



HLAF ANNUAL REPORT

Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. | 2024

2024

In 2024, the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation (HLAF) embarked on a hopeful and transformative journey dedicated to championing human rights and advocating for marginalized communities throughout the Philippines.

This pivotal year is marked by renewed commitment to the foundation's mission of promoting the rights, welfare, and well-being of persons deprived of liberty, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQIA+ community, and formerly incarcerated individuals.



2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.

HIAF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

201

persons deprived of liberty
released all over the Philippines

234

jails reached which were provided
crucial legal support, advocacy, and
empowerment for individuals
deprived of liberty

236

newly capacitated paralegal aides
inside jail who will serve as legal
guides to co-PDLs

467

Case consultations and follow-ups
conducted together with volunteers in
different law schools and college
organizations

515,000+

people reached and enlightened on
various social media platforms

404

local child protection actors trained
and mentored on the prevention and
response to children's needs, issues,
and rights under Juvenile Justice and
Restorative Justice

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.

HLAF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

261

local government units engaged to enhance human rights protection systems and reintegration for persons under police custody, children at risk, and children in conflict with the law

682

community members empowered through child protection activities under the Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice framework

20+

hope-based communication and advocacy trainings for staff, interns, volunteers, and communities to better understand collective action and promote initiatives for vulnerable people

2

cities assisted in the passing of their local policies on facilitating the social reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals in their communities

16

formerly incarcerated individuals successfully reintegrated back into the community

