



HUMANITARIAN LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

Title HLAF 2017-2019

Year 2017

OUR FOUNDATION

OUR VISION	The Foundation aspires to help create a world order founded on the universal respect for human right and freedom against arbitrary and unjust imprisonment, in all forms.
OUR MISSION	The Foundation seeks to put an end to the phenomenon of unjust and inhuman detention, especially of women and children, wherever it is found, through direct legal action and policy advocacy.
OUR CORE VALUES	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Loving Kindness and Non-Injury;2. Generosity and Non-Stealing;3. Honesty and Non-Lying;4. Moderation and Non-Excessives;5. Constancy of Aim and Effort (One Pointedness) and Non-Laziness

OUR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

We are a lean organization composed of staff coming from diverse backgrounds with different expertise. We have lawyers, social workers, community organizers and other professionals. The age of our staff is as varied as our background; we employ young staff as well as senior citizens. We have staff from the LGBT community; we have a staff who is a member of an indigenous community; we have a staff with a disability; and we have single moms as well. Our lawyers are trained and experienced alternative lawyers who are adept in both traditional practice and meta legal tactics in order to achieve the foundation's goals. Our training methodologies are appreciated and recognized by duty-bearers from both the local government units and the national government agencies to be effective and efficient. Our beneficiaries had been showcased by different groups and organizations including media organizations. Our foundation is the only organization that works for the reintegration of ex-detainees into their families and their communities. Our staff are experts, and are in demand resource persons in the fields of Juvenile Justice, Restorative Justice, Case Management, Reintegration, Community Organizing, Criminal Justice Reform and Criminal Law.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

No person shall be deprived of liberty without due process of law. This is a right guaranteed by the constitution but HLAf believes that the right to liberty should be respected not only because it is guaranteed by the highest law of the land but because it emanates from the very dignity of every human being. HLAf is committed to work for the freedom of every person who is arbitrarily and unjustly deprived of liberty. HLAf will specifically focus on those who are

vulnerable and those who have special needs like the children, the elderly, the women, the differently abled, the sick, the indigenous people and the indigents. HLAf also believes that the best way to protect the right to liberty is not to violate it in the first place. That is why HLAf is committed in empowering and capacitating the duty-bearers and the community especially the local government units to know the law and to know how to implement the law to ensure the liberty of persons. HLAf further believes that persons who have been previously detained and deprived of liberty, needs to be properly reintegrated into their families and their communities because of the separation that jails and prisons cause. Thus, HLAf is also committed to implement a reintegration system in the communities to assist ex-detainees to take back their lives and dignity. Lastly, HLAf believes that implementing it's work is not the ultimate end. It is only a means to prove that these services are doable and implementable. Thus in implementing all its programs and projects, HLAf ultimately aims for the institutionalization and replication of its projects.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Jail Decongestion (2017-2019)

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

HLAf's Jail Decongestion Program (JD) is our flagship program. All other programs are designed to support the goals of the jail decongestion program. It has run since HLAf's establishment and has since evolved from a traditional lawyering project into an alternative lawyering program. In this program cycle, we aim to decongest jails by focusing on the perspective, attitudes and knowledge of duty-bearers and the community. While we continue to scour the jails and the court records for inmates who are eligible to be released and work for their releases, we will simultaneously work to change the punitive attitudes of the community and key jail officers. We believe that by doing this, duty-bearers and members of the community alike will be more sensitive to prevent arbitrary, unlawful and unnecessary deprivation of liberty.

STRENGTHS

HLAf's strengths in implementing this project are: - Our lawyers are experts in human rights, correctional reform and criminal justice reform who are adept not only in the traditional practice of law but in developmental (alternative) lawyering. - Our lawyers continually train to be experts not only in their chosen fields but also to master pressing issues in their fields. Our lawyers also teach law and law related subjects in criminal law, political science and media law. One of our lawyers has a master of laws in criminal justice (one of the very few who have in the Philippines) and two of our lawyers continue to train on drug related issues. All our lawyers are sought after resource persons on restorative justice, juvenile justice and criminal justice reform. - Our lawyers do not only master the technicality of the law, they also excel in popular education -- they can explain these technicalities to ordinary even unschooled persons in order to let them understand their rights and available remedies. - Our staff are not only great in dealing with inmates inside the extreme conditions of the jails, but they are also confident in meeting persons of authority like the justices of the supreme court, cabinet secretaries and legislators about the foundation's advocacies in their elegant offices. - Our staff especially our paralegal officers are very dynamic and pro-active employing both legal and meta-legal tactics in order to secure the immediate release of eligible detainees. - Our staff are willing supervise and mentor students who are open to doing their internship in HLAf. - We have an online database system that hosts its jail decongestion data making information available to staff and volunteers in real time. - Our program is one of a kind and unique. In Metro Manila (maybe in the whole country) we are the only organization that seeks to decongest jails with maximum participation from the inmates and the jail guards themselves. - Our program can provide a lot of opportunities for law students to learn criminal procedure, criminal law and legal techniques.

OPPORTUNITIES

There are a lot of opportunities for HLAF in the field of Correctional and Criminal Justice Reform in the Philippines, to wit: - There are still a lot of inmates who do not understand their situation and who do not know about the criminal justice processes of the Philippines. As a result, many of them still stay in jail even though they should already be free. - The records system and the processes of the criminal justice system can still be improved. Coordination among duty-bearers and stakeholders should be improved in order to prevent the stagnation of cases, the overstaying of inmates and the postponements of hearings. - Trial periods can still be accelerated especially if cases which are stagnant are followed up. - The community can benefit a lot if a credible institution with a reputation and expertise in Criminal Justice will explain to them the processes and the purposes of the criminal justice and the correctional systems. - The community can change their punitive perspective if an institution would lead the way in popularizing restorative justice in the community. - Improving the perspective of key jail officers like the warden and the jail paralegal officers would contribute greatly to the decongestion of jails and the rehabilitation of inmates. - Government agencies like the Office of the Court Administrator under the Supreme Court, Commission on Human Rights, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology are open to partnering with HLAF. - Government agencies in the province of Cebu and in the city of Cebu are aware of HLAF's jail decongestion program and open to partner with HLAF. - The BJMP allows HLAF to conduct projects inside their facilities. - The inmates trust HLAF and they know about HLAF's services. Inmates even volunteer to help in the implementation of HLAF's projects. - There are law students Manila, Cebu and Legaspi City who are willing to do volunteer work or their internship for HLAF. - The Ateneo Law School and other law schools are interested in offering Jail Decongestion as an elective course. - The Ateneo Law Alumni Association, Inc. (ALAAI) supports and is open to continuously support HLAF's jail decongestion through its clinical legal education offering in Ateneo.

ASPIRATIONS

HLAF aspires 1. To establish HLAF's expertise in jail decongestion in the Philippines. 2. To ensure that key jail officers use the human rights and rehabilitative framework in penology. 3. To raise the community's awareness on human rights-based, dignity-based, rehabilitation-based penal system.

Summary of Implementation

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HLAF has established its expertise in jail decongestion in the Philippines by continuing to provide legal aid and consultation to detainees with eligible cases for follow up through jail visits. In 2017, a total of 213 jail visits, 1,092 cases follow ups, and six medical missions have been conducted in fourteen (14) priority jails in NCR and some partner jails in Cebu and Bicol. Key jail officers and other duty bearers are also now more aware of pressing issues in penology, and they use the human rights based and rehabilitative approach in addressing them.

Together with volunteer students and CLED students, HLAF JD has helped in fast tracking the detainees' cases in courts through case consultations and case follow ups. Volunteer law students are also able to interact with PDLs and share their knowledge by explaining laws and answering their questions. High interest among the students was also observed during the three (3) JD Caravans.

Three JPO Kamustahan were conducted where all the JPOs are invited in NCR in order to facilitate sharing of good practices and discuss how they were able to perform their duties as paralegal officers. It also served as an avenue where the JPOs can raise their concerns regarding their duties in

the jail.

Some of the activities' target implementation were not achieved mainly because of the resignation of HLAJF's lawyer in Cebu and the graduation of the Legazpi scholar.

GOOD STORIES

Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo visited the Cebu City Jail Female Dormitory and Operation Second Chance on January 14, 2017. She was pleasantly surprised that there are jail paralegal officers and PLAides, prompting her team to interview a paralegal aide for a feature article for Kuwentong Laylayan, the VP's official magazine.

