

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (HLAF)



Breaking Barriers, Transforming Lives

# 2023 theme: Breaking Barriers, Transforming Lives

This theme focuses on showcasing HLAF's efforts in challenging societal barriers and transforming the lives of HLAF's beneficiaries. It highlights the advocacies of HLAF for forwarding inclusive policies, equal rights, and access to justice, emphasizing the transformative effect to individuals, families, and different communities.



# OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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882

Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs)  
released all over the Philippines  
from your generous support!

1,407

Case consultations and case  
follow-ups together with  
interns and volunteers

2,323

Capacitated duty bearers on  
Human Rights, Juvenile  
Justice, and Restorative  
Justice

26

Former persons deprived of  
liberty assisted to go back  
into the community

51

Partners collaborated toward the  
collective effort in forwarding  
inclusive policies, equal rights,  
and access to justice,  
emphasizing the transformative  
effect on individuals, families,  
and different communities

# 20

Prepared persons deprived of liberty inside jail were prepared for reintegration

# 290

Trained paralegal aides inside jail to assist other persons deprived of liberty on their criminal cases

# 264

Children whose rights, welfare, and well-being were promoted, forwarded, and protected



# HLAF's expertise sought by National Government to address jail congestion and reintegration

HLAF's expertise has helped in developing and implementing strategies to alleviate overcrowding in jail facilities, ensuring better living conditions and access to essential services for persons deprived of liberty (PDLs).

HLAF advocated for policy reforms that address systemic issues affecting PDL and former inmates, leading to improved conditions and rights protection.

HLAF developed and provided evidence-based interventions that address the challenges faced by PDL and former inmates.



# Case Consultations and follow-ups were provided to Persons Deprived of Liberty

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HLAF's case consultations and follow-up offered individualized support tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of each PDL, fostering trust, providing assistance, and promoting hope for those who may have lost it.

PDL gained better understanding of their legal situation, procedural rights, and potential pathways for legal recourse.

Throughout the years, HLAf has proved that highlighting systemic issues within the legal system affecting PDLs, potentially led to advocacy for broader legal reforms and improvements.



# Persons Deprived of Liberty were empowered in Paralegal Trainings

HLAF's trained persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) were equipped with essential legal knowledge, enabling them to understand their rights, navigate legal processes, and advocate for themselves within the justice system.

The trainings increased PDLs' access to legal assistance and representation, improving their ability to defend their rights and seek legal remedies.

Trained PDLs served as advocates and sources of support for their fellow detainees, contributing to a more equitable and informed environment inside jails.



# Structured Learning Visits to Duty-Bearers were facilitated

HLAF's structured visits involve organizing a planned and systematic visit for the duty-bearers (such as government officials, policymakers, or donors) to interact with individuals or communities who have benefitted from HLAf's programs and activities.

HLAF facilitated open discussions between the duty bearers being capacitated and successful beneficiaries, focusing on the challenges and achievements in accessing justice, promoting human rights, and forwarding inclusive policies for children.



# Local Justice Zones were organized to promote access to justice

HLAF collaborated with different provinces to help establish local justice zone coordinating councils toward promoting better quality of access to justice especially for those remote or marginalized communities.

Moreover, HLAF facilitated discussions and encourages community involvement in the administration of justice, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility in addressing local legal issues.

Throughout the years, HLAF's presence in the Local Justice Zones contributed to strengthening the rule of law at the grassroots level, promoting accountability, transparency, and fairness in resolving legal matters.

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# A National Conference of Social Workers and Criminologists is conducted

HLAF's national conference enhanced the knowledge and skills of Social Workers and Criminologists but also fostered a progressive perspective, encouraging more responsive, sensitive, adaptive, and inclusive intervention programs for individuals in contact with the Criminal Justice System.

Social Workers and Criminologists are equipped to comprehend and articulate the circumstances of children, particularly those in contact with the justice system.



# PDLs and former inmates were reintegrated back into the community

HLAF supported persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) and former inmates in transitioning back into society, helping them rebuild their lives, find employment opportunities, and access essential support services.

HLAF fostered community engagement and created pathways for PDL and former inmates to receive support from local organizations and community members as they reintegrate.

HLAF helped reduce recidivism rates by providing PDL and former inmates with the necessary support and resources for a successful return to their communities.



# PDL Reintegration Programs are being established to localities

HLAF facilitated dialogues and collaboration between duty bearers, correctional facilities, and community organizations to fill gaps in support services and reintegration programs.

HLAF helped raise community awareness about reintegration programs, leading to increased acceptance and understanding of the challenges faced by PDL and former inmates alike.

It has contributed to the development of supportive policies and programs tailored to the specific reintegration needs of these group of people.



# Reintegration Trainings were provided to Duty-Bearers to address former inmates' needs

HLAF's reintegration trainings has provided duty-bearers with a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by PDL and former inmates, such as social stigma, limited access to employment, and the need for community support.

HLAF equipped duty-bearers with skills and knowledge to identify and address specific challenges, such as barriers to housing, employment, and social reintegration.



# HLAF Finance

from Master Choa Kok Sui (MCKS) Caring Heart Foundation

## Jail Decongestion

**Php 2,532,086.66**

Administrative Expenses: 257,550.25  
Program Expenses: 565,756.36  
Personnel Expenses: 2,018,678.37

## Center for Restorative Action

**Php 484,423.5**

Administrative Expenses: 7,071.43  
Program Expenses: 17,820.75  
Personnel Expenses: 459,531.40

## Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees

**Php 493,928.4**

Administrative Expenses: 82,184.00  
Program Expenses: 83,638.20  
Personnel Expenses: 328,106.20

## Communications

**Php 408,452.81**

Administrative Expenses: 0  
Program Expenses: 124,800.00  
Personnel Expenses: 283,652.81