative Lawyering Practice

We capacitated Law Students on Alternative Lawyering and Legal Practice and equipped them with dignity and value for human rights in jails and the community, even online. We also accepted volunteers and undergraduate students to help us in discussions, case consultations, and follow-ups.



## Case Consultations and Online Discussions together with Law Students

We were able to give law students the opportunity to discuss topics in the Paralegal Trainings such as Introduction to Law, Criminal Law, the Modes of Release, Criminal Procedure, Public Speaking, Affidavit Making, the Safe Spaces Act, Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 or the Republic Act 9165, and Plea Bargaining.

## HLAF TESTIMONIES

We thank HLAf for increasing our knowledge and wisdom on legal rights and matters that we can use for ourselves and our fellow PDLs. This we can use even after our release.

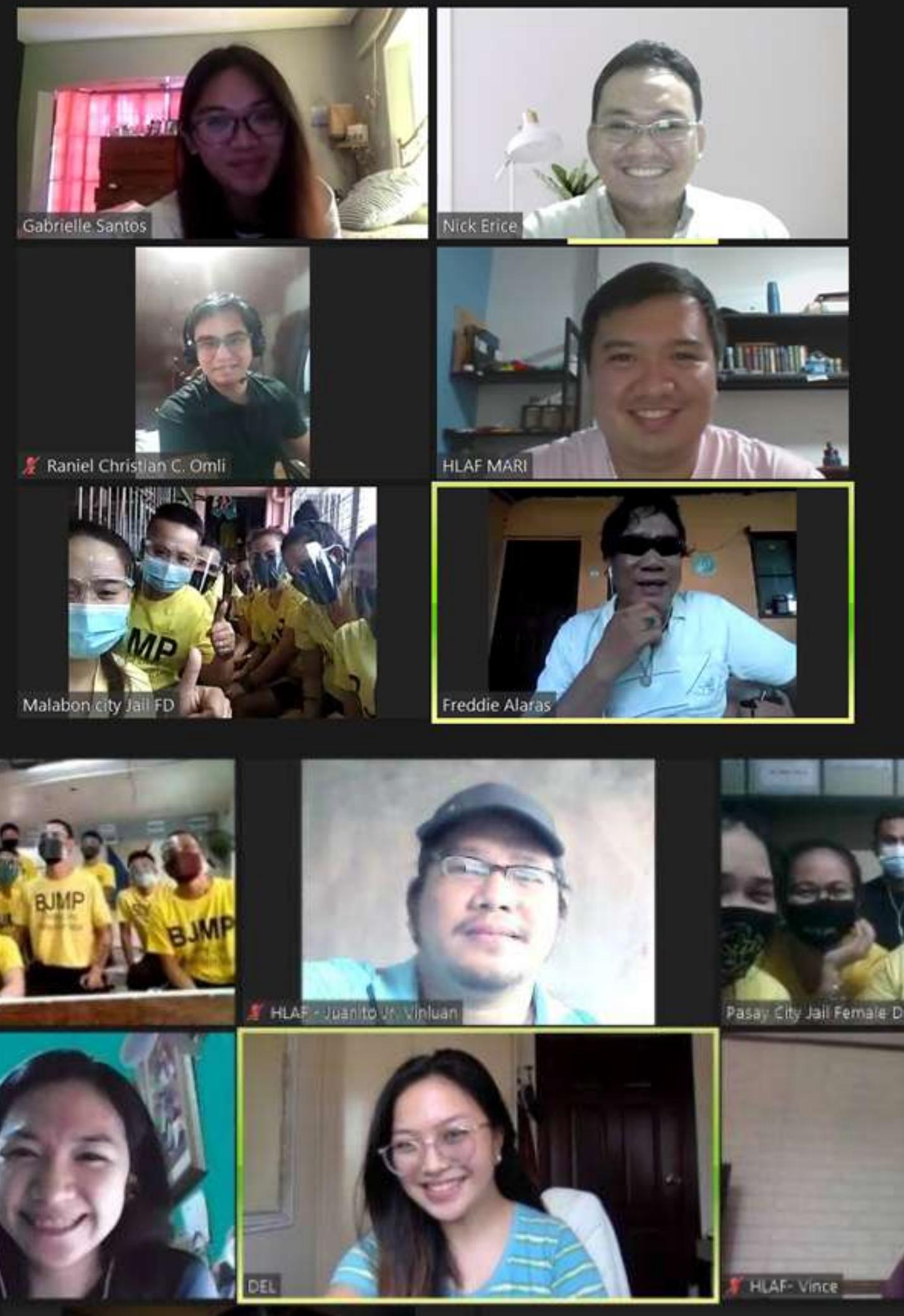
- A PDL from Angeles District Jail  
Female Dorm



HLAF

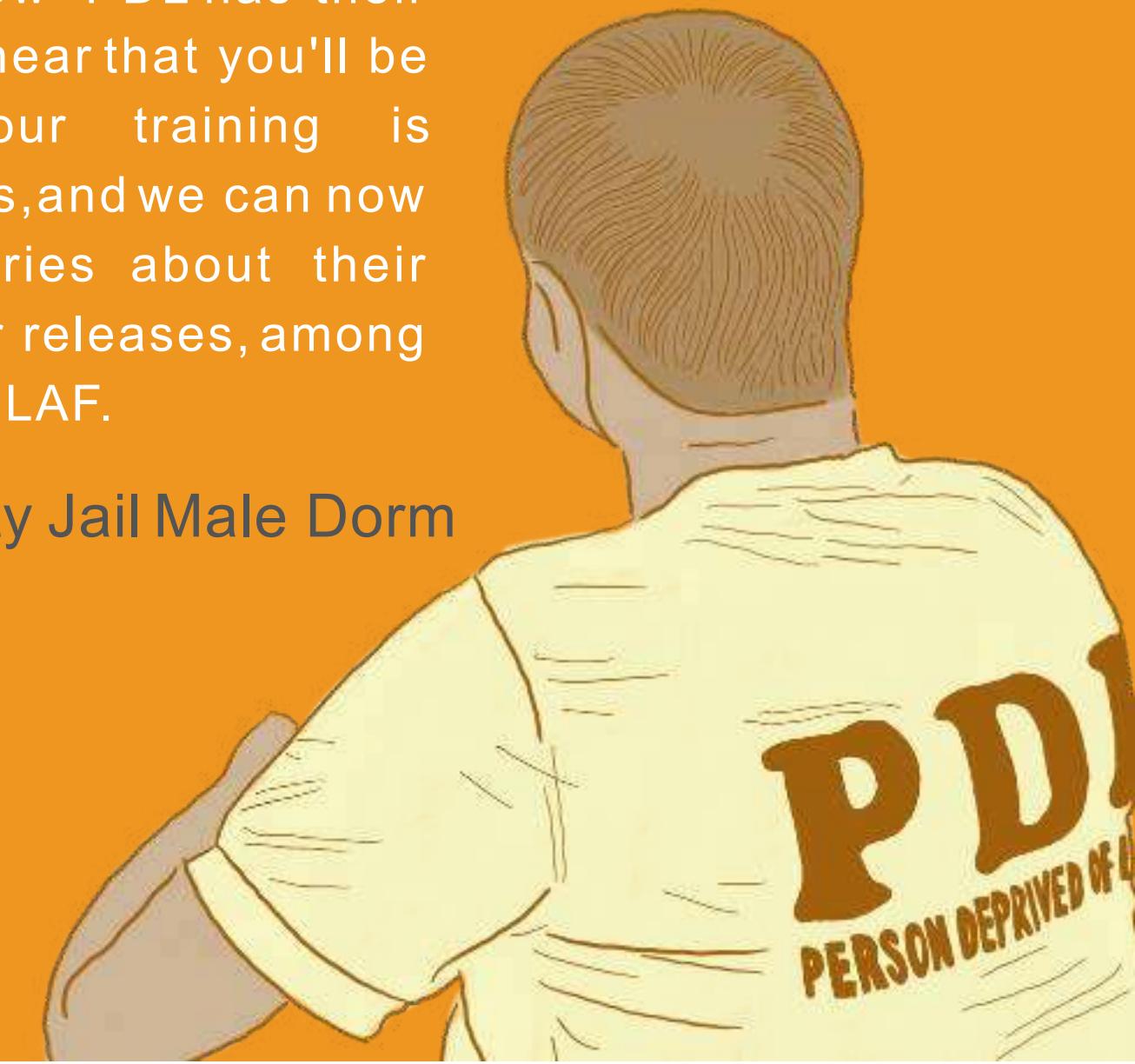
BARAS  
PDL

## HLAF TESTIMONIES



First of all, we would like to give God praise for your lives and bring us hope. Words cannot describe the things you instil in us; your advocacies are what change people. We, PDLs, are grateful, even if you can't see it personally. Most of my fellow PDL has their eyes shining whenever they hear that you'll be around, even online. Your training is beneficial to our fellow PDLs, and we can now answer most of their queries about their hearings, the process of their releases, among others. Thank you so much, HLAF.

- A PDL from Cabuyao City Jail Male Dorm





HLAF with scholars and volunteers of the Ateneo de Naga University - College of Law, our team went to Naga City District jail and Camarines Sur Provincial jail to conduct jail visits and paralegal training January 27-31, 2020.



## About The Task Force Katarungan at Kalayaan Where TFKK came from

The task force aims to timely dispose of cases by reviewing these through a set of criteria. Since then, it has significantly contributed to the resolution of cases of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs).



In the Philippines, trials typically take several years to begin, two or three to complete, and two or three more if the outcome is appealed. The Task Force Katarungan at Kalayaan (TFKK) served as a doorbell for the Malabon Regional Trial Court to expedite the lawful release of the PDLs (Persons Deprived of Liberty).



Our continuous effort to establish the Task Force Katarungan at Kalayaan in Malabon City made Executive Judge Hon. Ma. Antonia L. Largoza-Cantero and TFKK Malabon Chair Hon. Judge Misael M. Ladaga realize their efforts are vital to the speedy release of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs). In an interview, he told us that "We're still trying to be independent since HLAf established this great network for PDLs."

**Judge Misael M. Ladaga**  
Malabon Regional Trial Court Judge





We supported TFKK Malabon Chair Hon. Judge Misael M. Ladaga in spearheading the meeting committed to tackling jail and court congestion issues and focusing on resolving them. The discussion on the updates and issues concerning the CICL(children in conflict with the law) were also addressed.