In Malabon City Jail, the group of JPOs in the male dorm and female dorm were able to initiate their own three day paralegal training for their new PLAides.

Chief Paralegal SJO4 Susan Roxas sought the assistance of HLAJF JD in a case follow-up of two inmates in Mandaluyong City Jail Male Dorm. This case was already dismissed but the Office of the Clerk of Court saw that they have a pending case in other Branch in RTC jurisdiction. The clients said that the case seen by OCC was the one they already served in NBP-Medium New Bilibid Prison. On 17 March 2017, after the records were obtained and received by the Chief JPO of Mandaluyong CJM, the BJMP submitted it to OCC of Mandaluyong. On the same day, the two inmates were immediately released.

In Manila Female Dorm, the dismissed case of Cristina Sivillana was televised in Kapuso mo Jessica Sojo Program and Wowowin, when Cristina's daughter appealed to the public to help her mother's case. Together with CLED students, HLAJF JD scheduled an immediate interview with Ms. Sivillana and followed up the case in Branch 31 Manila RTC for immediate disposition. The PAO lawyer assigned responded immediately by filing a motion for dismissal.

OBJECTIVE 1.1. To establish HLAJF as an expert in jail decongestion and inmates rights.

INDICATOR 1.1.1. No. of Annual Jail Situationer published

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		1	0	0.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
1.1.1.1. Collect Data from BJMP	1	4	400.00%
1.1.1.2. Publish Jail Situationer	1	0	0.00%
1.1.1.3. Conduct Jail Visits in Cebu	48	14	29.17%
1.1.1.4. Conduct Jail Visits in Bicol	24	19	79.17%
1.1.1.5. Conduct Jail Visits in NCR	240	190	79.17%

INDICATOR 1.1.2. No. of eligible inmates released

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		100	144	144.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
1.1.2.1. Case follow-ups in NCR	800	1035	129.38%
1.1.2.2. Case follow-ups in Cebu	240	61	25.42%
1.1.2.3. Case follow-ups in Bicol	240	0	0.00%

INDICATOR 1.1.3. No. of welfare missions conducted in jails

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		3	5	166.67%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
1.1.3.1. Conduct Health Missions in Selected Jails	3	6	200.00%

OBJECTIVE 1.2. To ensure that key jail officers and other duty bearers are aware of pressing issues in penology and to ensure that they use the human rights based and rehabilitative approach in addressing them.

INDICATOR 1.2.1. Percentage of jails in the areas of operation of HLAF that achieves level 3 in the HLAF Jail PerMeter

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		25	71	284.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
1.2.1.01 Development of HLAF Jail Perimeter	1	1	100.00%
1.2.1.02. Courtesy Meetings with BJMP NCR Wardens	2	7	350.00%
1.2.1.03. Meeting with the BJMP National Headquarters	1	3	300.00%
1.2.1.04. NCR JPO Kamustahan	4	3	75.00%
1.2.1.05. Gawad Kalayaan for Criminal Justice Workers	1	1	100.00%
1.2.1.06. Meeting with BJMP NCR Officers	4	4	100.00%
1.2.1.07. Meet with BJMP Region 7 Officers	4	3	75.00%
1.2.1.08. Meet with BJMP Region 5 Officers	4	2	50.00%
1.2.1.09. Meet with Cebu Jail Wardens	4	4	100.00%
1.2.1.10. Courtesy Meetings with Albay Jail Wardens	4	1	25.00%
1.2.1.11. Meet/Coach/Mentor BJMP JPOs in NCR	100	176	176.00%
1.2.1.12. Meet/Coach/Mentor BJMP JPO in Cebu	24	56	233.33%

INDICATOR 1.2.4. No. of functional Local Justice Sector Coordinating Councils Initiated

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		3	1	33.33%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
1.2.4.1. Meetings with Local Justice Sector Stakeholders in NCR	3	5	166.67%
1.2.4.2. Conduct/Initiate Ugnayang Talakayan in NCR	3	3	100.00%
1.2.4.3. Meetings with Local Justice Sector Stakeholders in Cebu	3	2	66.67%
1.2.4.4. Conduct/Initiate Ugnayang Talakayan in Cebu	1	1	100.00%
1.2.4.5. Meetings with Local Justice Sector Stakeholders in Albay	3	1	33.33%

1.2.4.6. Conduct/Initiate Ugnayang Talakayan in Albay	1	1	100.00%
---	---	---	---------

INDICATOR 1.2.2. Number of Human Rights Based approach in Penology Trainings conducted

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		3	5	166.67%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
1.2.2.1. Development of Training Modules based on the HIAF Jail Perimeter	1	1	100.00%
1.2.2.2. Conduct of Trainings	3	8	266.67%

OBJECTIVE 1.3. To raise the community's awareness on human rights-based, dignity-based, rehabilitation-based penal system.

INDICATOR 1.3.1. No. JD Caravan

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		3	6	200.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
1.3.1.1. No. of Conducted JD Caravan	3	6	200.00%

INDICATOR 1.3.2. No. of students who became aware of the criminal justice situation

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		65	229	352.31%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
1.3.2.1. CLED Classes Conducted	22	28	127.27%
1.3.2.2. Coordination meetings with student organizations in Cebu	4	4	100.00%
1.3.2.3. Coordination meetings with student organizations in Albay	4	3	75.00%
1.3.2.4. Organize jail visits by student organizations in Cebu	2	2	100.00%
1.3.2.5. Organize jail visits by student organizations in Albay	2	2	100.00%
1.3.2.6. Organize jail visits by students in NCR	2	5	250.00%

INDICATOR 1.3.3. No. of JD IEC Materials printed and published

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		2000	0	0.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
1.3.3.1. Print and publish JD IEC materials	1	1	100.00%

INDICATOR 1.3.4. Percentage of increase in the awareness of the community on the nature and purpose of the criminal justice system

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		1	1	100.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
1.3.4.1. Design JD Awareness Survey Tool	1	2	200.00%
1.3.4.2. Pre-implementation Survey on JD Awareness	1	2	200.00%
1.3.4.3. Post-Implementation Survey on JD Awareness	1	2	200.00%
1.3.4.4. Advocacy Meetings	12	14	116.67%

OBJECTIVE 1.4. To Implement the JD program (Staff)

INDICATOR 1.4.1. Percentage of JD Activities that are fully accomplished.

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		90	69.04	76.71%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
JD Meetings	12	12	100.00%

BestPractice

HIAF JD continued to provide legal aid and consultation to detainees with eligible cases for follow up in fourteen (14) priority jails in NCR and some partner jails in Cebu and Bicol through jail visits. Jail officers take advantage of inquiring about new laws relevant to Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) during said visits. The partnership also enabled them to have access to people they can tap during law awareness activities. More students are getting interested in volunteering due to HIAF's visibility in social media and its jail visits in NCR and other regions.

On top of that, HIAF JD, together with volunteer students and CLED students, helped in fast tracking the detainees' cases in courts through case consultations and case follow ups. This includes interviewing inmates, witnesses, and their family members, and coordinating with the BJMP, courts, prosecutors, PAO, and other relevant agencies. Volunteer law students are also able to interact with PDLs and share their knowledge by explaining laws and answering their questions.

HIAF trains Paralegal Aides (PLAides) by providing modules that help them fully understand their rights. They are then mobilized to assist in their co-detainees' cases as well as coordinate with their own cases. The JPOs assigned are also able to utilize an automated excel file computation for point system GCTA grants that identified the assumed date of release of inmates. GCTA releases were increased because of this.

In Malabon City Jail, the group of JPOs in the male dorm and female dorm were able to initiate on their own a three day paralegal training for their new PLAides, with invited speakers from the facility. HIAF helped out in the discussion of other topics and lectures.

The JPO Kamustahan invited all the JPOs in NCR in order to facilitate sharing of good practices and ask for updates on how they were able to perform their duties as paralegal officers. It also served as an avenue where the JPOs can raise their concerns regarding their duties in the jail.

LessonsLearned

In NCR alone, HIAF has fourteen priority partner jails, making it difficult to give ample time and importance to each one. Visibility of JD staff is important to build rapport to partner jails, making facilitation of jail visits and case follow ups easier and faster. This is also particularly important especially when the Jail Officers rotate and get re-assigned to other NCR jails.