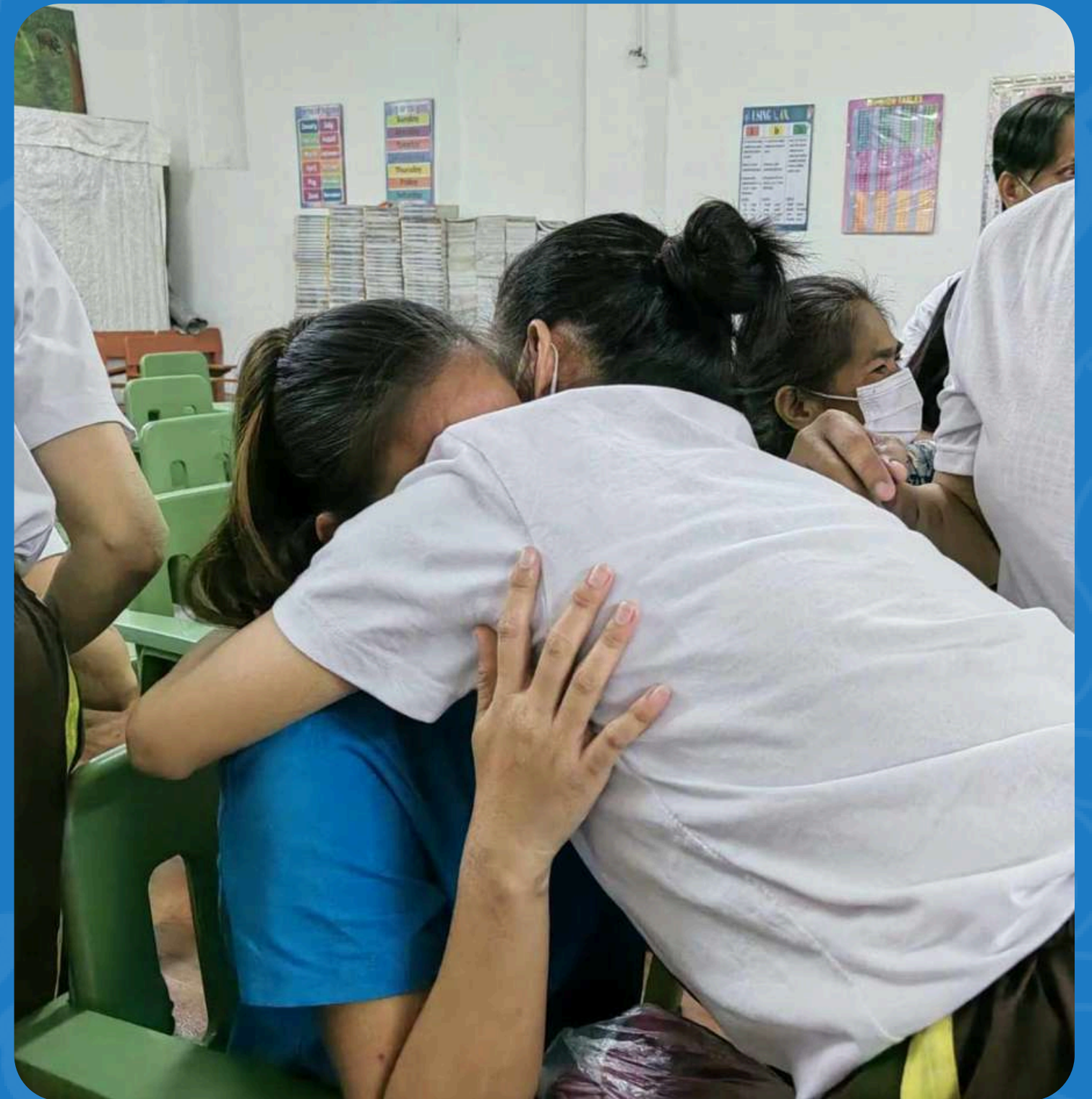
310+

social media posts and articles created, posted, and published on different social media platforms and site

Increased family members and friends who actively participate in the criminal justice system

HIAF explored new innovations to increase the number of friends and family members willing to act on behalf of loved ones within the jails. Through their efforts, the Paralegal Family Remedies was born. It ultimately aims to provide family and friends of persons deprived of liberty the knowledge and means by which they can assist and facilitate the release of their relatives inside the jail.

Although this program and design are still in their infancy, they hold a lot of promise. Family and friends are no longer relegated to the sidelines waiting hopelessly for news but are now empowered to act within the system in behalf of their loved ones.



Improved overall legal knowledge within the general jail population and decreased instances of misinformation

HLAF developed the legal knowledge and skills of persons deprived of liberty to effectively assist Paralegal Jail Officers as Paralegal Paralegal Aides (PLAides)

Those who successfully complete the Paralegal Training have been shown to actively assist in spreading accurate legal information to the general jail population and debunking misinformation among their ranks. This is in addition to their role as PLAides who monitor, report, and assist the Jail Paralegal Officers.

As a result, their co-PDLs see them as people they can trust to gain correct and accurate information about their cases, which increases trust and adherence to the legal system and its processes, decreases anxiety about the status of their cases, and ultimately, perhaps more importantly, increases their availing of the legal and equitable remedies under the law.



Increased cooperation and collaboration between the HLAF and National Government Agencies

One of the most glaring gaps in the implementation of the justice system in the Philippines is the lack of cooperation and trust between Non-Government Organizations and Government Agencies. However, through the numerous efforts of HLAF, the tireless commitment of HLAF provided effective partnerships between those incarcerated and jail officers.

A small but significant part of the Jail population assists fellow persons deprived of liberty with their cases and subsequently reports the same to the Jail officers.

This results in the jail officers getting the extra hands they sorely need which results in the lightening of their workload and effectively increases the time for more important work such as the processing of paperwork needed by persons deprived of liberty to avail of remedies that would lead to the hastening of their release.



Strengthened Human Rights Protection Systems

HLAF in partnership with UNICEF and the Consuelo Foundation has strengthened child protection systems in Metro Manila, BARMM, Catanduanes, and Albay by equipping duty-bearers with essential knowledge and skills through pieces of trainings, workshops, mentoring, capacity-building initiatives, and rights-based activities.

These efforts promote human rights which ensured access to justice, and foster collaboration among stakeholders for sustainable and inclusive child protection mechanisms while addressing critical gaps in protection and support for vulnerable individuals.



Facilitated Regional Summits to promote the best interest of children

HIAF in partnership with UNICEF brought together stakeholders, local implementers, and child advocates from various government sectors to promote the rights and protection of children, the summit focused on enhancing diversion frameworks, addressing gaps, and identifying steps to strengthen the juvenile justice system in the BARMM region.



Built Child Protection Units in Provinces

HLAF in partnership with the Consuelo Foundation facilitated the turnover of four newly constructed Child Protection Units in Virac, Bato, Baras, and Gigmoto, Catanduanes. These child-friendly facilities are a milestone in enhancing Catanduanes' capacity to protect vulnerable children, ensuring their safety and well-being through improved systems and services.