## Jail and Court Decongestion





HLAF\_Melvin Caymo



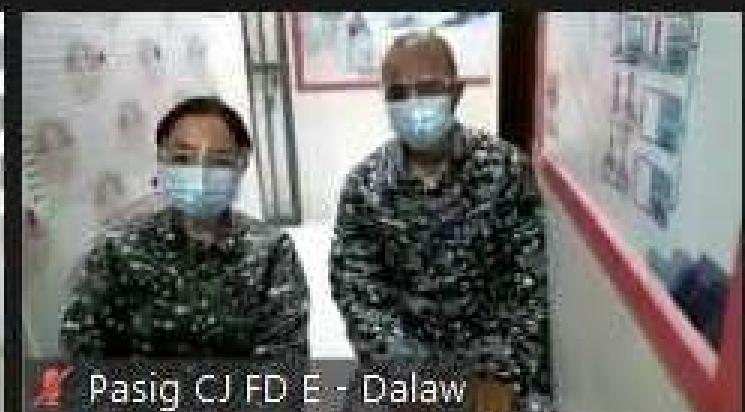
HLAF Juanito Vinluan Jr.



HLAF\_aubree sadural



Danilo Cruz



Pasig CJ FD E - Dalaw



Pasig City Admin Jeron...



Zenaida Concepcion



Pasig City Assistant Cit...



noel paz



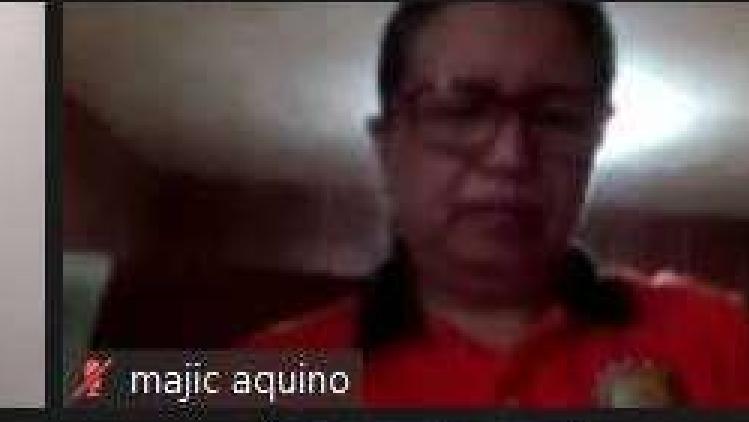
Nick Erice



1/2  
EJ Nena Santos



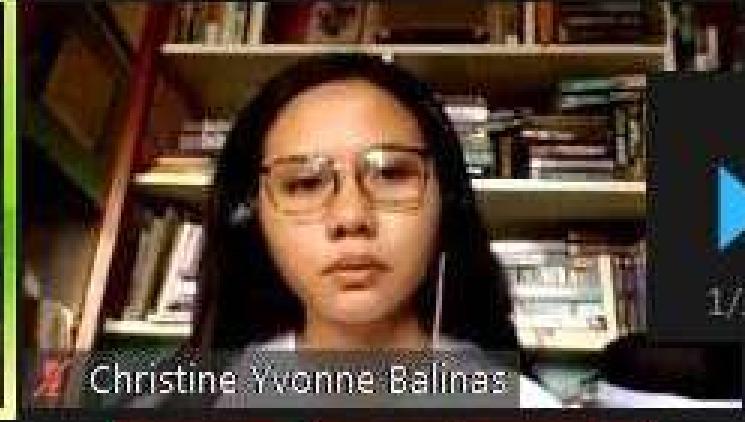
HLAf - Rommel Alim A...



majic aquino



Vico Sotto



1/2  
Christine Yvonne Balinas

## TFKK in Pasig City, San Juan City, and Pateros City

We also facilitated the first Online Task Force Katarungan at Kalayaan, supported by Hon. Danilo S. Cruz, Executive Judge of Pasig RTC, Mayor Vico Sotto of Pasig City, and attended by San Juan and Pasig City Male and Female dorms in spearheading the meeting tackling the issues on jail and court congestion and focusing on resolving most PDL's concern.

# **Formation of Paralegal Aides through Paralegal Trainings**

## **Discussions**

We made Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) aware of their rights and the criminal procedure they will undergo. We also trained them on the Pillars of the Philippine Criminal Justice System.

The trainings prepared them to be the educators of fellow PDLs since they have now been equipped with further knowledge on their rights, welfare, and well-being and the lawful procedures they will undergo.



# Our 2020 Accomplishment

## PDLs Released

# 1,728 PDLs

# HLAF's Direct Release

# 23 PDLs

# Indirect Release with the help of the Paralegal Aides

1,705 PDLs

## Case Consultations

757

# Cases

## Case Follow-ups Conducted

1,089

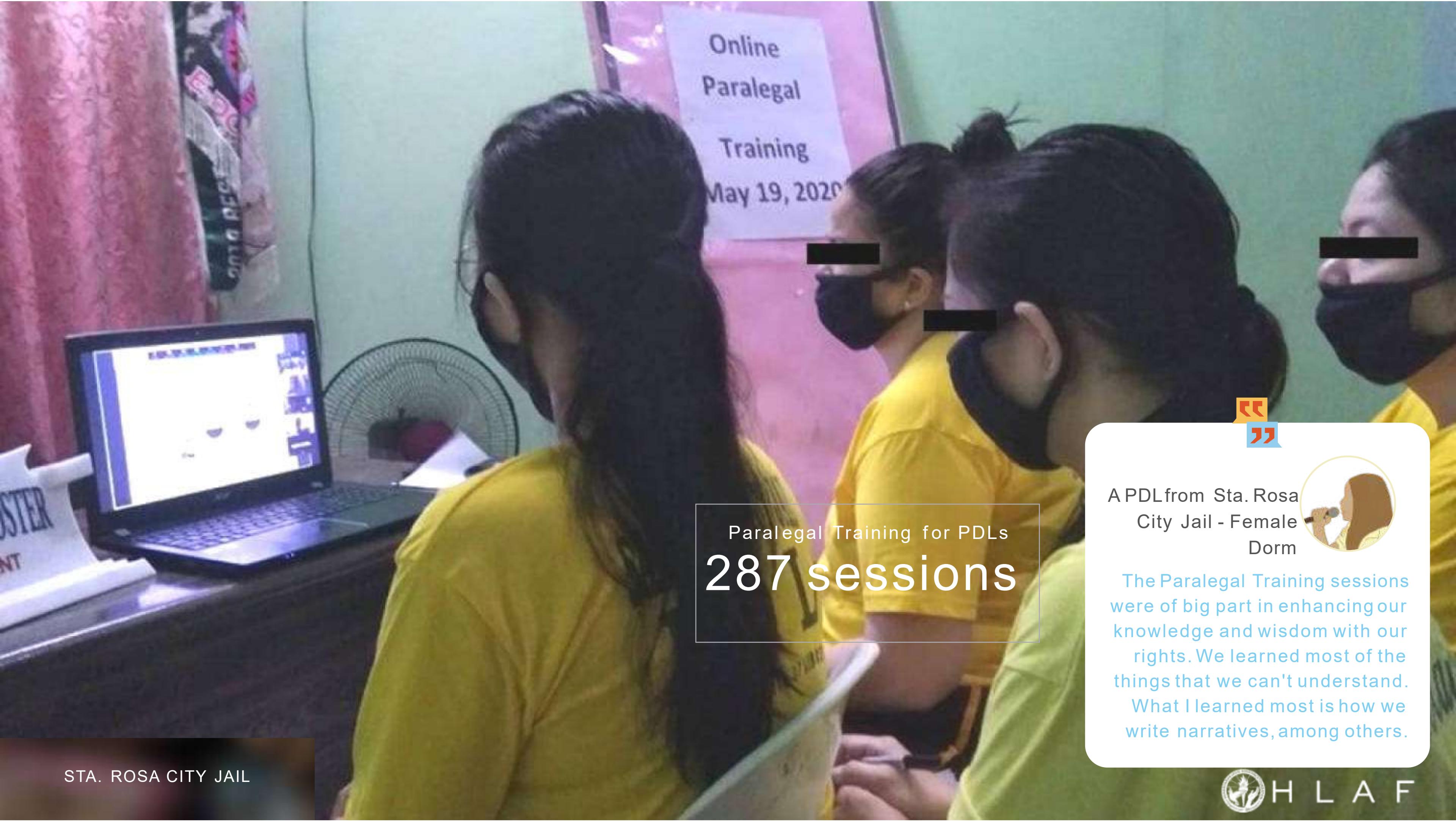
# Follow-ups

## BARAS MUNICIPAL JAIL

Baras Municipal Jail- Male & Female dorm was the first jail to accept and agree with HLAF's online activities