Constant follow ups and communication of JD staff to their Program officer is also crucial to properly manage time and resources in prioritizing certain tasks.

During the medical mission in Navotas, no volunteer doctors showed up and the jail roving doctor didn't help in the mission. Securing volunteer doctors in advance must be a main priority moving forward. In one medical mission, because of the inconsistent availability of the assigned doctors of BJMP in NCR, the facility Jail Officers from IWD Inmates Welfare and Development, Health Unit, and Paralegal Unit teamed up and outsourced volunteer doctors from the City Health Office and other private sectors to facilitate and conduct the medical missions.

Scheduling JPO Kamustahan proved to be difficult due to conflicting schedules, acquisition of permission to conduct, lack of notice, and late replies of the stakeholders. It must be emphasized that the schedule must be finalized so that the JPO Kamustahan will not to be taken for granted again. During the annual planning, it was deliberated that there will be a separate JPO Kamustahan for the core group partner jails and an NCR JPO Kamustahan to provide an inclusive venue for them to better express their concerns and share their experiences.

Challenges

The rotation of Jail Officers has been an ongoing challenge for the implementation, especially if the new officer does not have prior knowledge of HIAF programs. Coupled with the fact that communications with some JPOs also have varying protocols, building rapport is imperative for the implementation of the JD programs.

Communications and coordination with some JPOs also proved to be an obstacle in conducting JD activities. BJMP Record Officers have a hard time securing data due to non-standardization of their record keeping while some do not have a systematic database. Some even give different reasons why they cannot provide the data soon, only for JD to request for the data again because the officer has been changed. There are even times that they point to other officers for the data, only to return to the same officer with the same request.

Different stakeholders have varying schedules, pushing some JD activities to be put on hold. Other

activities become neglected due to these instances.

In other regions, courts do not allow case follow up by non- parties. HLAF JD met with the head of PAO Cebu on 23 May 2017 for this, and the PAO provided updates on the cases.

2. Center for Restorative Action (2017-2019)

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

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 six 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.

STRENGTHS

HLAf's strengths in implementing this project are: - All our lawyers are sought after resource persons on restorative justice and juvenile justice. - Our executive director drafted the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act as amended. - Our executive director drafted the PNP's Revised Manual in handling CAR and CICL cases. - Our lawyers do not only master the technicality of the law, they also excel in popular education -- they can explain these technicalities to ordinary even unschooled persons in order to let them understand their rights and available remedies. This is why communities love HLAf's training and mentoring methods. - Our social workers continue to think of innovative and creative ways to teach communities to handle cases involving children in conflict with the law and children at risk using restorative justice principles. - Our community organizers are well respected in the communities and have the capacity to make communities act. - Our staff are willing supervise and mentor students who are open to doing their internship in HLAf. - Our training framework and methodology are well tested and are proven to be effective in capacitating and empowering barangays and communities to implement even the most controversial and unpopular law.

OPPORTUNITIES

There are a lot of opportunities for HLAf in making restorative justice work in the communities: - Restorative justice and restorative justice conferencing are great alternatives to punitive justice and to the traditional criminal procedure in settling disputes especially for children-in-conflict with the law and those who commit victimless crimes like drug related offenses. - Restorative justice principles are now enshrined in key local legislations like the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act. - Many local government units especially the barangays need to learn not only the concept of restorative justice and its benefits but also the legal frameworks where they can legally implement restorative justice. - A lot of children-in-conflict-with-the-law and children-at-risk would be prevented from getting in contact with the criminal justice system if the barangays and their cities/municipalities implement properly the restorative justice principles of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare act. - A lot of national policy makers do not understand workings of the Philippine Juvenile Justice and Welfare System; they even call for the lowering of the minimum age of criminal responsibility. - Children's rights will not be violated during disasters if the local government units know how to protect these rights and address violations using restorative justice principles. - A lot of drug dependents would be able to be rehabilitated in the community only if the the barangays and their cities/municipalities use restorative justice in rehabilitating them in the communities. - HLAf learned from its experience that if we wanted to empower the community to act towards the protection and promotion of rights, we should focus on honing their skills as much as we focus on providing them with knowledge. - Organizing (or federating) trained and skilled barangays enhances their voice in fighting for their advocacies. - A lot of local government units (both barangays and cities) are willing to spend resources to learn from HLAf topics like handling children using restorative justice, making their BCPC's functional to be responsive to the needs of CICLs and CAR, etc... - A lot of organizations invite HLAf to be a resource organization on restorative justice and juvenile justice. - The government's war

on drugs created a widespread need to learn about community drug rehabilitation (especially for children) and to acquire skills in implementing it. - A lot of government social workers, juvenile justice practitioners, teachers, law enforcement officers and community members are not familiar with restorative justice and the juvenile justice and welfare because there is a scarcity of trainings regarding the matter. Only those communities who have development partners benefit from an in depth training on Juvenile Justice. - HLAf has built a wide network composed of national government agencies, local government units, human rights organizations, civil society groups and media organizations who are willing to assist HLAf in implementing its advocacies on restorative justice and juvenile justice. - HLAf has an opportunity to train law enforcement officers in handling CAR and CICL since, HLAf through its executive director drafted the Revised PNP Manual in handling CAR and CICL cases.

ASPIRATIONS

We aspire 1. To establish HLAf - CRA as a leading institute on Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice; 2. To create spaces for sharing knowledge and experiences on Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice; and 3. To raise the community's awareness on the restorative justice and on the proper implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act.

Summary of Implementation

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 six years, CRA has proven that the Philippine Juvenile Justice and Welfare System is implementable in the local communities (barangays).

This 2017, CRA program continues its advocacy in promoting juvenile justice and restorative justice through community education, trainings and mentoring. CRA was registered as an education provider under the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) – Social Workers Continuous Professional Development Council. The trainings registered under the PRC was granted with high points by the councils. Thirty-three and a half (33.5) points for the training entitled “Fighting Illegal Drugs in the context of Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice” and twenty and point seventy-five points (20.75) for the two batches of trainings “R.A. 9344: The Legal, The Welfare and Restorative Side”. These trainings were able to accommodate professionals specifically social workers working directly in children sector. The PRC registration open opportunities for HLAf in expanding its advocacy in remote areas or areas with limited access to service providers. CRA training team was tapped by different LGUs and NGOs nationwide to provide training sessions on different topics in child protection. These includes Plan International, Bantay Bata, Las Pinas City, Sibuyan Occidental Mindoro, Malabon City Government and more. During the last quarter, HLAf tied up with UNICEF for a pilot project on establishing regional mentors.

Aside from the training engagements of the CRA program, they were also able to organize and conduct the three major events including the Juvenile Justice Implementers Congress (formerly Juvenile Justice Network Congress), Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) Congress and Juvenile Justice Volunteers (JJVOs) Congress. These activities were conducted in minimal budget but maximum output and impact.

This year, CRA program conducted several school caravans including that of Bicol University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Unibersidad de

Manila, Far Eastern University, Ateneo de Manila University. These caravans paved way to a better understanding of students especially as they are future professionals under children advocacies especially on juvenile justice. CRA program had the most number of caravan conducted. People, especially teachers and students, drew more interest on the sector of children in conflict with the law.

HIAF partner communities are striving towards sustainability. From two BCPC Federations (Malabon and Navotas), HIAF was able to organized another BCPC Federations on Quezon City (District 2,5,6). These federations reach-out, mentor and train if necessary, barangays who needs assistance in re-organizing their BCPCs. HIAF, through its community organizers, provides minimal supervision on the activities conducted by the federations.