Successfully Reintegrated formerly incarcerated individuals back into the community

HIAF was committed to fostering the successful reintegration of 16 formerly incarcerated individuals back into their communities. Understanding that the transition from incarceration to community life can be fraught with challenges, HIAF has continued to develop its comprehensive reintegration program designed to empower individuals, support their personal growth, and promote their rights and dignity.



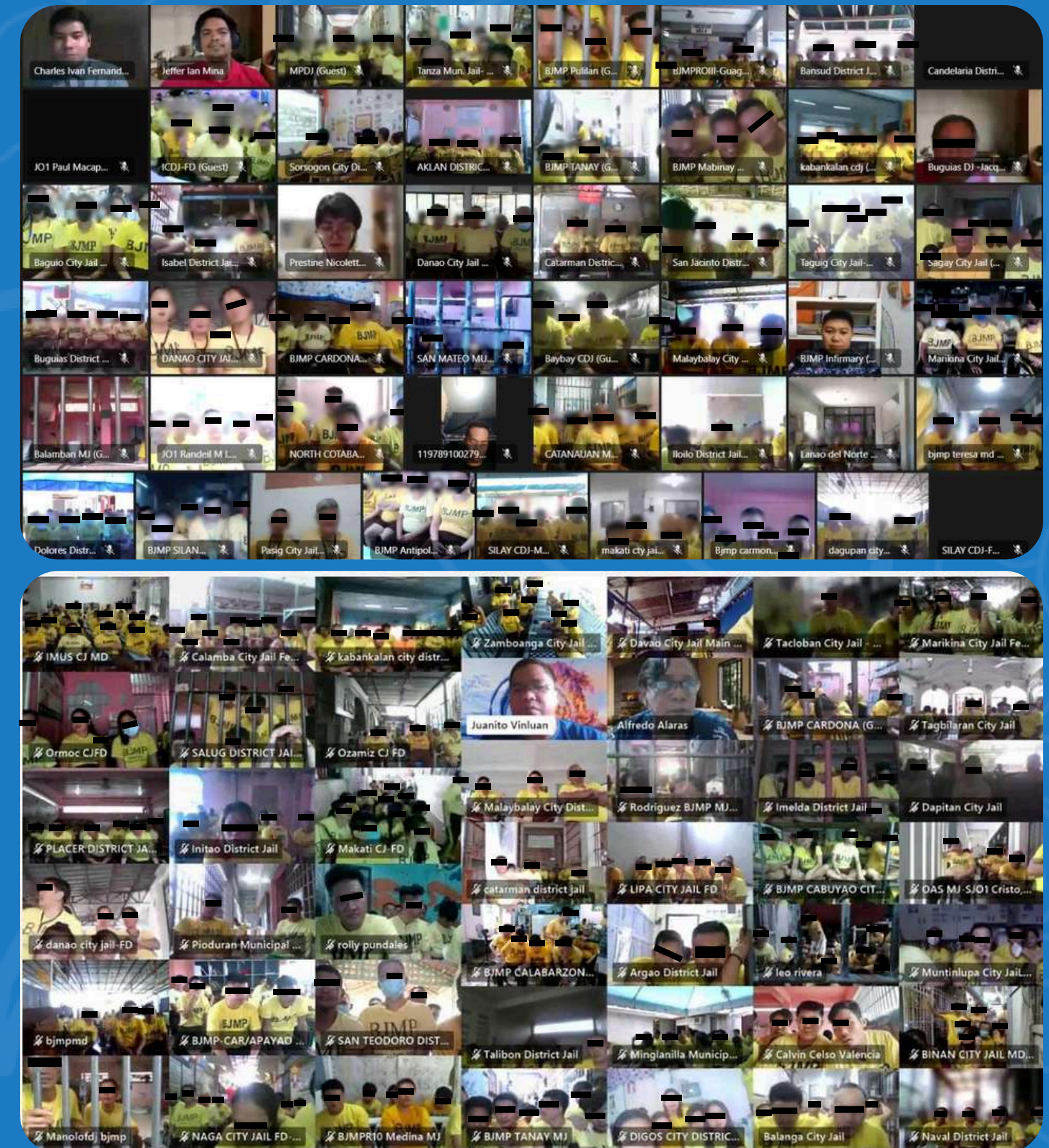
Facilitated Educational Sessions to Persons Deprived of Liberty

HLAF facilitated educational sessions that were designed to empower incarcerated individuals both men, women, and LGBTQIA+ members with critical knowledge and skills that are essential for understanding their rights, navigating the legal system, and preparing for reintegration into society.