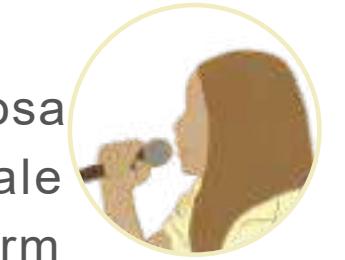


HLAE

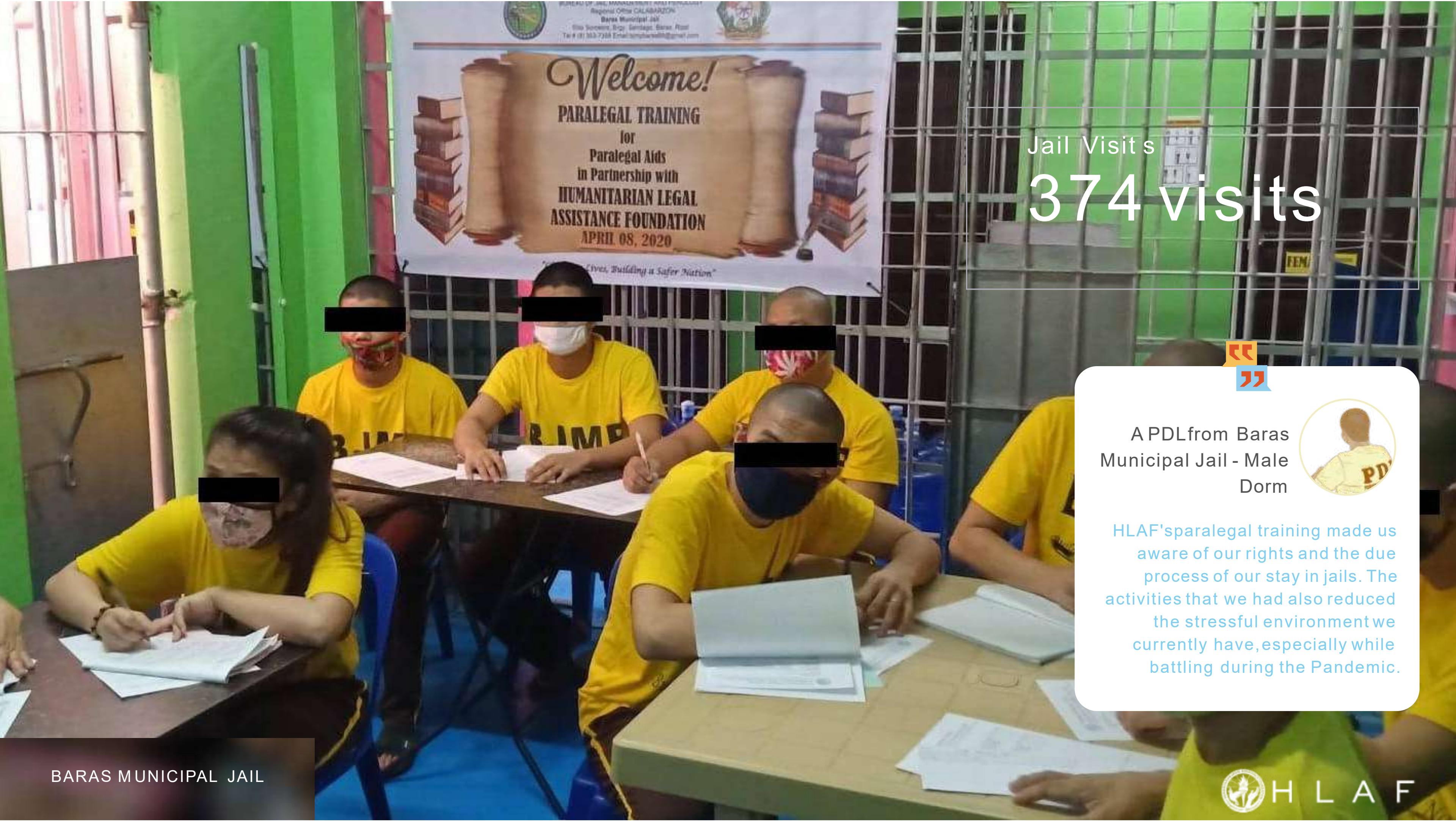


Paralegal Training for PDLs  
**287 sessions**

A PDL from Sta. Rosa  
City Jail - Female  
Dorm



The Paralegal Training sessions were of big part in enhancing our knowledge and wisdom with our rights. We learned most of the things that we can't understand. What I learned most is how we write narratives, among others.



Jail Visits  
374 visits

A PDL from Baras  
Municipal Jail - Male  
Dorm



HLAF's paralegal training made us aware of our rights and the due process of our stay in jails. The activities that we had also reduced the stressful environment we currently have, especially while battling during the Pandemic.



Jails with Paralegal Aides  
orienting New Fellow Paralegal  
Aides

# 8 Jails

Quezon City Jail -  
Female Dorm

We are very grateful for the  
paralegal training sessions  
you have given us. For  
nurturing us with the law and  
with your time and effort.  
Thank you, HLAFA. Until we  
meet again



HLAFA

# Basic Orientation Seminar

## August 01, 2020

Jails with Established  
Paralegal Aides

# 35 Jails

Jails taught on the use of HLAf's  
Detainees Notebook

# 5 Jails

Basic Orientation  
Seminar by PDLs



Malaking tulong po ito sa aming kapwa PDL. Nagkakaroon po kami ng kaalaman kung ano po yung mangyayari sa amin dito sa loob, paano ang mga proseso, at kung ano ang pwede namin gawin habang nandito. Maraming salamat po sa HLAf.

The Paralegal Training plays a big part for us and our fellow PDL. We have added new knowledge and the processes that we will be undergoing. We also understood things that we are allowed to do.

Thank you so much, HLAf.



JO1 Eliza Amor B. Literal,  
Makati City Jail Male  
Dorm  
October 16-17, 2020 | Online  
Paralegal Training Seminar

The talk is well delivered. It is also good that there is a sharing of best practices among the jails. If there are other topics that I would want to tackle is Criminal procedure, perhaps. I think this will give us paralegal officers a glimpse of the procedure and know the available remedies our clientele could use relative to their cases.

Paralegal Training for Jail  
Officers

32 Jails

JD Training for Community  
Volunteers & Legal Aid Clinics

11 Organizations

Establishment of Task Force  
Katarungan at Kalayaan

3 Cities





## Capacitating Jail Officers and Duty Bearers

We also capacitated Jail Officers, Duty Bearers, and Community Volunteers to remind them of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) rights through Awareness Raising, Common Issues Discussions, Knowledge Sharing, and identify their needs to help resolve them through better paralegal service. The common topics discussed in this training were the Philippine Criminal Justice System, Salient Points of Criminal law, Penal Laws, and the issues of PDLs in Jails.



We were able to distribute 23 Laptops, 60 Tablets, and 15 Televisions to Philippine Jails for their online use, such as in e-Dalaw, e-Hearing, Paralegal Activities, and other jail activities.



HLAF



Laptops

23 Laptops

Tablets

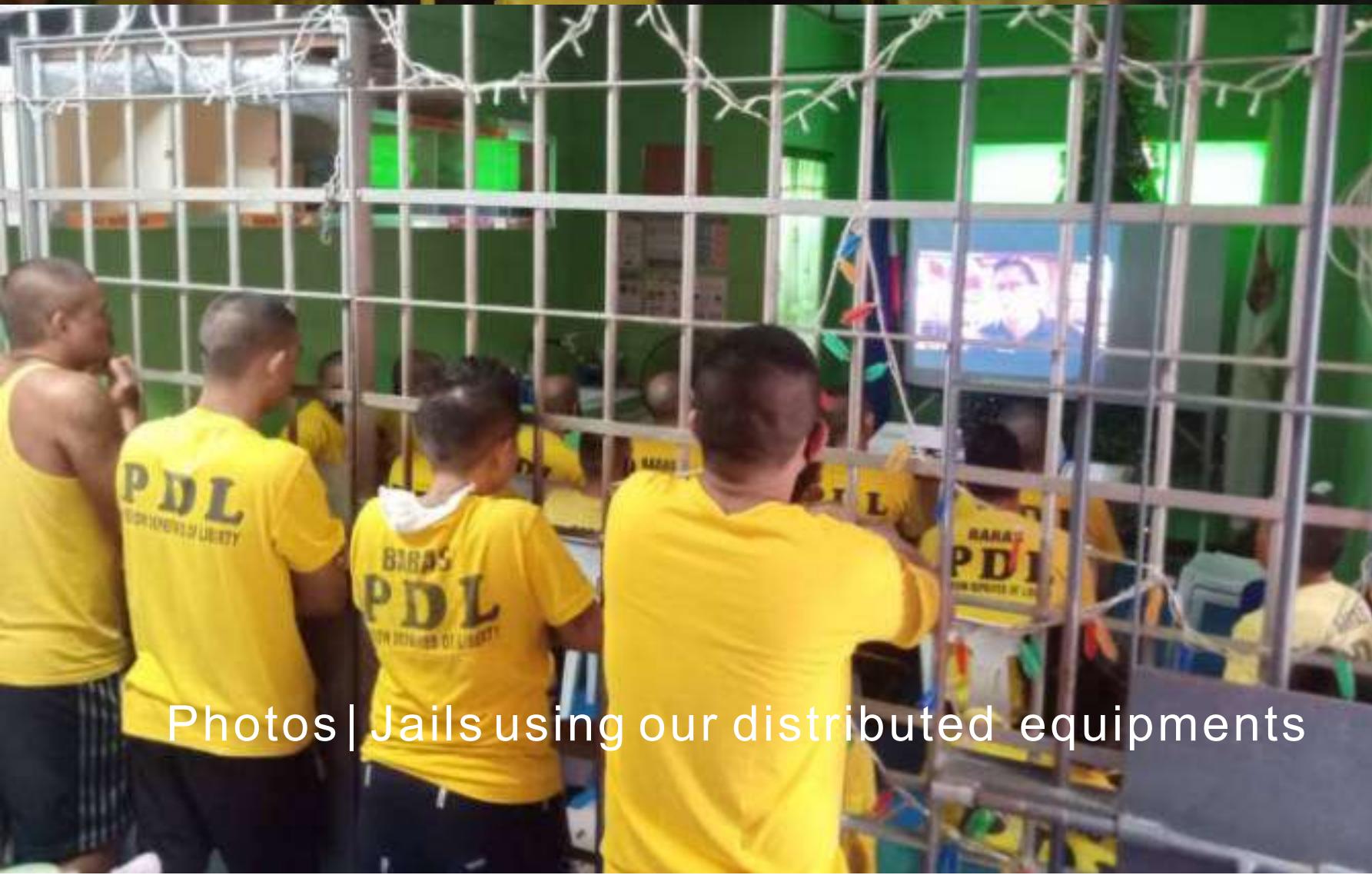
60 Tablets

Televisions

15 TVs  
to 15 Jails

Not only we were able to donate for the PDLs' welfare and well-being, but with the support of The Asia Foundation and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, we were able to distribute this equipment to Philippine Jails for their online use, such as in e-Dalaw, e-Hearing, Paralegal Activities, and other jail activities.