OBJECTIVE 2.1. To establish HIAF - CRA as a leading institute on Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice

INDICATOR 2.1.2. Number of trainings conducted with high satisfaction rating

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		3	15	500.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
2.1.2.1. Training on pertinent issues on Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice	3	15	500.00%

OBJECTIVE 2.2. To create spaces for sharing knowledge and experiences on Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice

INDICATOR 2.2.1. Number of Juvenile Justice Implementers Congress initiated and hosted

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		6	6	100.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
2.2.1.1. Juvenile Justice Implementers Congress	1	2	200.00%

INDICATOR 2.2.2. Number of Juvenile Justice Volunteers Congress initiated and hosted

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		7	7	100.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
2.2.2.1. Juvenile Justice Volunteers Congress	1	1	100.00%

INDICATOR 2.2.3. Number of Barangay Council for the Protection of Children Congress initiated and hosted

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		7	7	100.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
2.2.3.1. BCPC Congress	1	1	100.00%

INDICATOR 2.2.4. Number of BCPC federated, mentored and coach

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		3	5	166.67%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
2.2.4.1. Regular Meetings	12	25	208.33%

OBJECTIVE 2.3. To raise the community's awareness on the restorative justice and on the proper implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act

INDICATOR 2.3.1. Number of CRA Caravan conducted

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		3	7	233.33%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
2.3.1. Conduct Caravan	3	7	233.33%

INDICATOR 2.3.2. Number of IEC materials published and distributed

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		2000	0	0.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
2.3.2.1. CRA IEC printing and publications	1	0	0.00%

INDICATOR 2.3.3. Percentage of increase in the awareness of the community about CRA and its pertinent advocies

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		1	0	0.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
2.3.3.1. Design CRA Awareness Survey Tool	1	2	200.00%
2.3.3.2. Pre-implementation survey on CRA Awareness	1	8	800.00%
2.3.3.3. post implementation survey on CRA Awareness	1	8	800.00%
2.3.3.4. Advocacy Meetings (CRA)	12	16	133.33%

OBJECTIVE 2.4. To implement the CRA Project

INDICATOR 1.4.1. Percentage of CRA Activities that are fully accomplished.

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		90	91.66	101.84%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
CRA Meetings	12	12	100.00%

BestPractice

HLAF CRA team was able to maintain the partnership with the different stakeholders and implementers. Despite the ending of the training program, partners remain cooperative and supportive to the organization and its advocacies. There are offices that even without a written agreement, continue to support and extend assistance to the organizations' activities. Networks continue to expand through formal and informal engagement.

LessonsLearned

This 2017, CRA Team continues to learn from its experiences. In dealing with the partners, CRA team learned that barangays need constant follow-throughs. Even if the team announced or sent the formal communication, HLAF has to call and ensure that they received and confirm with the invitations or else the barangay will disregard the invitation with a feeling that HLAF is not very sincere with the invitation. Barangays needs to inform formally through a formal communication and enjoyed being followed-up. HLAF also sees the importance of the involvement of key stakeholders and local offices in all the activities. They should be fully informed and involved in order for them to give their full support to whatever advocacies are introduced to them. Partners are willing to provide support if they feel that they are part of the activity than mere recipient of it.

In regards with the staff's efforts during the implementation, HLAF understands the importance of time management. Since HLAF staff are multi-tasking, deliverables should be scheduled and management properly in order to accommodate and attain all specific indicators. Coordination within the staff is also important. Since tasks and responsibilities are over lapping, staff should coordinate properly, internally and externally for them to achieve the targets with full support.

Challenges

This 2017, HLAF - CRA faces challenges during the implementation of the program. One of these challenges is the regular submission of the reports of the partner barangay. In spite the positive response to the advocacies, some barangays are still not able to submit documentations needed for the Performance Meter Scoring. There are barangays who submit reports but the reports are not complete. Their reasons include: the person in-charge of the documents are not around or some documents are not yet updated.

Another challenge in the program's implementation is the regular attendance of the representatives of the barangays in the regular meetings and mentoring sessions. Some barangays are not represented during the meetings due to conflicting schedule with other task and schedule. Communications are not sent ahead of time making it difficult for the representatives to ask permission from their barangay chairmen. There are also representatives that are given permission but did not attend the activities.

The greatest challenge of HLAF is the lack of support from the Barangay Chairman to the advocacy of HLAF. There are barangay chairmen who consider the partnership as finished. They are no longer participating in the activities of HLAF. Despite the consistent invitation, they continue to disregard the invitation. This is also the main reason why most of the barangays have low involvement.

In the level of the staff, the main challenge is the conflict in schedule. Since CRA team is also the FRED team, there are instances that some schedules were compromised because of the conflict in the schedule. Some of the staff are not able to submit their reports and documentation on time. There are some also who cannot manage the task properly.

3. Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees (2017-2019)

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT	<p>The Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees (FRED) is another cutting-edge HLAF program which was designed to address a very glaring gap in the Philippine criminal justice system: the fate of ex-detainees after being released. Three years after its audacious initial implementation, we have finally started to design an enhanced and comprehensive reintegration program. For this program cycle, HLAF's FRED program will address the individual needs of the ex-detainees by focusing on their psychological, emotional and spiritual needs within the context of his/her family. HLAF will also capacitate the community to be responsive to the needs of the ex-detainees and HLAF will provide ex-detainees with a small amount of money to prime their reintegration and rehabilitation within the community.</p>
STRENGTHS	<p>HLAF's strenghts in implementing this project are: - After three years of pilot implementation, HLAF already has a clear concept and design on how to implement a reintegration program for ex-detainees. Our experience had helped us to improve the program in terms of recruitment, debriefing of ex-detainees, inspiring family participation and most importantly encouraging community involvement. - HLAF's FRED program is the only reintegration program for ex-detainees in Metro Manila if not in the Philippines. - HLAF's experts who run the jail decongestion program and the center restorative action are well equipped to support the implementation of this program: the lawyers and the paralegal officers will assist in identifying potential beneficiaries based on their criminal cases; the social workers will develop the reintegration plan and the community organizers will mobilize the community to assist in reintegrating the ex-detainees.</p>
OPPORTUNITIES	<p>The following opportunities make the implementation of this program not only viable but also very timely: - Upon release, ex detainees need to adjust to the changes that happened in their families and their communities while they were inside the jails. - Some ex-detainees need to unlearn the values that they have acquired in order to survive in jail and they need to relearn the values that are essential to live a socially functional and acceptable life; - Ex detainees are labeled and are subjected to stereotypes that hinders their reformation, rehabilitation and development. They are even discriminated against especially in looking for a stable and legal source of income. - Ex detainees have to deal with different with the pressure that their families, communities and friends are exerting on them. - Some ex-detainees who are innocent spent a long period of time in jail but upon their release, they face the same challenges as those who are guilty. - Ex-detainees need financial, emotional, psychological and spiritual support to prime their return into their families and their communities. - Many ex-detainees, even though they know that they need support for their reintegration, would not approach HLAF to seek help. - There are very supportive BJMP jail wardens and jail guards (like Supt. Randel Latoza) who even lend their facilities for free for HLAF's use while implementing the FRED program. - BJMP jail guards also assist HLAF in looking for inmates who are about to be released. They are automatically chosen to join HLAF's pre-reintegration formation. - Because of the network that HLAF built through its Center for Restorative Action, HLAF was able to get the support of some barangays in the implementation of the FRED Program. These barangays are also very receptive to innovation and are even willing to provide programs and services to assist ex-detainees. - The Social Technology Bureau of the Department of Social Welfare and Development is interested in studying the program to pave the program's institutionalization. - HLAF had been receiving offers from professionals to work for free to implement this program. HLAF has a volunteer professor of psychology from UP Diliman, a volunteer social psychologist and a volunteer professor of social work from PLM. - Social work students from different schools are also willing to conduct their school required activities with HLAF.</p>

ASPIRATIONS

We aspire 1. To prepare detainees and to reintegrated them into their families and their communities; 2. To capacitate LGUs to reintegrate ex-detainees; and 3. To raise the community's awareness on the right of ex-detainees to be reintegrated back into the community.

Summary of Implementation

Through its Jail Decongestion (JD) program, the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (HLAF) witnessed the difficulties of detainees while inside the jail. While, the JD program continuously facilitate the release of eligible detainees HLAF however continuously witness the return cycle of some detainees after being released from jail. Most of the released detainees face difficulties once released. Ex-detainees are challenged with bio-psychosocial barriers which sometimes lead them to re-offending. HLAF understands that ex-detainees need guidance and assistance to be reintegrated to their communities.

The Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees (FRED) is another cutting-edge HLAF program which was designed to address the gap in the Philippine criminal justice system - the fate of ex-detainees after being released. Three years after its audacious initial implementation, HLAF started to design an enhanced and comprehensive reintegration program.