HLAF's educational sessions contributed to persons deprived of liberty – Good Conduct Time Allowance (GCTA) and the Time Allowance for Study, Teaching, and Mentoring (TASTM) which will allow them for a more speedy release.

HLAF's sessions focused on providing them with a clear understanding of their legal rights and the judicial processes that affect them. The topics included the criminal justice system, legal rights during arrest and trial, access to legal representation, and avenues for appeal.

HLAF also placed a strong emphasis on mental health awareness and emotional well-being in its different sessions.



Advocated Incarcerated Mothers' Rights



HIAF advocated for the rights, health, welfare, and well-being of mothers deprived of liberty (PDL mothers) in the Philippines. HIAF recognized the unique challenges faced by women in incarceration, particularly those who are mothers, HIAF has developed targeted advocacy initiatives which included Stella, a coloring book activity aimed at protecting their rights, supporting their well-being, and promoting family unity.

Stella is a heartfelt coloring book designed to strengthen the familial bonds between incarcerated mothers in the Philippines and their children. This initiative recognizes the unique challenges faced by these families and aims to foster connection, love, and support through creative expression.

In the context of the Philippines' penal system, many mothers face separation from their children due to incarceration. Stella serves as a tool to bridge the emotional distance created by this separation.

Our activities were featured in different National TV shows which unearthed the situation, challenges, and conditions of incarcerated individuals, as well as provided an avenue for HIAF to promote its successful stories such as Stella.

Stella is more than just a coloring book; it is a movement toward empathy, understanding, and the recognition of the importance of familial love in recovery and rehabilitation. Through this advocacy, we hope to inspire hope and resilience in the lives of incarcerated mothers and their children throughout the Philippines.

Committed Scholars, Interns, and Volunteers

HIAF thrived on the commitment, passion, and diverse skill sets of its scholars, volunteers, and interns, all of whom play a vital role in promoting the foundation's mission to advocate for the rights of marginalized individuals.

More than 200 interns, and volunteers with legal backgrounds often assisted in providing direct legal support to persons deprived of liberty. Some designed and implemented awareness campaigns that highlight the rights of vulnerable populations.



Donations



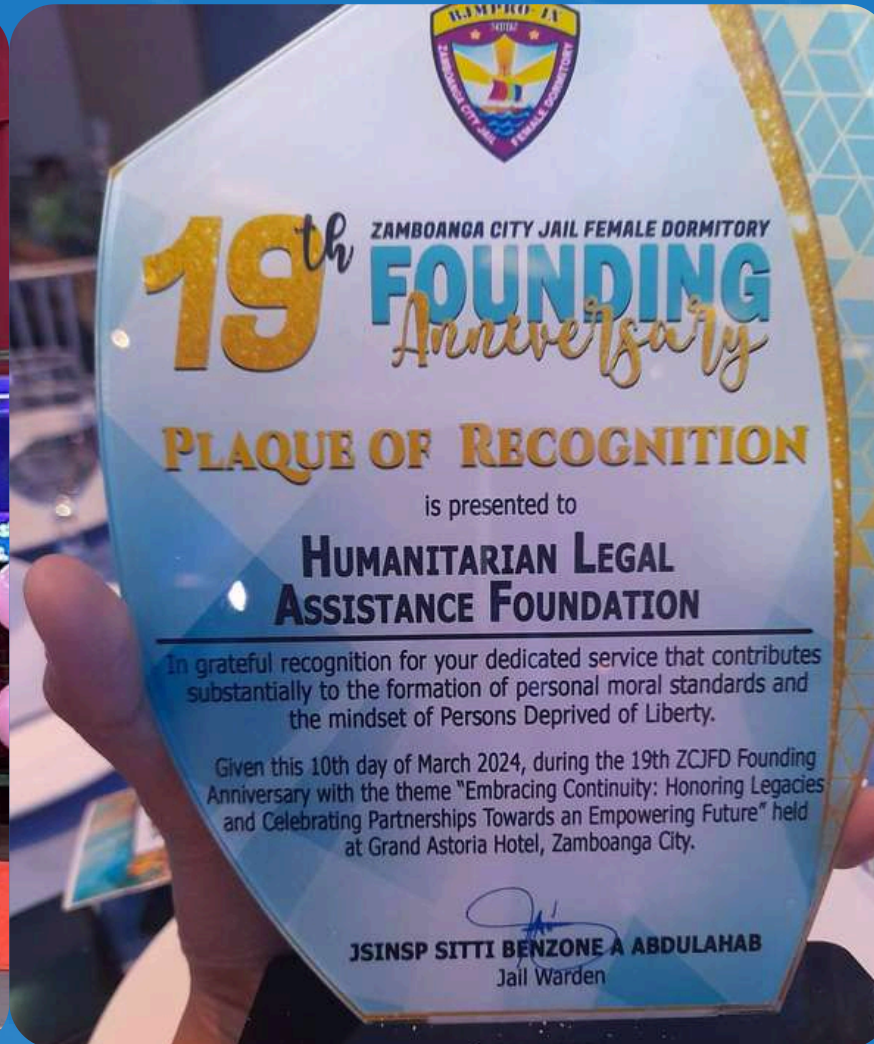
HLAF in Partnership with MCKS Charitable Foundation, Inc. enhanced the living conditions and rehabilitation opportunities for persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) throughout the Philippines. As part of its holistic approach to support, HLAF has initiated a donation program that provides essential items and resources to jails across the country. These donations were designed to promote dignity, improve well-being, and facilitate skill development among incarcerated individuals.