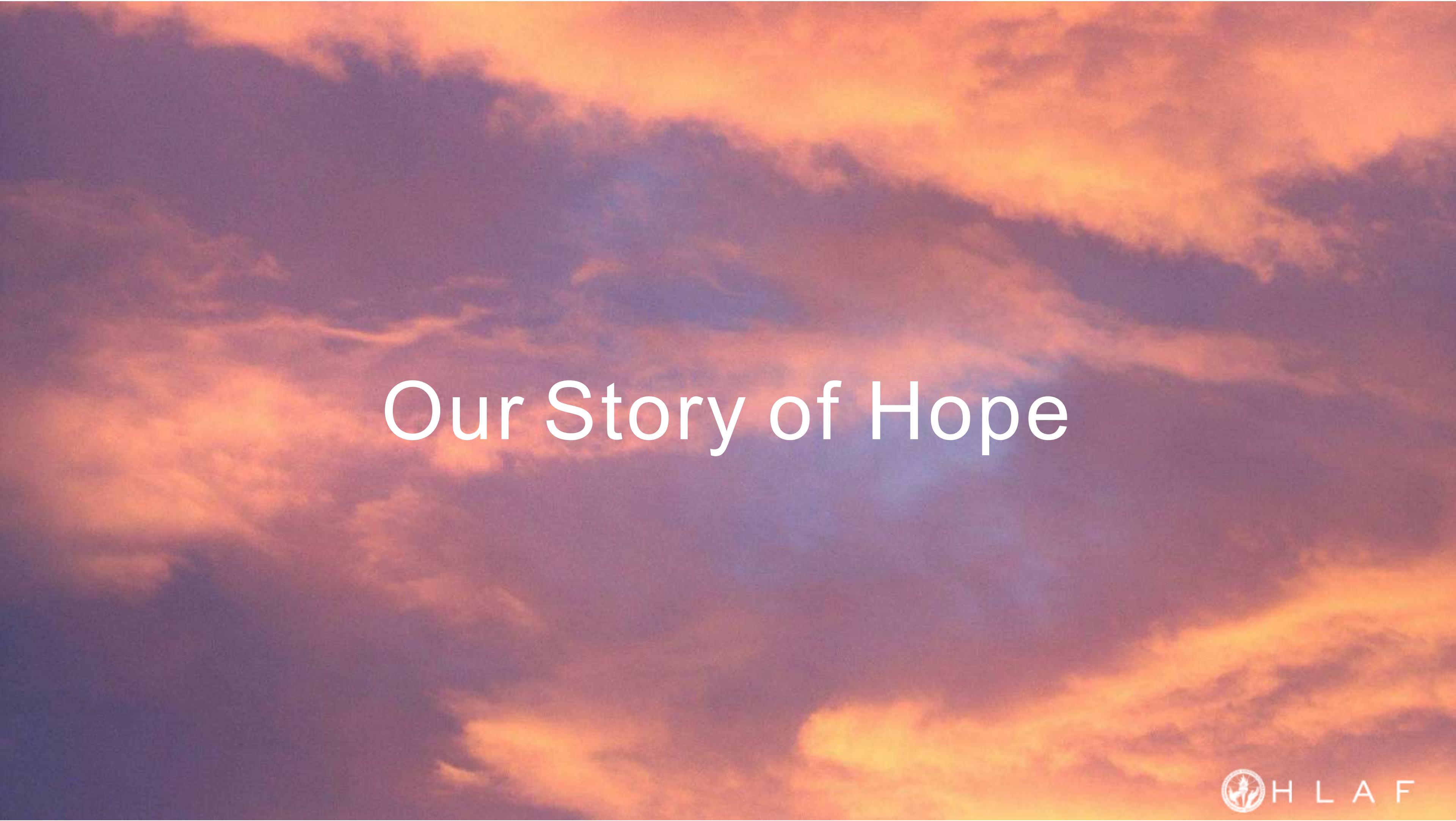


Photos | Jails using our distributed equipments



We were featured on ABS-CBNNews quoting:

"A non-government organization has donated thousands of face masks to jails in Metro Manila, and nearby Rizal province to help prison personnel and persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) protect themselves from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).".



# Our Story of Hope

## HLAF facilitates the release of a PDL in Sorsogon City by coordinating with the Court in Catbalogan

Ms. Melissa Platino remained in the custody of Sorsogon City District Jail under a bench warrant issued by Judge Odelon S. Mabutin of MTCC Catbalogan for another Theft case against Ms. Platino with case no. Y14-K-51. For this reason, Sorsogon City District Jail was obliged to hold her in custody pending further orders from MTCC Catbalogan. According to Mr. Ronald Bachao, clerk of the Court of MTCC Catbalogan, Ms. Platino, who has not yet been arraigned, posted bail for her provisional liberty. At the same time, her case was a pending trial, and she failed to appear before the court despite sufficient notice. Hence, the court issued a bench warrant for her arrest, but for failure to receive a return of the warrant, her case was archived in 2015. On the other hand, Ms. Melissa B. Platino explained that she did not receive any subpoenas from MTCC Catbalogan, which led to her failure to appear before the court.

During our interview, Ms. Melissa is emotional and extended her appreciation to the HLAf for helping her on the case, "Maraming Salamat po sa HLAf sa pagkonsidera ng kasok; sana po ay makalabas na rin po ako. HLAf coordinated with J01 Jeremeo Calosor, the paralegal officer of the Sorsogon City District Jail. With further help from PAO Sorsogon and PAO Catbalogan, the MTCC Catbalogan recalled the bench warrant, and Ms. Melissa Platino was released under the provisional remedy of the same bail on October 2, 2020. Ms. Milagrosa Hular, one of the PDLs in the Sorsogon City District Jail, shared through a text message the good news and extended her gratitude to the HLAf, "Sa HLAf, thank you so much po sa tulong. Release na po kahapon si Melissa Platino." With proper coordination and consistent case-follow up, the case of Ms. Melissa Platino in MTCC Catbalogan was opened, and she was now released.

The Asia Foundation



# The Asia Foundation



The Bureau of International  
Narcotics and Law  
Enforcement Affairs

# Center for Restorative Action



This program was developed to address the lack of training centers and trainers on restorative justice and juvenile justice to empower communities to live out Restorative Justice, values of Accountability, Peace, Dignity, Respect, and healing in their conflict management program.

# Center for Restorative Action



The Center for Restorative Action (CRA) is a trailblazing HLAf program. It was developed to address the lack of a training center and trainers to provide knowledge and resource on restorative justice and juvenile justice. For the last eight years, CRA has proven that the Philippine Juvenile Justice and Welfare System is implementable in the Barangays (local communities). For this program cycle, HLAf will continue to provide LGU's, law enforcement officers, social workers, legal practitioners, children's rights workers, volunteers, and other stakeholders with innovative and leading methodologies in handling CAR and CICL cases.

In 2020, HLAf transformed community organizing and proved that it is possible to organize communities, even online.

# Center for Restorative Action

---

01

## Empowering Duty-Bearers to protect Children

We noticed that Duty Bearers enhanced their skills and attitudes, most especially those of Local councils for the protection of children (BCPC, MCPC, CCPC, PCPC) on Human rights, Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice and Mainstreaming children's issue on multi-level Local Governance

02

## Social Engagements and #ChildrenNotCriminals Advocacy

Our Advocacy Campaigns made stakeholders, and duty bearers realize that the lowering of the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility is not needed, rather than the proper implementation of existing laws should be practiced

03

## Online Learning Sessions

The Learning Sessions conducted increased knowledge on Human Rights, Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice, and on Mainstreaming Children's issues on the responsiveness of the Multi-level Local Government Units and Communities involved

04

## Assisting Cases of Children through Online Mentoring

The direct mentoring sessions made by us assisted in how our stakeholders assist cases of children. They were also mentored and regularly checked on how they document and conduct plans and interventions for children



## Empowering Duty Bearers

We organized and facilitated training workshops for duty bearers and stakeholders to capacitate them in areas beneficial to children, especially the Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). This includes training workshops for the councils on the barangay and city-level, law enforcers, and other duty-bearers

The continuous mentoring sessions with our partners and beneficiaries made effective processes and solutions to discuss issues concerning children involved in illicit drugs



PHOTO:HLAF with the re-strengthened Manila Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC)Secretariat Committee at Ciudad Christia 9 waves, Rizal, March 4, 2020

The Manila LCPC Secretariat is composed of the Manila Department of Social Welfare, City Planning and Development Office, City Budget Office, City Treasury Office, and City Accounting Office.

#LCPNgGumagalaw #ParaSaBata

Manila City Council  
for the Protection  
of Children

Organizations Mentored

28

# Organizations

Duty Bearers Mentored

265

# Duty Bearers

Cases of Children Assisted through Mentoring

52 Cases

### Areas:

Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC)(Quezon City District 5, Manila City, Malabon City, Benguet, Camarines Norte, Tacloban, San Francisco Del Monte, Navotas City)

### Areas:

Malabon Bahay Pag-Asa, Juvenile Justice and Welfare Committee, Malabon Bahay Sandigan, Navotas Bahay Pag-Asa

### Areas:

City Council for the Protection of Children (CCPC)(Manila, Malabon, Daet, Bato, Baras, Virac, Gigmoto)

### Areas:

City Social Welfare & Development Office (CSWDO)(Makati, Trece Martires, San Lorenzo Ruiz, Talisay, Camarines Norte DILG)



HLAF CRA-Claude Almadin



HLAF - Melvin Nuñez



LGU BATO



Emy Moya Blanquisco Torrefiel



HLAF - Rommel Alim Abitria



Gigmoto LCPC



Igú virac



Charlene Mayne Tatua



Ma. Victoria D. Gonzales



Erma Tud



Jehu Laniog



Ren Garingo -CF

The Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Network (CAPIN) Program is Consuelo Foundation's (CF) community-based child protection advocacy program. It advocates for adopting child-sensitive practices and mechanisms in the prevention and management of child abuse, neglect, and exploitation (CANE) cases.

Strengthening and Empowering the Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Network (CAPIN) in Catanduanes

L A F

# HLAF TRAININGS



Ms. Elsa, MSWDO  
September 1, 2020 | LCPC and  
BCPC Functionality Review



Ang natutunan ko sa topic na ito ay ang mga iba't ibang batas patungkol sa mga karapatan ng mga bata. Ito ay karagdagang kaalaman para sa akin.

Napakahalaga na ang bawat komunidad ay magkaroon ng mga counselling sa bawat magulang para alam din nila.

**TRANSLATION:** The things I learned from the topics were different laws that protect children's rights. This serves as additional knowledge for my growth so that we can implement the law better. Communities must have counseling programs for Parents as well.



HLAF



## HLAF TESTIMONIES



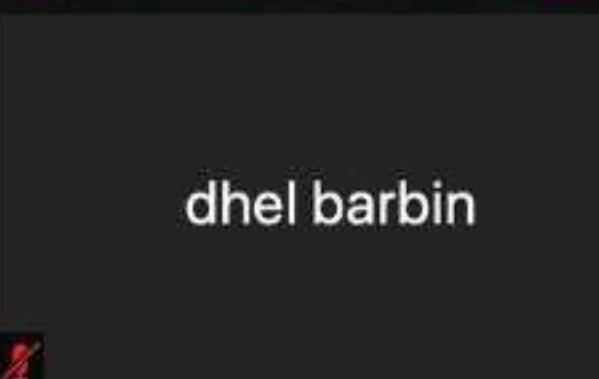
Ms. Kate, MSWDO

Municipality of Baras, Catanduanes  
July 30, 2020 | Online Training  
of Mentors in the CAPIN (Child  
Abuse Prevention and  
Intervention Network) Project in  
Catanduanes Province



Maraming modules na makakatulong  
sa amin sa pag implement ng  
programa namin para sa mga bata.  
Pagkatapos nito, maiaapply ko ang  
mga natutunan ko sa mga kasamahan  
ko sa community, LCPC, PNP, BCPC, at  
barangays.