Last 2017, HLAF FRED program set the bar on full implementation of the pilot junior phase at Quezon City Jail and Malabon City Jail. The FRED preparatory junior phase program gave an in-depth preparation to detainees prior to their release. This phase also helped to speed up the release of detainees as they gain points every session. The Quezon City Jail started to institutionalize the program by involving the key persons of the Paralegal Office in the program implementations. On the other hand, the FRED senior phase became more critical in the case management process of ex-detainees. Ex-detainees who applied for the senior phase was handled and facilitated by a Registered Social Worker and a Psychologist. The two work together in providing bio-psychosocial interventions to ex-detainees especially those who didn't undergo the FRED junior phase.

FRED program ensured that the detainees' physical needs were also addressed. A quarterly medical mission through the assistance of MCKS Caring Heart Foundation was conducted to HLAF partner jails. The activities didn't only provide services to FRED beneficiaries/clients but also to other inmates who are in need of medical attention. JD and FRED staff conducted home visitation. Through these visitation, HLAF was able to observe the environmental factors that affects the well-being of the clients and eventually provided an insight as how to help the client in his reintegration.

FRED program was one of the most sought program in every HLAF Caravan. FRED program drew a lot of reactions, queries, comments and suggestions to the audience, both negative and positive. Since it's a trailblazing program, it attracted numerous volunteers, researchers and interns. This 2017, FRED program had two (2) professional volunteers and a total of 20 interns.

OBJECTIVE

3.1. To prepare detainees and to reintegrate them into their families and their communities.

INDICATOR 3.1.1. Number of inmates who completed the debriefing module

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		40	66	165.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
3.1.1.1. Junior Phase Values Formation	40	66	165.00%
3.1.1.2. Medical and Dental Checkup	4	4	100.00%
3.1.1.3. Senior Phase Values Formation	40	9	22.50%
3.1.1.4. Random Drug Testing	4	0	0.00%
3.1.1.5. Allowances for FRED - Junior Phase	40	9	22.50%

INDICATOR 3.1.2. Number of beneficiaries assessed to be ready for reintegration

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		30	0	0.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
3.1.2.2. Family Encounter Session	40	2	5.00%
3.1.2.3. Family Day and Graduation-Senior Phase	4	1	25.00%

OBJECTIVE 3.2. To capacitate LGUs to reintegrate ex-detainees.

INDICATOR 3.2.1. Number of barangays who pass HIAF barangay FRED Tool

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		3	3	100.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
3.2.1.1. Coaching and Mentoring	10	4	40.00%
3.2.1.2. Stakeholders Meeting	5	25	500.00%

OBJECTIVE 3.3. To raise the community's awareness on the right of ex-detainees to be reintegrated back into the community.

INDICATOR 3.3.1. Number of FRED Caravan initiated and hosted

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		3	7	233.33%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
3.3.1.1. Conduct FRED caravan	1	7	700.00%

INDICATOR 3.3.3. Percentage of increase in the awareness of the community

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		1	0	0.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
3.3.3.1. Design FRED awareness survey Tool	1	1	100.00%
3.3.3.2. Pre-Implementation Survey on FRED awareness	1	7	700.00%
3.3.3.3. Post Implementation Survey on FRED awareness	1	7	700.00%

OBJECTIVE 3.4. To implement FRED Program

INDICATOR 3.4.1. Percentage of FRED Activities that are fully accomplished.

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		90	57.14	63.49%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
FRED Meetings	12	12	100.00%

BestPractice

The program's best practice remains to be the provision of a financial assistance to FRED beneficiaries who continue to attend the sessions. With the assistance, the ex detainees were able to obtain the necessary documents (NBI, Police and Barangay clearances, Medical Certificates etc...), for them to find work. For some the money also helped to start a small business. For others, the money was used to support their family while they were unemployed. But since the assistance will only be given after every FRED session, the clients were able to benefit from the values formation, group counseling and individual counseling provided by HLAF FRED Team.

LessonsLearned

The team realized that there's a need for coordination between service provider and the facility. Also, the team seen the need for debriefing of the participating beneficiaries and service providers after every training and to get their feedbacks over the session conducted. The team then learned to always come prepare in terms of materials needed and sessions flow and other unexpected events that might happen during the session. The team also learned the importance of time management in conducting the programs and the flexibility of the staff in different aspects during the sessions.

Challenges

The biggest challenge for the program is the meet up after the detainee has been released. Most of the time, detainees are not able to show up in the session outside. Another challenge is the conflicting schedule of FRED Sessions with the CRA activities. Most of the time, FRED sessions was compromised to give way to CRA activities.

4. HLAF Communications (2017-2019)

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Communications Office develops a communication strategy that is essential to raise the awareness of the stakeholders of the community about the duty bearers that are involved in HLAF's programs and interventions through the different activities Communications will perform. It taps duty bearers, national government agencies, non-government organizations, local government units and stakeholders of the community to take part in the organization's advocacies. For the program cycle, 2017-2019, the communications office looks forward for another goal to promote HLAF's programs and advocacies to the target audience.

STRENGTHS

HLAF strengths in implementing the communication strategy are: - HLAF official website and social media accounts have reached greater heights in terms of unique visits, returning users and accounts reached. This data proves that there's an increase of interest from the target audience of the organization. This situation will help improve the strategy to maintain the social media accounts and unique site visits per year. - Throughout the year, the Communications office has a target of 2 published articles per month on the website. This activity will be an advantage in compiling articles needed in the annual released newsletter. - HLAF's social media accounts have stronghold with the target audience, developmental non-government offices and national agencies. It is essential in building campaign online. - The Communications office has an experience in publishing newsletter. With this, the annual newsletter will have an edge in applying different lay-out styles per year. - As HLAF consists of lawyers, social workers, community organizers and professionals, the staff is able to write articles and produce content that is necessary to the communication strategy of the organization.

OPPORTUNITIES

With the timely issues surfacing the Philippines, there are different opportunities that opened for the organization. - As the organization is one of the front liners in juvenile justice and restorative justice, the trimedia and academe are considering the organization as resources for interview, media coverage and researches. - The activities of the three programs have opened networks for the organization, not just in seminars, trainings or meetings, but also at the online community. - The current presence of the organization at the trimedia is boosting the status of HLAF in the search engines and related communications archive.

ASPIRATIONS

We aspire to present HLAF to the trimedia as an organization that promotes the rights of persons deprived of liberty especially the vulnerable like children and those who need special care.

Summary of Implementation

The main objective of the Communications Office is to present the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (HLAF) to the trimedia as an organization that promotes the rights of persons deprived of liberty especially the vulnerable like children and those who need special care. Last 2017, the Communications Office was able to maintain two social media accounts of the organization namely the HLAF Facebook page and HLAF Twitter account. The highlight of the indicator was as of December 2017, the Communications Office was able to reach 3,222 lifetime Facebook page likes and garnered 89 Twitter followers.

Through Google Analytics, the Communications Office monitored the users, sessions, page views and average session duration of HLAF website. The Communications Office was able to reach the target average session duration during the second quarter of 2017 by marking 4 minutes and 17 seconds. Throughout 2017, HLAF website was able to reach 3 minutes and 36 seconds as average session duration and engaged with 4,793 users that

produced 8,493 sessions. The notable countries that engaged with HLAf website (in order of ranking) are Philippines, United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Brazil, Singapore, Hongkong and Malaysia. Also, through the website, the Communications Office was able to publish 56 articles this 2017 about the programs, advocacies, activities and events of the organization. The website was also used as a platform for events and trainings' online registration. Through the tags and metadata produced through the website and online external sources, the Communications Office was able to maintain the first page search on the terms that are tagged through the website and metadata.

The Communications Office was able to reach the target media encounters for 2017 as HLAf was able to engage with 21 media opportunities. The notable media encounters are the articles published in The Lancet Vol. 389, ANC News report that featured diversion programs of Brgy. Culiati, Quezon City (one of HLAf partner barangays) and interviewed HLAf Executive Director, Atty. Rommel Alim Abitria about juvenile justice and the timely issue on lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility, ABS-CBN News published that interviewed Atty. Abitria as a child advocate on why lowering MACR was unreasonable, Cebu Daily Inquirer published (2) articles about the jail decongestion program, Rappler published an article that quoted HLAf's stand to practice restorative justice in the midst of drug war, Philippine Daily Inquirer published (print and online) an editorial article that discussed the stand of HLAf regarding the proper implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, GMA News Online published HLAf press material about the 2017 Juvenile Justice Implementers Congress, Sunstar Cagayan de Oro published an article about the public advocacy drive on juvenile justice (in partnership with Balaod Mindanaw) – the event was also highlighted during the ABS CBN Mindanao news segment, CBCP News and PhilPights released their edited version of the press release about the Juvenile Justice Volunteers Congress and Philippine Daily Inquirer published a series of articles discussing the situation of women in jails and an interview with Atty. Abitria about the HLAf jail services in Metro Manila and Cebu.

