



WHEN: 2019 to 2020

WHERE: Municipalities of Makilala, Tulunan, Midsayap, and Aleosan, Northern Cotabato, Central Mindanao, The Philippines

CHILDFUND LIFE STAGES: 2 (6-14 years old) & 3 (15-24 years old)

REACH: 24,369 participants in 37 schools (23,666 learners, 524 teachers, and 179 caregivers)

SUPPORTED BY: ChildFund International, ChildFund Korea, Taiwan Fund for Children and Families (TFCF) and ChildFund Australia

IMPLEMENTED BY: ChildFund Philippines, Hauman-BREATH

EVIDENCE LEVEL: Preliminary

GOAL(S): • Provide immediate psychosocial relief to families and teachers affected by the Mindanao earthquakes. • Provide safe temporary learning spaces.

HOW WE STUDIED THE PROGRAM:

- A one-group posttest study design.
- Primary and secondary data were collected and analyzed.

¹⁰ Diaz-Albertini, F. (2020). Central Mindanao earthquake emergency response: Final report. Metro Manila: ChildFund Philippines.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Intervention strategies** included psychological first aid (PFA) support for affected teachers, caregivers, and students; safe temporary learning spaces (TLS) integrating psychosocial support (PSS) sessions for children upon school resumption; provision of teachers' kits, learners' kits and hygiene kits.
- **5 safe TLS were created, benefiting 1,905 children.** These spaces gave them and their teachers a sense of security and protection and helped classes resume two weeks after the devastating earthquakes.
- **452 teachers participated in PFA and PSS sessions** to equip them with the skills to provide emotional support to students and resume a regular school routine:
 - Through the PFA/PSS sessions, teachers had a safe space to express their concerns and properly process their experiences.
- 111 of the teachers were trained as facilitators and became part of the pool of the Cotabato Department of Education's PFA facilitators to assist in times of emergencies.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- PFA interventions should complement child-friendly spaces — and should be integrated into emergency preparedness plans for country offices and their local partners.

SDG CONTRIBUTIONS



During the [Emergency Response] implementation, it was also found that psychological first aid (PFA) interventions are integral to **increase the chances of normalcy for both teachers and learners.**
— *ChildFund Philippines staff member*