**TRANSLATION:** The training covered many modules that will help us implement our local programs for children. After this, I will apply the knowledge and experience I built to my community and other duty-bearers such as the Local Council for the Protection of Children, the Philippine National Police, and other Barangay members.



ProAct is a project by Save the Children Philippines together with Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc - HLAf which aims to build on the initiatives of the city in protecting children and further enhance the city's services to provide the best possible interventions to the children of Malabon

Protecting Children in the Anti-Illegal Drugs Campaign (ProAct) in Malabon City



The Learning Sessions aimed to increase knowledge on Human Rights, Juvenile Justice, Restorative justice, and on Mainstreaming Children's Issues on Multi-Level Local Governance that is responsive to the communities' needs and facilitated.

Learning Sessions

18

Activities:

BCPCCCommonwealth Paralegal Training, Manila CCPCFunctionality Training, Malabon Bahay Pagasa Sensitivity Training, CRNWebinar on DILG-CWCJMC,CRNWebinar on Handling CICL CRNWebinar on JJWA, Learning Sessionon Child Sensitivity with Malabon BPA Learning Sessionon Curfew implementation at Brgy Catmon, Learning Sessionon Curfew implementation at San Lorenzo Ruiz, Camarines Norte, Learning Sessionon Child and Gender Sensitivity with Malabon SKs,Talisay, Camarines Norte Learning Session on BCPC,Manila CCPC Learning Session on SGLG,Region 1 Juvenile Justice and Welfare Committee, CARJuvenile Justice and Welfare Committee on JJWA,CARJuvenile Justice and Welfare Committee on the Role of SKin JJWA Implementation

Webinars:

Ang Bata at Curfew sa Panahon ng Pandemic, Preparing For Disaster and Calamities in the Context of Pandemic, Contemporary Models of Therapeutic Community in Asia,Substance Use Intervention Series

# Learning Session Feedbacks

"Very Happy dahil Malaki yung naitulong nung discussion ngayon dahil ako ay yung in charge sa child protection sa PSWDO ng Davao Del Norte ay maapply ko siya sa trabaho para sa protection ng mga bata. At sakto ay magplan kami to enhance yung local plan of action para sa disaster na aspeto. Kaya Malaki yung pasasalamat ko".

**TRANSLATION:** I am glad that I was part of the training because it allowed me to understand the law; the discussions helped me since I was in charge of the Child Protection program of our office in Davao del Norte. I can apply the experiences learned in my duty to protect children. And the timing is also exact since we will be planning our enhancement of the local plan of action for disasters soon. I am very grateful.

"Kailangan i-maintain young ganitong klaseng meeting (mentoring session) para nakakapag-usap kami (BCPC Federation) at nare-resolve ang mga problemang kinakaharap. Parang nakaka-motivate na magwork. Nag-aalab yung kalooban ko to do the field work again".

**TRANSLATION:** We have to maintain this kind of mentoring meeting so that the Barangay Council's offices for the Protection of Children Federation can talk and coordinate well about resolving children's cases and future problems we may encounter. This training and meetings motivate us to work harder and also ignites passion in our work.

# Ano ang ibig sabihin nito: ang MGA BATA ay may RIGHT TO BE HEARD?



Mapakinggan ang kanilang opinyon  
at saloobin

Mahalagang malaman natin ang  
kanilang saloobin

Know their sides and opinions

Pakinggan ang lahat ng kanilang  
karapatan bilang bata

sila ay may karapatang mabuhay ng  
malaya at malayo sa panganib at  
karahasan

sila ay mapakinggan at mabigyan ng  
karapatan na iexpress ang kanilang  
mga nasa isipan

Karapatan ng bata na mardinig ang  
bases nila

Ang opinyon o pagtingin ng isang  
bata sa isang sitwasyon ay mahalaga

May karapatan ang mga bata na  
mapakinggan ang kanilang hinaing at  
matugunan ang kanilang reklamo

## Bakit kailangang maunawaan ng BCP, ng BADAC at ng PNP ang UNCRC?

Upang mapanatili ang karapatan ng  
bata

right

pra mgampanan ng maayos ang  
trabaho

para malaman ang mga protocols s  
paghawak ng mga bata

Para hindi malabag ang karapatan  
ng bata

Para lubos na matugunan ang  
pangangailangan ng mga bata lalo't  
higit sa international law

Para magkaron po ng maayos na  
pamamaraan sa pag process ng mga  
bata

Para malaman ang karapatan at  
khalagahan ng bata

Para malaman ang bawat reklamo ng  
mga karapatan ng bata

Online and Frequent Interactions



# AGENDA:



Updates since our  
last training

Milestones  
Challenges  
Mentoring activities  
Mentoring needs



Anong impact |  
result ng ginagawa  
natin?

SA LGU?  
Sa Barangay?



Anong nakikita niyong  
direksyon ng LCPC at CAPIN?



Online and Frequent Interactions



HLAF - Armand



HLAF - Rommel Alim Abitria



BCPC Fed President Ramo...



HLAF- Jana C.



SK Dampalit Paolo Jay Cruz



HLAF - Sittie



SK Longos Margarette Foz



HLAF Vernon



HLAF Kath



SK Ibaba



Emy Moya Blanquisco Torr...



HLAF- June



HLAF CRA-Claude Almadin



HLAF- Daniela



SK Maysilo Philip Custodio



SK Staff Xyza



SK BARITAN - Emil Gungon



SK TAÑONG 1994



SK Hulo Abigail bersales



L. Suam H L A F

## Malabon Unified Protocol in Handling Children

The Unified Protocol in Handling Children Workshop in Malabon made local duty-bearers handle cases of children more effective since they were trained on proper ways on topics such as Documentation, Referral, Reporting and Handling Children's Cases in their areas,



Dominic Gapas

Elevating Knowledge and Skills

The workshops, training, and seminars facilitated increased knowledge on Human rights, Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice, and Mainstreaming children's issues on multi-level Local Governance that is responsive to the communities' needs.





## Raising Community Awareness & Enhancing Coordination among Duty- Bearers

We also raised community awareness on Human rights, Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice, and Mainstreaming children's issue in the community. Our capacitated duty bearers enhanced coordination, among others, which include those in the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippine National Police, Local Council for the Protection of Children, and the Barangay Councils who serves as the Multi-disciplinary team for Children's rights.

## Social Engagement and Learning Partners



The Center for Social Concern and Action of both De La Salle University-Manila & College of Saint Benilde partners with us to create an avenue for students to be aware and engage with our advocacies, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. This is seen as a vital role in today's generation, especially for the youth, in being part of eye-opening social concerns. Moreover, like their counterparts in HLAFA, their skills and talents are being used to produce and enhance the social materials we have. We currently have students from the Business, Management, Communications, Psychology, Animation, and other Courses that the university offers.



## NGOs oppose lowering age of criminal responsibility

Sunstar / Juliet C. Revita / Feb 25, 2020



Child Abuse Prevention and  
Intervention Network (CAPIN)  
Project



**Save the Children**

Protecting Children in the  
Campaign Against Illegal Drugs  
(PROACT)Project

# Our Story of Hope

## HLAF Trainee now a Trainor

Eliseo Alberto N. Pura is a duty bearer in Daet, Camarines Sur. He was a trainee of HLAf in the SIMULA project years ago. He was recently invited to be a guest speaker for our CAPIN project in Catanduanes, where he shared his experience on HLAf's training and mentoring session. He said that HLAf was a big part of his improvement in serving his community.

Currently, his community in Camarines Sur serves as an example to nearby areas and his knowledge and experiences from the project we implemented.

## Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees



This program was established to address the lack of a reintegration program for newly released PDLs to heal the lives of PDLs in need of a second chance. The program's goal is to rightfully reintegrate PDLs into their communities and create a safe space to reduce the stigma against PDLs.

The Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees (FRED) is another cutting-edge HLAf Program designed to address a very glaring gap in the Philippine criminal justice system: the fate of Persons Deprived of Liberty after being released. For this program cycle, HLAf's FRED Program will address the individual needs of the former PDLs by restoring their psychological, emotional, and spiritual needs in the context of his/her family. HLAf will also capacitate the community to be responsive to the needs of the former PDLs.

## Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees



In 2020, the Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees (FRED) took advanced steps in coordinating and making local government units realize that PDLs and Former PDLs lives are vital, in which they would spearhead the establishment of the FRED management committee that would give PDLs and former ones more access to their reintegration in the community.

HLAF has also prepared 135 PDLs for their release by nurturing them with values formation, life skills training, and debriefing sessions.

# Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees

---

01

## Stories of Reintegration

HLAF helps PDLs with their mental health and provides continuous guidance and support for Ex-Detainees

03

## Fostering Discourse

FRED's beneficiaries are invited to various talks, seminars, and fora where they share their experiences as a former PDLs

02

## Pre-Release Formation Sessions

HLAF has prepared a total of 135 PDLs before their release with debriefing sessions, values formation, and life skills training.

04

## Advocating Reintegration of PDLs

HLAF also holds meetings and discussions with LGUs for the welfare and reintegration of PDLs





The Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees (FRED) has been taking a step in coordinating with community leaders, barangays, and the local units to propose the reintegration program. This is seen as a response to the lack of government support for newly released PDLs (Persons Deprived of Liberty). The FRED program has been widening its scope by planting seeds of nourishment into communities to capacitate them with handling the reintegration program.



# Stories of Reintegration

## Kuya Jeff's Story

Jefferson Falcon, most know as Kuya Jeff, is an active member of the FRED program. Fredelitos are what we currently call them. We knew Kuya Jeff before he underwent the Post-Release formation Sessions of the program. He was also part of the Pre-Release formation sessions in (insert jail).

Kuya Jeff was released in mid August-September 2020. He was part of the last batch of the sessions in November.

After being in the program, he was then accepted to a tent assembler for Robinson's events. After a few weeks of work, he was told to be a regular tent staff by the company.

Kuya Jeff would still receive his friends' messages selling him illicit drugs, but he didn't accept and fall for it. He'd call the FRED team about this and would always tell that he doesn't want to get caught and be brought back to jail. He said that he knew the consequences if he accepts it. The constant reminder from his family and the FRED team painted his wall to enjoy a good and happy life.