Through the help of HLAf staff, partners and volunteers, the Communications Office was able to accomplish specific activities to disseminate information about the programs, advocacies and activities of the organization.

OBJECTIVE 4.1. To present HLAf to the trimedia as an organization that promotes the rights of persons deprived of liberty especially the vulnerable like children and those who need special care.

INDICATOR 4.1.1. No. of Social Media Accounts Maintained .

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		2	2	100.00%

Activities		Target	Implemented	Accomplished
4.1.1.1. Post Status Facebook Account		120	849	707.50%
4.1.1.2. Post Tweets on Twitter Account		1000	1143	114.30%

INDICATOR 4.1.2. No. of Unique Site Visits per year

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		100	5492	5492.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
4.1.2.1. Google Analytics Data Monitoring of HLAf WEBSITE	4	13.87	346.75%
4.1.2.2. Post Articles to HLAf WEBSITE	24	56	233.33%

INDICATOR 4.1.3. No. of HLAf Newsletter published

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		1	0	0.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
4.1.3.1. Compile articles for newsletter	1	0	0.00%
4.1.3.2. Layout newsletter	1	0	0.00%
4.1.3.3. Publish Newsletter	1	0	0.00%

INDICATOR 4.1.4. No. of Media Interactions

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		20	21	105.00%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
4.1.4.1. Media Encounter	20	21	105.00%
4.1.4.2. Press Releases	5	5	100.00%

OBJECTIVE 4.2. To implement HLAf's Communications plan**INDICATOR** 4.2.1. Percentage of Comm Activities that are fully accomplished.

LOGFRAME	2017	TARGET	Accomplished	Accomplishment
		90	70	77.78%

Activities	Target	Implemented	Accomplished
Comms Meetings	12	12	100.00%

BestPractice

For the first quarter, the Communications was able to see the results of the efforts used in the communication strategy last year. The practice of continuous interactions with media and social media through the use of press releases, social media posting, tagging and sharing created the platform for HLAF to have media interactions and media publicity this first quarter of the year.

In the second quarter, the Communications Office can see the fruits of efforts of continuous posting to the social media accounts as it is a key to grab the attention of the media. Also, the dissemination of live updates can be helpful in tracking related post about HLAF. The dissemination of candid shots can also be an edge for the Communications as it signifies the lively coordination of the participants during the event.

LessonsLearned

The Communications was able to gain some lessons this first quarter. The Communications must practice patience in reaching out with media outlets as it takes a lot of time to grab their attention. Still, the communication strategy used last year in interacting with media gave results and HLAF gained 12 media encounter this first quarter.

Also, the Communications struggled miscommunication with HLAF staff in giving direct instructions. So the Communications learned to give direct documented instructions in the form of e-mail and the likes.

In the second quarter, the Communications Office learned to always prepare beforehand articles/materials that the media can request from the organization as it can be helpful in disseminating information about HLAF as well as educating media about the advocacies and activities of HLAF.

Challenges

In the first quarter, HLAF Communications faced difficulty in obtaining data for blurbs for social media accounts posting, articles for the website and press releases to the three programs of HLAF due to the lack of coordination and documentation from the programs.

In the second quarter, the Communications Office had difficulty in encountering new forms of articles that the media needs from the organization during big events like the press mats.

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ATTY. CAROLYN MERCADO - PRESIDENT
ATTY. DANIEL A. GORGONIA - CORPORATE SECRETAR
ATTY. INGRID ROSALIE L. GORRE - CORPORATE TREASURER
ATTY. MA. VICTORIA V. CARDONA - MEMBER
ATTY. SEDFREY M. CANDELARIA - MEMBER
ATTY. ROMMEL ALIM ABITRIA - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUR STAFF

ATTY. ROMMEL ALIM ABITRIA, J.D., LL.M. (Kent) - Executive Director
ATTY. MARY CATHERINE ALVAREZ, LL.B. - Program Manager for Regions (until 30 Sept)
ATTY. JEAN AUBREE RUBY T. SADURAL - Program Manager
MR. JUANITO S. VINLUAN, LL.B., RSW - Paralegal Officer/Social Worker
MS. CLAUDETTE ALMADIN, RSW - Senior Community Organizer
MS. CARMELITA TORREFIEL - Community Organizer
MR. ALFREDO ALARAS - Assistant Paralegal Officer
MS. LEILA Y. CABARLE - Finance, Administrative and Personnel Officer
MS. ELVIRA TAGUIAM - Assistant Finance Officer
MR. KIO DE LA PENA - Assistant Administrative Officer (until 30 Sept)
MS. MA. LUISA BAUTISTA - Communications Officer



HUMANITARIAN LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, INC.

Jail Decongestion Program 2017 Highlights



BJMP-NCR. HLAF, in partnership with BJMP, initiates the 3rd Quarter Jail Paralegal Officers' (JPO) Kamustahan as a platform of new learnings and sharing of updates to tackle revised guidelines of continuous trial, sample of cases about plea bargaining, and discussion of RA 10951 highlighting theft and stafa cases.



MCKS, HLAF team up for a medical and dental mission at Navotas City Jail that catered around 120 inmates. Doctors and dentists from BJMP and CSWDO of Navotas joined hand in hand to give health services to the inmates from dorm 1 to dorm 6 of Navotas City Jail.



Last May 31, 2017, HLAF Cebu and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Regional Office 7 for Central Visayas jointly held a Paralegal Updates Seminar for Jail Paralegal Officers for Cebu, Bohol and Siquijor.

HLAF, Ateneo CLED students held a case consultation for inmates about the amendments under RA 10951 at Mandaluyong City Jail Male and Female Dorm.



Ateneo School of Law- To have a deeper understanding of the present conditions of jails in the country and tackle its underlying issues and the notion to lower the minimum age of criminal responsibility, Clinical Legal Education (CLED) students of the Ateneo School of Law, in partnership with the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, congregate to conduct a forum last November 27, 2017.



HUMANITARIAN LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, INC.

Center for Restorative Action Program Highlights



Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act advocates and implementers seek to create an action plan to strengthen the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act as they held the 2017 Juvenile Justice Implementers Congress on Hotel Rembrant, Quezon City last June 1 and 2.

This year's congress is the 4th year commencement of the Juvenile Justice Congress. The congress aims to share experiences, learn good practices, discuss prevailing issues and challenges, and plan for response and advocacy on the full implementation of IJWA.

De La Salle University-Dasmariñas- An intensive course on Fighting Illegal Drugs in the context of Juvenile Justice and Restorative Justice held last August 21 to 25, 2017. HLAF tapped one of the leading academes in the Philippines with first-hand experience in handling institution-based CICL through their Bahay Pag - Asa Dasmariñas to give a better understanding of the juvenile justice in the current problem against illegal drugs. HLAF is also an accredited education provider by the Social Work Council of the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC). Social Workers who completed this intensive course garnered 33 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units.





De La Salle University – Dasmariñas – HLAF conducted two training on juvenile justice entitled JJWA (RA 9344 as amended by RA 10630): The Legal, The Welfare and The Restorative Side with corresponding 20.5 CPD units for Social Workers held last October and November 2017 respectively.

HLAF conducted its annual youth congress through the 6th Juvenile Justice Volunteers Congress with the theme: “Kami Naman po!: A Millennial’s Participation in addressing issues oncerning juvenile justice in social media platforms” that was attended by youth participants from BCYAs and youth organizations.



Sta. Maria, Bulacan- “Tayo Rin Para Sa Bata: A community's response to the challenge of sustainable implementation of juvenile justice” served as this year’s theme of the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation for the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children Congress 2017 participated by among 165 delegates from the members of the BCPC held last December 11-12 at Sitio Lucia Resort.



HUMANITARIAN LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, INC.

Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees Program Highlights



To give attention to the health of the inmates, the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc., in partnership with MCKS – Caring Heart Foundation, facilitated a medical mission for the second quarter last June 19 at the Quezon City Jail Male Dorm.



Last April 17, the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (HLAF) held its first session at the Malabon City Jail Male Dorm for the junior phase of the Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees (FRED) program.

Through the recommendations of the Jail Paralegal Officers, HLAF catered 30 FRED beneficiaries for the sessions. The session was facilitated by HLAF Community Organizer, Mr. Kio Jerome dela Peña, together with HLAF Social Work interns, John Lemuel Gardose, Christine Joy Gusi, Patrick Yeoj Peraz, Trisha Anne Fuentes, and Ma. Genella Flores.



Inmates need to give attention to their health too.

MCKS Caring Heart Foundation, in partnership with the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (HLAF), extended their jail services to the Quezon City Jail- Male Dorm by conducting a medical and dental mission to the inmates last March 20.



Quezon City Jail - A total of nine beneficiaries completed the sessions and graduated the Focused Reintegration of Ex-Detainees (FRED) junior phase last September 11. This commencement is the moving up ceremony of the graduates to the FRED program senior phase.

The reintegration phase of selected inmates is in partnership of the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (HLAF) with the Quezon City Jail Male Dorm. As of today, there are 24 beneficiaries of the junior phase. The sessions are also made possible by the efforts of the Jail Paralegal Officers, Social Work interns from Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) and Unibersidad de Manila (UDM) and HLAF FRED team.

Drug war lands more women in jail

Although men are the main targets of drug arrests, their partners are often detained as well, leading to motherless households, neglected children and congested jails

By: **Mariejo S. Ramos** - @inquirerdotnet Philippine Daily Inquirer / 07:14 AM December 17, 2017



NO COURT HEARING YET Nanay Crecencia waits for her day in court after being in jail for 3 years now.

Nanay Crecencia, 73, was on her way out of the Mandaue City Jail where she had visited her nephew when several policemen accosted her and slapped cuffs on her wrists. She was then taken inside a police mobile, forced to strip naked and arrested for drug possession. The police said they found a sachet of “shabu” (crystal meth) inside her pants’ pocket, a claim she vehemently denied.

“I spent two weeks in the police precinct before being taken to the local jail,” recalled Nanay Crecencia. “I’ve been here for 3 years now but I’ve never been to any court hearing.”

Without any family member to visit her, Nanay Crecencia struggles with loneliness and a deep-seated distrust of the law as she waits for her arraignment.

Since President Duterte launched a vicious war on illegal drugs in 2016, thousands of women have been arrested for alleged violation of Republic Act (RA) No. 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Nationwide, around 67 percent of more than 146,000 inmates are in custody for drug-related charges. Of this percentage, women comprise 13 percent, or 10, 291 detainees.

Although reports on the arrests and deaths of male drug suspects have dominated the media, the Philippines and Thailand—which both launched a campaign against illegal drugs—have seen a significant increase in the number of women arrested for low-level, drug-related offenses.

Emerging scenario

Cathy Alvarez of the International Drug Policy Consortium noted that an emerging scenario in the government's war against drugs was the arrest of couples in drug-related offenses.

Jessa, 27, an inmate in the Cebu City Jail, recalled the torment of being a mother locked behind bars for drug possession.

“Both my kids didn’t know that my husband and I are here in jail. My youngest was only 2 when I was detained. We had to lie and tell them that their mother was working somewhere. We did that so they won’t be bullied by other kids,” she said.

Jessa turned teary-eyed when she recalled how she missed the important moments in her children's lives—every graduation, every birthday, every school activity where she was needed.

“I remember my child needing a family picture for her class—but we couldn’t be there for her,” Jessa said.

In the local jails of Cebu and Mandaue cities in Central Visayas, women are usually arrested for illegal drug possession and for selling drugs. There has also been an increase in cases of possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to Jail Senior Insp. Stephanny Salazar, warden of the Mandaue City Jail female dormitory, drug arrests have swelled jail population and account for some 80 to 90 percent of inmates.

“In 2013, for instance, we only have 97 detainees. Now we have 182,” she said.

Slow legal processes

Two of four cells in the Mandaue City Jail female dormitory are allotted for drug offenders, which are more crowded than the cells meant for women involved in crimes against person and property.

The extremely slow legal processes and the congestion of cases in court have also swelled the Cebu City Jail, some female detainees lamented. In some cases, their stay in jail has exceeded the prescribed penalty for their crime. For possession of drug paraphernalia, for instance, the penalty is only six months and one day, to four years.

“Sometimes, the detainees stay here longer than the prescribed penalty, because their cases have been overlooked in court,” Jessa said.

The country’s drug laws have become too punitive with extremely high penalties and often nonbailable charges, some human rights lawyers

“Our law has been crafted in such a way that it’s easy to tag an arrest for drug possession even if the case involves a really small amount of drugs. This would make the person ineligible for rehabilitation,” said Rommel Abitria of the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation. “This could really blow up jail populations,” he added.

In countries in the region, Abitria said, there are different penalties for drug possession, depending on its use—whether for personal consumption or for selling. But he said officials need to be reminded that the purpose of RA 9165 was to rehabilitate drug dependents.

Unintended consequences

“There are unintended consequences to the numbers game if we only look at the number of arrests and the number of deaths, but do not consider the profiles and identities of people arrested,” he added.

Women detainees also have to grapple with systems, practices and policies crafted with men in mind—because they comprise the majority of inmates—and this can have a negative impact on the family they left behind.

“Since we live in the society where child-rearing is dependent on the mother most of the time, a lot of children stand to lose their mothers’ guidance when a lot of women go to jail,” Alvarez said.

There are also special privileges that male detainees enjoy that women don't, like conjugal visits, which are not allowed in female dorms because the facilities are much smaller. There are also no clinics in most local jails.

"Jail facilities depend on the capacity of the local government to provide assistance. So there's no uniform standard when it comes to clinics, conjugal visits, etc." Alvarez said.

Salazar of the Mandaue City Jail said that although the system viewed male and female inmates as equals and made sure that only female personnel provided custodial services in the female dorm, women have specific needs that are difficult to address.

"Right now we have three pregnant women inside. Maternal care is a main problem, especially for women with sensitive pregnancies. Ideally, we should have a clinic here, but our facilities are too small. We cannot provide for their monthly checkup; we can only bring them to the public hospital to have them checked," Salazar said.

Bangkok Rules

In 2010, the 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted the Bangkok Rules, or The United Nations Rules on the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures of Women Offenders.

As a mechanism for jail decongestion, the Bangkok Rules call for a more gender-sensitive approach to jail and alternatives to imprisonment, such as noncustodial sanctions and diversionary measures.

While the Philippine government and the jail management bureau are aware of this law, it's hard to monitor its implementation since its compliance is not compulsory even seven years after its adoption.

According to Alvarez and Abitria, the region needs a hard law that will define the standards and access to justice for people in detention.

“The Philippines is a signatory to the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, Convention Against Torture, and the Cedaw (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) that are all binding. But it's really hard to monitor if our obligations are being followed,” Abitria said.

Since inmate welfare and development were introduced in local jails, rehabilitation has now become the thrust in crafting programs and activities for detainees.

An example is the good character time allowance, where an inmate's good behavior and active participation in jail activities are rewarded with a number of days deducted from their jail sentences.

“It's important to admit that we have problems. The jail itself is a problem. But our mandate is not only to secure (inmates) but also to help them through long-term solutions,” Salazar said.

* * *

This story is produced under the 2017 Southeast Asian Press Alliance's Regional Reporting Fellowship

HEADLINES 236 SHARES    

Meet the lipstick brigade behind bars

By training to be paralegals, these volunteers give their fellow inmates at the Mandaue City jail another chance at freedom. They also find meaning and a sense of purpose to life in prison.

By: [Mariejo S. Ramos- @inquirerdotnet](#) Philippine Daily Inquirer / 07:17 AM December 10, 2017



For the past 12 years, Sherryrna Lorenzo has worn the same yellow uniform with the word “inmate” printed on its back. It was a generic identity the 47-year-old mother of five was forced to carry when she was convicted of illegal recruitment in 2005.

She now shares space with 181 other detainees at the Mandaue City Jail Female Dormitory in Cebu province in Central Visayas.