HLAF has made a tangible and meaningful impact within the jail facilities. The distribution of clothing helps maintain dignity, while the introduction of sewing machines offers inmates a chance to learn valuable skills that can facilitate their reintegration into society.



Recognitions

HIAF continues to strive for greater support and awareness, ensuring that the voices of PDLs and vulnerable children are heard, their rights are upheld, and their dignity is respected.



Through its diligent efforts to advocate for the rights and welfare of persons deprived of liberty and children throughout the Philippines, HIAF has established itself as a respected leader in the humanitarian, legal, and development field. The recognition received from jails, NGOs, and community organizations serves as a testament to the foundation's impactful work, dedication, and commitment to fostering a more equitable and just society.



2024 HLAF Partners

Our Partners

Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.



2024 Financial Expenses

Financial Expenses

Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.
From Master Choa Kok Sui (MCKS) Caring Heart Foundation

Jail Decongestion

Php 1,439,965.01

Administrative
Expenses: 163,934.71
Program Expenses:
167,652.96
Personnel Expenses:
1,108,377.34

Center for Restorative Action

Php 876,650.33

Administrative
Expenses: 7,991.00
Program Expenses:
81,421.58
Personnel Expenses:
787,237.75

Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees

Php 769,647.66

Administrative
Expenses: 34,677.50
Program Expenses:
154,892.40
Personnel Expenses:
580,077.76

Communications and Advocacy

Php 705,367.37

Administrative
Expenses: 101,105.50
Program Expenses:
50,506.38
Personnel Expenses:
553,755.49

2024 Financial Expenses

Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.
From UNICEF

Financial Expenses

Project – SIMULA 3: Establishing and Strengthening the Capacity
of Local Child Protection Mechanisms in Addressing the Needs
of Children At-Risk and Children in Conflict with the Law

Php 5,708.741.02

Administrative Expenses: **Php 16,558.14**

Project Expenses: **Php 3,380,802.88**

Personnel Costs: **Php 2,311,380.00**

Thank you for all your generous support!

We hope this message finds you well.

HLAF wants to express its heartfelt gratitude for your generous support. Your contributions play an invaluable role in helping us uphold Master Choa Kok Sui's great mission—fighting against unjust and inhuman detention, particularly for women, children, the sick, the elderly, the LGBTQIA+ community, and persons with disability.

This year, we have made a valuable impact on mothers, infants, persons deprived of liberty, children, formerly incarcerated individuals, sick people, the elderly, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who are suffering. Your continued support will help us expand our reach, provide legal assistance, and advocate for the rights of those in need, ensuring that justice is accessible to everyone.

Let us continue to stand together in our commitment to alleviate the suffering of mankind and champion the cause of human rights for all. Thank you once again for your generosity and support. We look forward to continuing this essential work together.