### A Message from Kuya Jeff:

Malaki po ang naitulong po sakin ng FRED dahil po dati mas nadagdagan pa po ang aking kaalaman gaya ng mga ibinibigay na seminar sa amin, sa tulong ni sir peter sir wendell kasma na rin ung mga nakakasma namin na dating pdl.. na sa aming pagbabahagi ng among mga karanasan ay marami ako natutunan at napulot na aral at syang nagiging gabay ngoun sa aking pang araw arwa na pamumuhay.. kasma nrin dun ung load allowance na natatanggap namin kda session at ung pang noche buena na binigay samin..

We were featured on Angel Locsin's TV show Iba 'Yan!

This episode tackled our own staff, Kuya Freddie, and our Fredelitos, who are under the Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees Program (FRED), who found a new purpose in life because of the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation Inc. (HLAF). HLAF Jail Decongestion Officer Alfredo "Fred" Alaras recalls how his dark past pushed him to help reintegrate ex-detainees like him back into society. The Kapamilya actress Angel Locsin then listens to PDLs Reynalyn Costales and Francis Alba to share what they learned from being incarcerated. Later, the program gives the former detainees and their families a vacation package and opportunities to start anew.

**Alfredo "Fred" Alaras, 70**  
HLAF Jail Decongestion Officer  
Tatlong beses na nakulong

**HLAF**



Iba 'Yan | Episode 30 | January 3, 2021

# FULL EPISODE



**iba'yan!**

**HLAF**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4qr2q3sU-c&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0NeHnAkJK95TiyT0yJdnF7UX8RIZOtnUwB5nEkjExqSM7Wzm8RQ522-CE>

## Pre-Release Formation Session



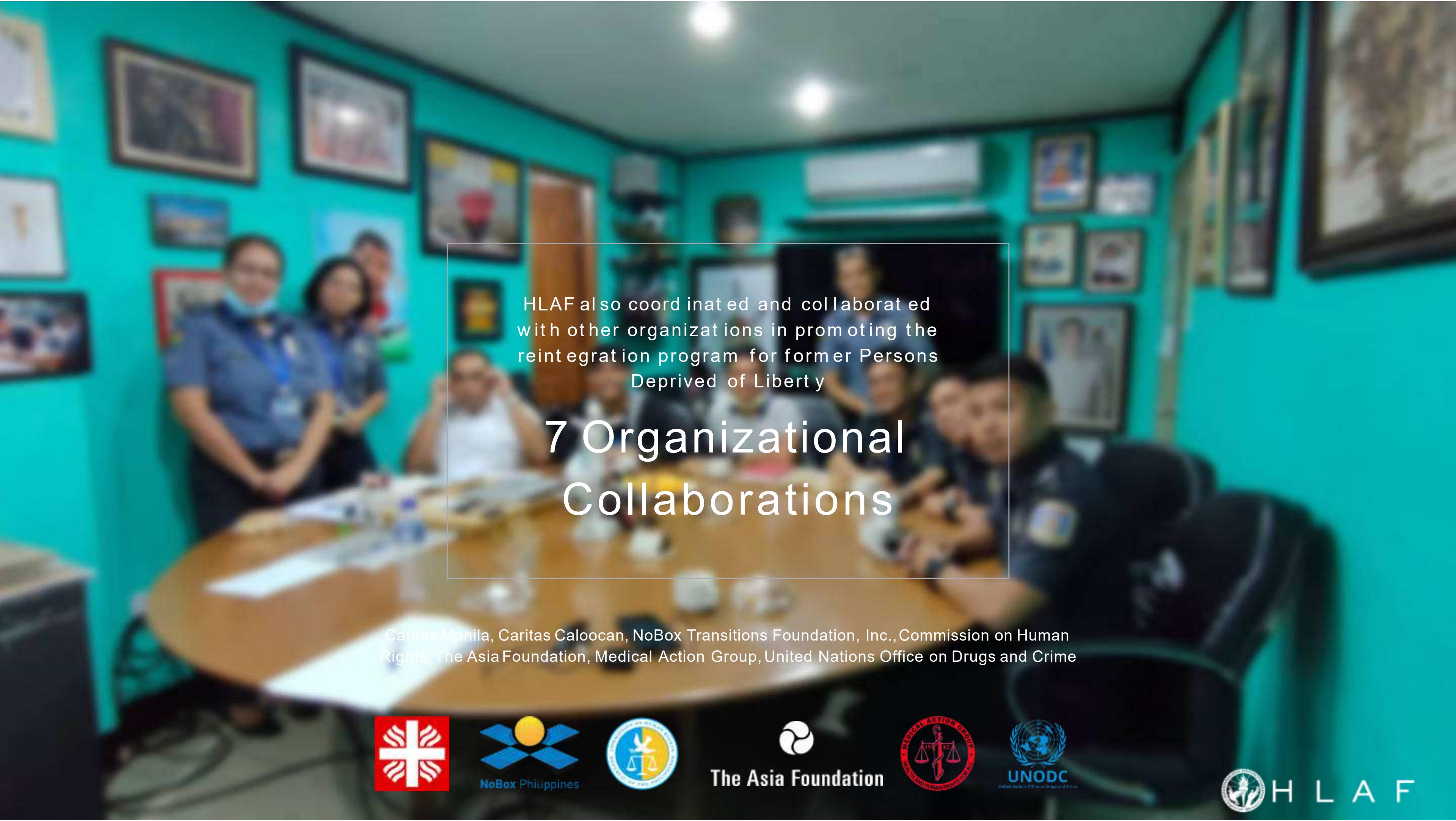
HLAF has seen that the Fredelitos from the Pre-Release formation sessions became more comfortable speaking even with Jail Officers. HLAf's FRED team saw the development of their Self-Confidence and enhancement of their Self-Esteem through these sessions, even online.



Through formation sessions, PDLs are equipped with essential skills when they undergo their reintegration into the community. Graduates of the FRED program can attest that they can now control what track in life they wanted to venture and gave their commitment to a life away from the reason they're jails.



HLAF met with Manila City Jail Warden Supt. Randel H. Latoza, J/Insp. John Achapero, Ret. C/Insp. Adelo P. Natividad, and Ms. Lea V. Faa from DepEd, for a courtesy meeting. To discuss a possible partnership of HLAF's Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees (FRED) program with DepEd as an aftercare program.



HLAF also coordinated and collaborated with other organizations in promoting the reintegration program for former Persons Deprived of Liberty

## 7 Organizational Collaborations

Caritas Manila, Caritas Caloocan, NoBox Transitions Foundation, Inc., Commission on Human Rights, The Asia Foundation, Medical Action Group, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



The Asia Foundation



HLAF



HLAF's continuous coordination, cooperation, and courtesy meetings with Local Government Units made the duty-bearers realize the needs of former Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs).HLAF has met with the Local Units Manila City, Caloocan City, and Malabon City.

# Pre-Release Formation Session



Persons Deprived of Liberty Prepared

**271 PDLs**

Areas:

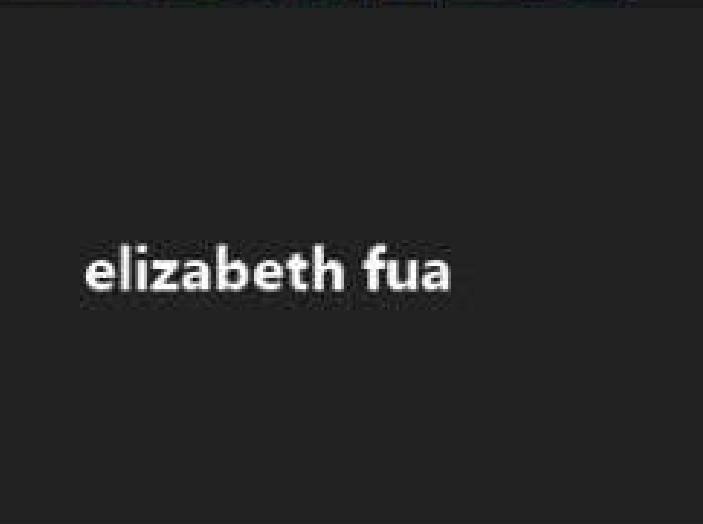
Malabon City Jail Male and Female Dorm, Quezon City Jail - Male Dorm, Caloocan City Jail, Rodriguez Municipal Jail, Dasmariñas City Jail - Female Dorm, and Sta. Rosa City Jail - Female Dorm