But Lorenzo starts and ends her day differently from her peers. A member

As part of the brigade, she checks on her dorm mates' trial schedules and follows up their status in courts. It's a responsibility that has given her a sense of purpose she never thought she'd find behind bars.

Lorenzo is one of 12 paralegal aides in the local jail who were trained to render legal assistance to the inmates.



CONGESTED Delayed trials lead to the already overflowing capacity of the Mandaue City jail's female dormitory.

“Before I was detained, I thought I already knew everything there was to learn about our legal processes. When we became paralegal aides, I realized there was so much more to learn—for ourselves and for others,” Lorenzo said.

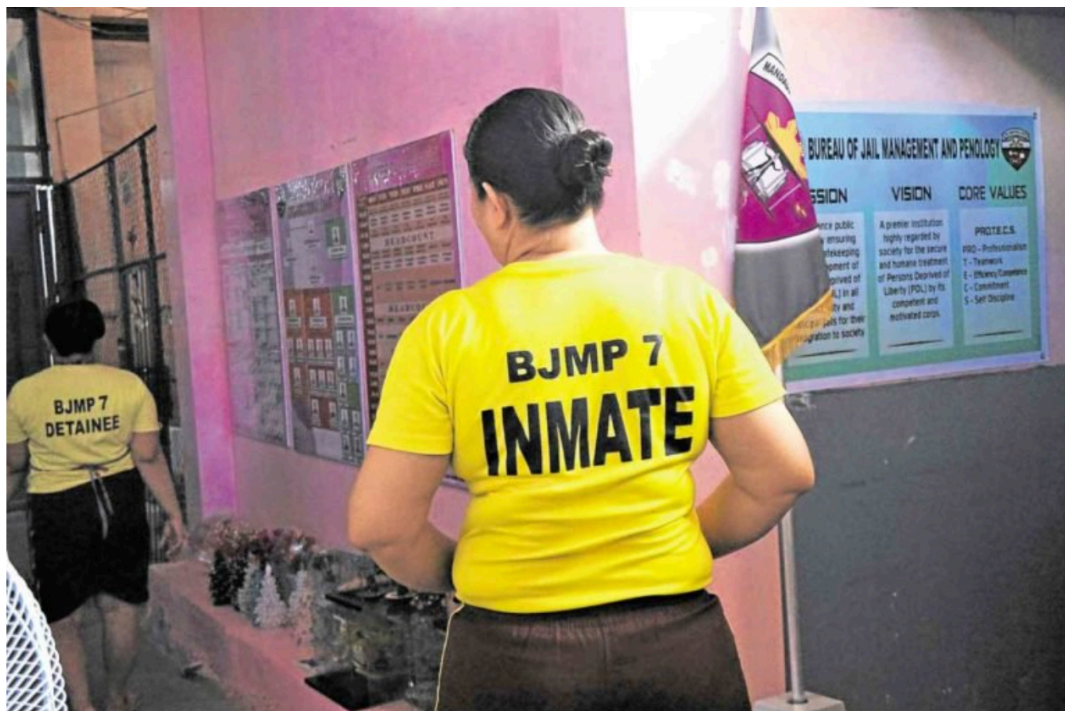
Mandaue City Jail is one of the most congested female dormitories in the Philippines, with a congestion rate of 883 percent, versus the national congestion rate of 555 percent. Inmates occupy much less than the 4.7 square meters minimum cell area prescribed per head. With that standard, the local jail can hold only 19 inmates.

For human rights advocates and jail officials, this manifests that prisons are a last priority in the country.

“We’re depending on the national budget, and of course, we’re the least priority of the national government because we’re only incurring expenses without expected returns,” said Jail Senior Insp. Stephanny Salazar, Mandaue City Jail warden of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

The jail congestion is worsened by the frequent postponement of hearings because of the lack of time and other material factors in local courts. Women, whose main offenses are usually low-level property or drug-related offenses, find themselves trapped in years of incarceration in these crowded cells.

It was within this context that Lorenzo realized the importance of access to legal aid inside the jail. When the paralegal training was introduced in Mandaue in 2015, she immediately volunteered.



GENERIC IDENTITY Inmates wear the prescribed yellow shirt inside jail.

“Initially, I found it difficult to accept that I would spend my life in prison. But when we were trained to become paralegals, I realized there was a purpose for my being in jail. And that was to help others obtain their freedom,” she said.

Legal first aid

On a Thursday morning, the inmates of Cebu City Jail Female Dormitory found themselves gathered in a circle singing “If You’re Not Here” by the ’70s boy band Menudo.

It was their farewell song to Renefe Baliuag, who served as the mother they thought they never needed behind bars. She was being transferred to the Correctional Institute for Women in Mandaluyong to serve her life sentence for human trafficking.

Just like in Mandaue, the Cebu City Jail is congested, with more than 600 inmates occupying space meant for only 60.

Legal assistance could certainly help those whose cases were overlooked and in the process decongest the jail.

Jail said Baliuag, 55, has brought out the goodness in her. She could be a

Like Lorenzo, Baliuag and 24 others in the female dorm have become beneficiaries of the paralegal program initiated by Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation (HLAF), a local rights group, in partnership with the BJMP.

“I’m happy to have served as a paralegal aide because I got the chance to help my dorm mates. When I enter the Correctional Institute, I will proudly bring my diploma from the paralegal program and share my knowledge with the inmates there,” Baliuag said. “I was given a life sentence, and I thought there was no more hope for me. But the paralegal program taught me that I still have a second chance,” she said.

The paralegal manual of HLAF defines the primary responsibility of paralegals, who are volunteer inmates, as bringing the legal concerns of other inmates to jail officials.

The paralegals undergo a series of training based on four modules: pillars of the criminal justice system, rights of the accused, criminal procedures and basic criminal law.

Cathy Alvarez, program coordinator of the International Drug Policy, had seen firsthand what it meant to become a woman deprived of liberty.

An alternative lawyer, she initiated the implementation of the paralegal program in Cebu and Lapu-Lapu in 2014.

By providing a “mini law school” inside the jail, she used her educational advantage to connect with the inmates and give them a new sense of dignity by empowering them so they could empower others.

“They must be willing and able to help their fellow detainees. Because it’s supposed to be a voluntary (job) and they should be paralegals not for their cases only. They must also represent their cells. It’s like having a legal first aid,” Alvarez said.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Office of the Court Administrator
Manila

DETAINEE'S NOTEBOOK
AS REQUIRED BY
A.M. NO. 12-11-2-SC

DETAINEE Name of Detainee: Optina, Grace T.
A.E. Case Title: DA - 29162 Jus
A.M. Crime(s) Charged: Viol. of Sec. 5 of RA 9165
Date Committed to Jail: October 7, 2016
Date when minimum imposable penalty is served (and accused can be released on his own **recognizance**):
Date of Arraignment: February 27, 2017
Date of Pre Trial Conference:
First Day of Trial
Statutory Last Day of Trial:
Date of Arraignment
Date of Pre Trial Conference:
First Day of Trial
Statutory Last Day of Trial:

Use kini ka proyekto sa Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. (HLAF) nga gisuportaan sa Supreme Court (SC) ug sa Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) nga gipunduhan sa USAID pinaagi sa The Asia Foundation.
Dinhi sa Sugbo, ang mopahigayon ani nga proyekto mao ang Human Rights Unlimited, Inc. ug ang University of San Carlos.

Use kini ka proyekto sa Supreme Court

Paralegal aides keep Detainee's Notebooks to record the status of their fellow inmates' cases.

In the Philippines, there are more than 140,000 detainees in local jails in its 17 regions. They are the so-called “untried prisoners,” said alternative lawyer Rommel Abitria, who is also executive director of HLAF.

Abitria believes that at the core of alternative lawyering is an enabling environment that allows a vulnerable group to access, use and share information they can meaningfully apply in their everyday lives.

“A paralegal officer inside a congested jail or a public attorney handling 20-40 cases won’t be able to monitor everyone’s legal needs in a day,” Abitria said.

“But if we provide the inmates with basic knowledge of the law and their rights, they will know how to give their fellow inmates a chance at freedom. It would be easier to point out who among their peers would need legal assistance the most,” he added.

This story was produced under the 2017 Southeast Asian Press Alliance’s Regional Reporting Fellowship.