Former Persons Deprived of Liberty Prepared

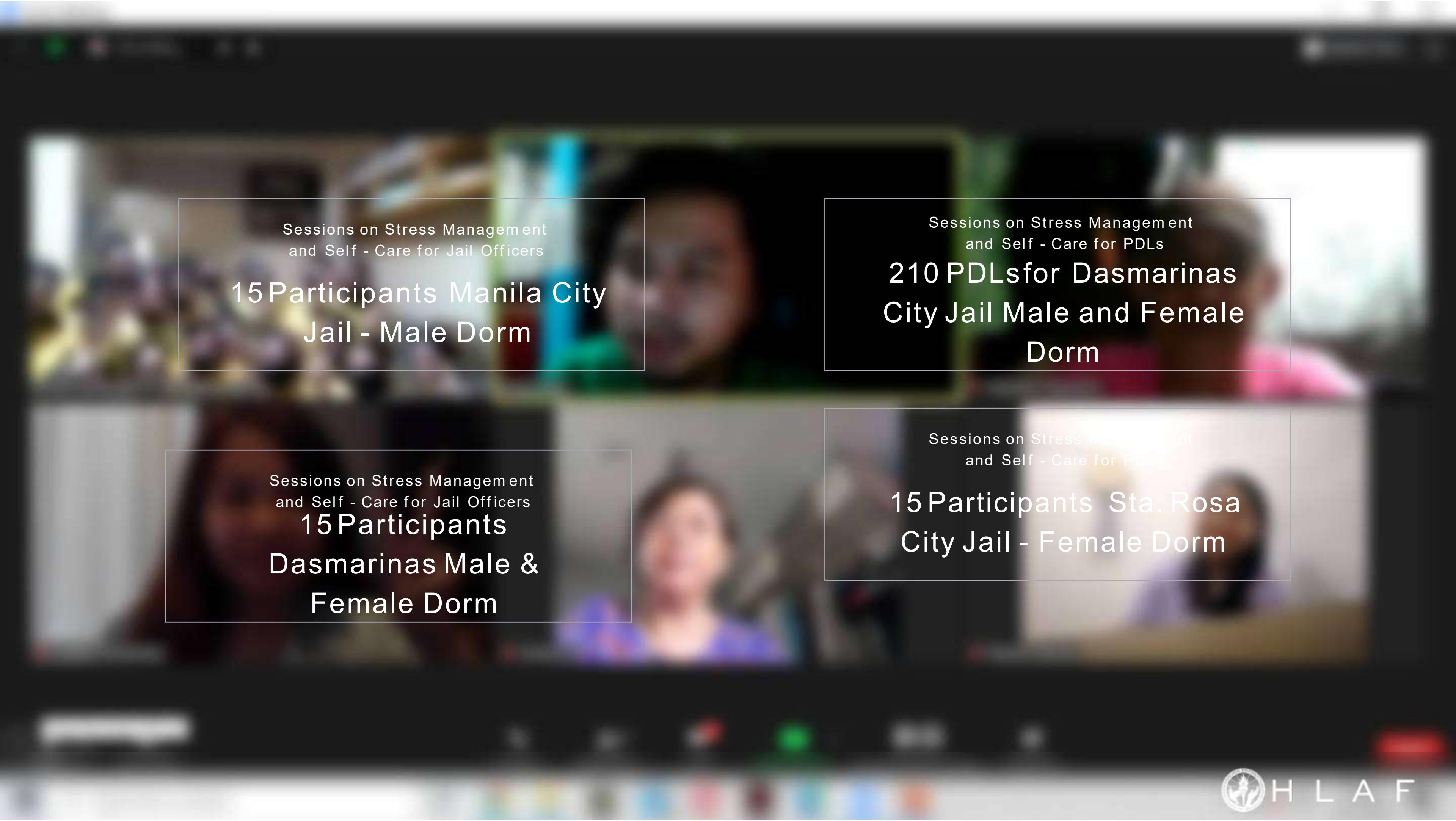
**20 PDLs**

Areas:

Manila City, Malabon City, Caloocan City, Quezon City, Laguna, Bulacan, Rizal,



The Family Days are conducted to close the gap between the things unsaid by the PDLs and former PDLs on the words they like to say. HLAf acknowledges the importance of Family support in making former PDLs more comfortable to change and be eager to improve themselves. HLAf has always been giving its unending support to our FREDbeneficiaries even after they graduated.



Sessions on Stress Management  
and Self - Care for Jail Officers

**15 Participants Manila City  
Jail - Male Dorm**

Sessions on Stress Management  
and Self - Care for Jail Officers

**15 Participants  
Dasmarinas Male &  
Female Dorm**

Sessions on Stress Management  
and Self - Care for PDLs

**210 PDLs for Dasmarinas  
City Jail Male and Female  
Dorm**

Sessions on Stress Management  
and Self - Care for PDLs

**15 Participants Sta. Rosa  
City Jail - Female Dorm**



The Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees Program team prepared Persons Deprived of Liberty and former ones for the community. It made other organizations and institutions aware that a local reintegration program can help the vulnerable sector cope with their initial challenges. It also emphasizes the role of local institutions in assisting new PDLs in their community.

By coordinating and realizing that PDLs and Former PDLs lives are vital, they would spearhead the establishment of the FRED management committee that would give them more access to HLA's reintegration program.



Caloocan's establishment of the Reintegration Program

Since the strict implementation of lockdown on Jails, Families, groups, and organizations are still not allowed to visit jails.

The early response and transition of activities online made Fredelitos feel important, especially during the Enhanced Community Quarantine, where some of our PDL beneficiaries could reach out about their struggle.



H L A F



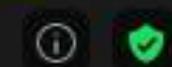
## HLAF TESTIMONIES



A beneficiary from  
Rodriguez Municipal Jail -  
Male dorm  
August 28, 2020 | Pre-release  
formation sessions Graduation  
Ceremonies

Wag mawawalan ng pag-asa habang  
nabubuhay, kasi po minsan na rin ako  
nawalan ng pag-asa kaya salamat sa  
HLAF, dahil sa mga activity na tulad  
nito. Tumatak po sa akin na mas  
maganda mag bagong buhay, kasi  
nakita ko ang magandang kinabukasan  
dahil sa FRED.

**TRANSLATION:** Do not lose hope. Sometimes I feel like I'm losing it. But thanks to HLAF, and its activities, I can cope better with life. Stamped in my head was a new life outside because I saw that I can still have a good future because of the things I learned during the FRED sessions.



Recording

Speaker View



Our FREDbeneficiaries enjoy activities that make them interact. Visual Aides helped a lot for them to understand topics easier. This also helped the facilitators unearth a deeper understanding of their needs and capacities to create growth in their communities.



Since the strict implementation of lockdown on Jails, Families, groups, and organizations are still not allowed to visit jails.

The early response and transition of activities online made Fredelitos feel important, especially during the Enhanced Community Quarantine, where some of our PDL beneficiaries could reach out about their struggle.



HLAF has seen that most of our FRED beneficiaries will try to fix and close the gaps between their families being torn apart after being in jail. They said that they would pursue more in life, find a stable job and income, and always say no to anything that will harm them, their family, and their community.



H L A F



# HLAF SCHOLAR'S REPORT



## HLAF's Scholars' Report

HLAF scholars were able to release 1 PDL detained in Sorsogon City District Jail who already served her sentence on August 9, 2020.

HLAF scholars were able to give three (3 ) case consultations in Sorsogon City District Jail. Lowella Anna Abano and Ma. Cristina S. Belardo gave the intervention on the case of Zeus Marmol. Ma. Cristina Belardo intervened in the case Irish Y. Dela Pena. Edelyn Tayo provided intervention on the case of Marites Z. Ervas.





## HLAF's Scholars' Report

The HLAf scholars were able to follow-up four (4) cases. Ma. Cristina S. Belardo followed-up on the case of Ms. Irish Y. Dela Pena. Ms. Careen Dominica Badong was able to follow-up on the case of Edwin Hernia and Belan Garcia. Ms. Lowella Anna Abaño followed-up on the case of Mr. Zeus Marmol. The scholars did not encounter any challenges in conducting court follow-up through e-mail since the court is very responsive and accommodating in our request.

## HLAF's Scholars' Report

No medical mission was conducted for this quarter; however, we provided a deep well jetmatic water pump to Legazpi City Jail.

The jail requested this to help them with their water source whenever there is no electricity.

The Jail Officers were grateful to HLAf and sent the following messages through a text “Yan na mam nakapagawa na kami agad laking tulong nya po sa mga PDLs namin. Salamat po.”



## From them:

Malabon: According to Kagawad Toto, the Barangay Federation President, HLAf has guided them in improving inter-barangay communication and the processing of documents related to children cases. Currently, they can now segregate CICL and CAR in their documentations.

Catanduanes: During a feedback interview, participants from Catanduanes said that HLAf's training and mentoring were very challenging, and it pushed them to communicate with each other, even after the training.

According to jail wardens, the Paralegal training by HLAf was an avenue for PDLs to make themselves busy. They said that this lessened the instances of conflicts between PDLs.

## From them:

FREDbeneficiaries always inform the organization about the process of their reintegration. One of our beneficiaries said that his acquaintance encouraged him to use illegal drugs again, but he consistently refused. Many of our beneficiaries were also able to find jobs during the pandemic.



## Rommel Alim Abitria

Rommel, also known by many as lyok, is an experienced Executive Director with a demonstrated history of working in the legal services industry. Skilled in Project Coordination, International Law, Policy Analysis, Criminal Law, and Nonprofit Management. When lyok is not immensely soaked in front of his laptop searching for good radio buys, he enjoys being around with fellow radio enthusiasts while waiting for his turn to enter Call of Duty: Mobile.



## Leila Cabarle

Leila manages Finance. Mommy Tess or Mommy, even other partners, would call her that. We really do not know if she does not like coffee but is a patron of Coke. As Finance, Admin, and Personnel Officer, Mommy is the money flow maker and is always the earliest in the office (no one ever came earlier than her, except early travels from the office). Mommy is a legit competitor among the true and avid Shoppee and Lazada fans.



## Elvira Taguiam

Elvira serves as the Admin Assistant and the Cashier of the organization. Who won't love her? Unless you're being deducted! A resident of Valenzuela and a patron of banks. She said that the pandemic brought more time to be with her kids and taught them while being together online. Elvs is a coffee addict; whether it's hot or cold, she'd drink them eventually. When she is not at HLAf, you'd see her in banks and the Supermarket.



## Jean Aubree Ruby Sadural

A Baguio City Native, Atty. Aubree works as the Jail Decongestion Program Officer and strives together with her Kuyas while being a happy slave of her three (3) cats. In one of the coldest cities in the Philippines, most of the staff would notice her wearing the warmest sweater available. When Aubree is not at HLAf, she will travel silently without noticing her footprints in the country looking for cute-sized souvenirs.



## Juanito Vinluan

Juanito, a.k.a. Itoy or Toy-its, as we in HLAf call him, is the Jail Decongestion Program's Legal Officer. Toy-its is a creative ideas geek, at the same time, a lengthy writer at work. While he loves going to beaches and a game-time fan, he is a full-blown Father to his Kids. When Toy-its is not at HLAf, he'd be researching and creating unique materials made from scratch; at the same time, his brothers from the backyard are dear to him. He has dogs, pigeons, and other big birds.



## Alfredo Alaras

Many people know alfredo or Kuya Freddie. His inspiring story brought him to work with HLAf. Kuya Freddie serves as a Paralegal Officer while following-up cases for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs). His Hope and Change stories are what he always strives to enlighten to most of HLAf's beneficiaries. His unique words of wisdom and his aspirations made the Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees Program. When Kuya Freddie is not at HLAf, he'd be listening to his favorite hits and cook for his most loved ones.



## Melvin Nunez

Melvin joins our team as Communications Officer for a year now. He graduated from Batangas State University, studied Development Communications, and interned in television and radio production, news and feature writing, and developmental research. He's crazy about Bikes, dogs, and exploring mountains and city neighborhoods with his hardtail mountain bike: a semi-grammar nazi, an editor, and a punctuation expert.



## Carmelita Torrefiel

Even at 60, Emy serves full-time as a Community Organizer. She is under the Center for Restorative Action program, where talking is her everyday duty. She joined HLAf 8 years ago. T'was in 2012, where she coordinated in the area of Caloocan. She has a degree in Psychology and is edified in Computer Programming. When she is not at HLAf, she is happily together with her kids and grandkids teaching them to sing and dance. Her passion and love for motors and cars make her heart and mind at peace.



## Claudette Almadin - Macutay

Clau is an educator. As a registered Social Worker, she sets out the Center for Restorative Action program's plan as its Senior Community Organizer. She thinks of herself as a trainer. When she is not at HLAf, she serves as a part-time faculty member in schools. She wanted to open the eyes of our children and the youth to be involved in society. Being an Apple product enthusiast, she is devoted to buying everything she sees online.



## Jehu Emmanuel Laniog

Jehu is the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning Officer. He is a writer, translator, and researcher. His interests include literature, culture, politics, and social systems. He graduated from the University of the Philippines with a bachelor's degree in Philippine Studies. He is fond of watching random youtube videos and collects fountain pens, which reduces his stress. He dreams of building a public library in his hometown in Camarines Sur.



## Peter Rhodolph Olea

A resident musician from Bulacan, Peter now joins HLAf as the Community Organizer of the Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees Program. A graduate of Community Development, he believes that being faithful to God and being humane is the way to development. He is known to be jolly and playful, even a young adult. His advocacy revolves around educating the younger generation to be keen in the future. When he is not at HLAf, his time is allotted to online games and exploring unwanted things in their house.



## Wendell Manaloto

Wendell is the first intern who turned into a staff in 2018. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Social Work at Universidad de Manila. He works to reintegrate former Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) under the Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees program. As a social worker, he believes that PDLs should also be given safe spaces to share their feelings, perspectives, and emotions with people without the fear of being judged. When he is not at HLAf, he rides his fixed gear bike and often listens to Chance the Rapper.



## Melvin Caymo

Melvin joins us as a Paralegal Officer, at the same time, a Community Organizer for the Jail Decongestion Program. Melvin, or Kuya Melvin, is a travel and food addict. His immense fondness for coordinating with people makes his part paramount to most of the team's activities. While connecting with people, his sense of humor is what most people he meets remember. While Melvin is not at HLAf, he'd spent time wandering Hello Kitty stuffed toys.



## Maria Luisa Villarin

Loi is a Project Officer of the Jail Decongestion Program. She was admitted to the bar in May 2019. She graduated from the Ateneo Law School with second honors. She was an HLAf intern and CLED102 student. She is also a CPA who finished her undergraduate degree from the University of Santo Tomas. In her free time, she supports her favorite band BTS as a proud ARMY and relaxes by watching Kdramas. On weekends, she loves playing badminton with her family and enjoys learning other Spanish and Korean languages.



## Raniel Christian Omli

Raniel, a reader, a writer, lover of anime, and everything uwu, spends his time in front of a monitor trying to look for fun and interesting things. Stories drive him, and he hopes to write utopian fiction someday and turn it into reality. The rare moments he gets to spend outside of his room are spent looking for adventure and fond memories to share. The Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. is home to some of its core ideologies and hopes you discover and share in our ideologies!



## Fatima Areej S. Lu

Areej is a scholar from Ateneo de Zamboanga University. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Western Mindanao State University. Her interests include reading novels, kpop—particularly EXO—and she has been in love with Justin Bieber since 2009. She is also into arts and crafts and would like to get better at calligraphy. She believes that when things get too overwhelming, take them one at a time.



## Edelyn Tayo

Edelyn is a third-year law student at the University of Santo Tomas Legazpi, an HLAf scholar since 2020. She is a speech communication major who dreads small talk but enjoys organizing events. As a volunteer of activities for children, youth, and elderly through her other affiliations, she's happy to be part of HLAf's jail decongestion activities. She is allowed to give service to another community group, the PDLs. Seeing her law books turn into "coloring books" gives her a sense of accomplishment. Taking a walk in nature relaxes her.



## Lowella Anna B. Abano

Lai is who is immeasurably blessed! She finished her undergraduate studies at the Ateneo de Naga University with a full scholarship grant from the Consuelo Chito Madrigal Foundation (CCMF). Currently, Lai is a 3rd-year law student at the same university and now with a full scholarship grant from the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation. Whoa! How is that possible? But it is! Regardless of the impossibility, if God has it for you, then it is for you! Faith, Grit, Perseverance, and Delayed Gratifications are a few ingredients.

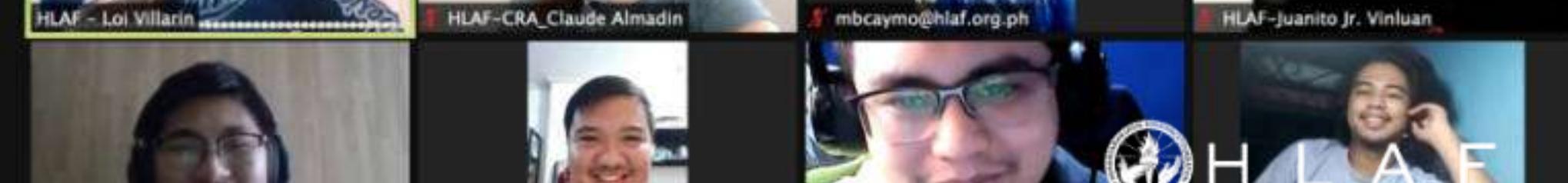
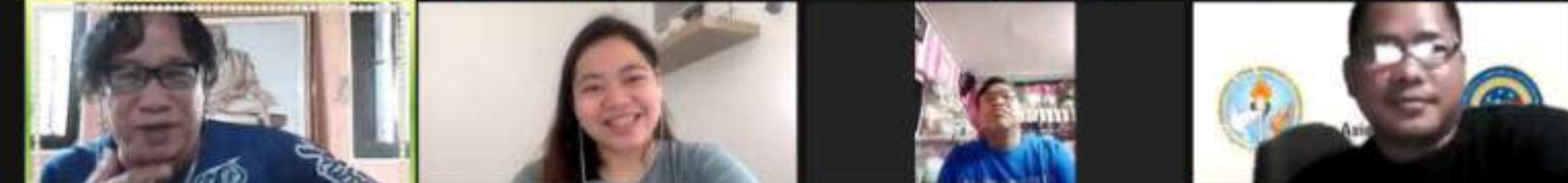
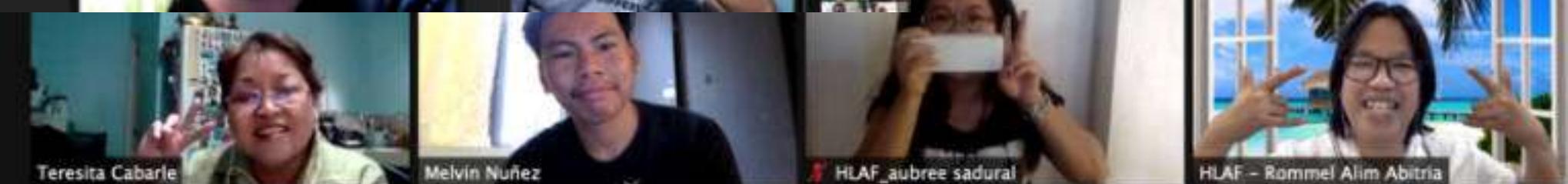
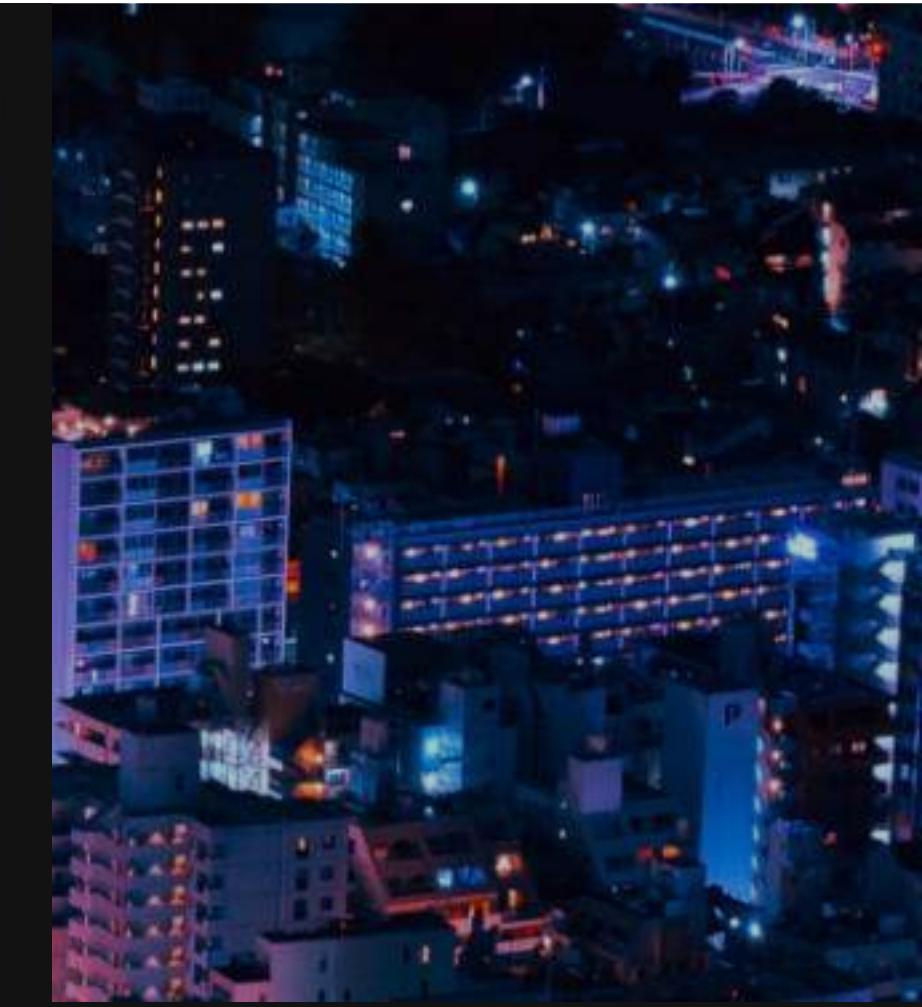


## Ma. Cristina S. Belardo

Tinay is an HLAF scholar from UST-Legazpi. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Bicol University. She finds joy in road trips, island hopping, and watching the sunset at the seashore. During her free time, she likes cooking sinigang, watching movies, k-dramas, and Korean variety shows.



Recording



HLAF



HLAF

 HLA<sup>phil</sup>

# Our Partners



**Save the Children**



**H L A F**

# Our Partners



H L A F



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

# Ville Marvin Magbuhos

Thank you for teaching us how to love unconditionally.  
A loving, cheerful, and kind hearted friend.



*In loving memory of*  
**Ville Marvin Magbuhos**

FEBRUARY 14, 2020

*A loving and cheerful friend, and a fellow human rights advocate. May herest in peace.*