



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Deepening Roots: Enriching Indigenous Culture through Education



Sowing Seeds of Purpose

VISION: *Cartwheel Foundation, Inc. ("CARTWHEEL") envisions a Philippines where Indigenous Peoples enjoy their rights to quality education, self-determination and active participation in community life amidst a thriving heritage.*

MISSION: *CARTWHEEL exists to empower Indigenous Peoples' (IP) communities by harnessing self-sustaining capacities through culturally relevant education.*

In 2015, a five-year strategic plan charting the Foundation's course until year 2020 has been drawn up with perseverance and high hopes. Setting directions, considering long-term goals, and committing to action—these were done with underserved Filipino indigenous communities in both mind and heart.

ABOUT THE COVER. *These two trees that stand in strength with its roots deep into the ground are from CARTWHEEL's partner indigenous communities. One is found in the highlands of Miayon in Talakag, Bukidnon, where CARTWHEEL began its mission. The other is from the islands of Culion, Palawan, where CARTWHEEL continues to scale up its programs and services.*

Together we strive to bridge the past, help make meaning of the present, and ultimately deepen cultural roots in building community strength for the future – all in dedicating action to culturally relevant education for indigenous Filipinos.

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Branching Out to Communities



● Early Childhood and Elementary Education Program

Culion, Palawan (Tagbanua), Lucena, Quezon (Bajau), Mampang, Zamboanga City (Bajau), Miarayon, Bukidnon (Talaandig), Sinakungan, Agusan del Sur (Higaonon)

● Adult Capability Building Program

Culion, Palawan (Tagbanua), Mampang, Zamboanga City (Bajau)

● Young Indigenous Peoples Leaders Program

Asuncion, Davao del Norte (Dibabawon), Capas, Tarlac (Aeta Hungoy and Aeta Mag Antsi), Maramag, Bukidnon (Manobo), Naujan, Oriental Mindoro (Mangyan Alangan), New Corella, Davao del Norte (Manguangan), Pigcawayan, North Cotabato (Arumanen-Manobo), Sinakungan, Agusan del Sur (Higaonon), Talakag, Bukidnon (Talaandig), Valencia City, Bukidnon (Talaandig)

● Project RISE: Re-Igniting Community Strength through Education

Culion, Palawan (Tagbanua)

Nurturing Growth in Young Learners

Early Childhood and Elementary Education (ECEE) Program

Collaboration among members of the community has been most essential to the success of bringing education to young learners.

In Sinakungan, Agusan del Sur, coordination with the local district's Department of Education (DepEd) and the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate of Butuan (IPA) has contributed to preparations for the program's complete turn-over to the Higaonon community in school year 2016-2017. DepEd has provided an additional teacher and committed a budget counterpart for school developments like repainting, construction of students' bathroom, and purchase of more school supplies. The IPA has committed to providing financial aid for the Higaonon teachers as part of their ministry's larger efforts to support programs in various IP schools around Mindanao.



Higaonon teachers Naldo Laipan Jr. (leftmost) and Noynoy Agbungan (2nd from right), together with their community organizer Mike Onduran (3rd from right), meet with DepEd teachers and Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit.

In Sitio Alulad, Culion, Palawan, Tagbanua young learners and their families are grateful to move from pre-school to elementary within their own island community. With DepEd's recognition of Alulad Learning Center as a satellite school of nearby Marabal, children no longer have to cross the seas to continue their schooling.



Tagbanua elementary learners from Sitio Alulad, Culion, Palawan, use rocks among their learning materials as they practice reading syllables and short words.



In Mampang, Zamboanga, the first program cycle of *Angiskul ma Bangka* ("Classes in Bancas") was completed with support from local implementing partner Ateneo de Zamboanga University-Center for Community Extension Services (ADZU-CCES), other stakeholders, and Bajau community members. Following the success of the pilot run, the 2nd cycle opened in late July 2015, with even more support from various development sectors in Zamboanga.

In class, young Bajau learners are taught basic literacy and numeracy skills, gain opportunities to deepen understanding for their unique culture, and nurture their psychosocial well-being. An especially distinct component of their curriculum and modules is the integration of Peace Education principles, which addresses their tribe's context of displacement and unrest. To provide them with a safe place for learning, the construction of a boat classroom commenced in December 2015, for use in early 2016.



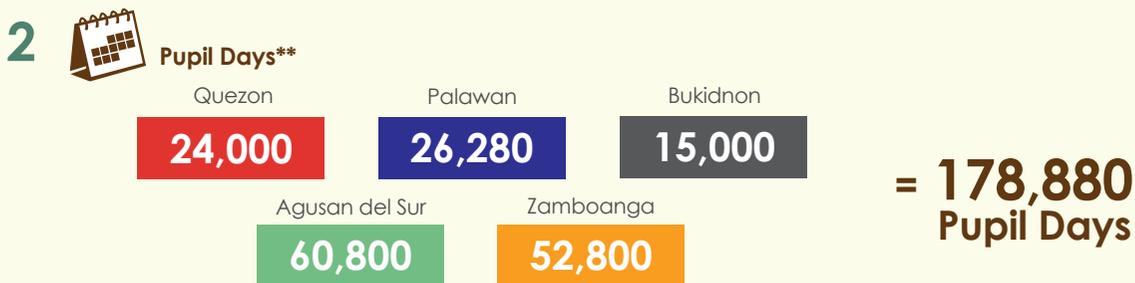
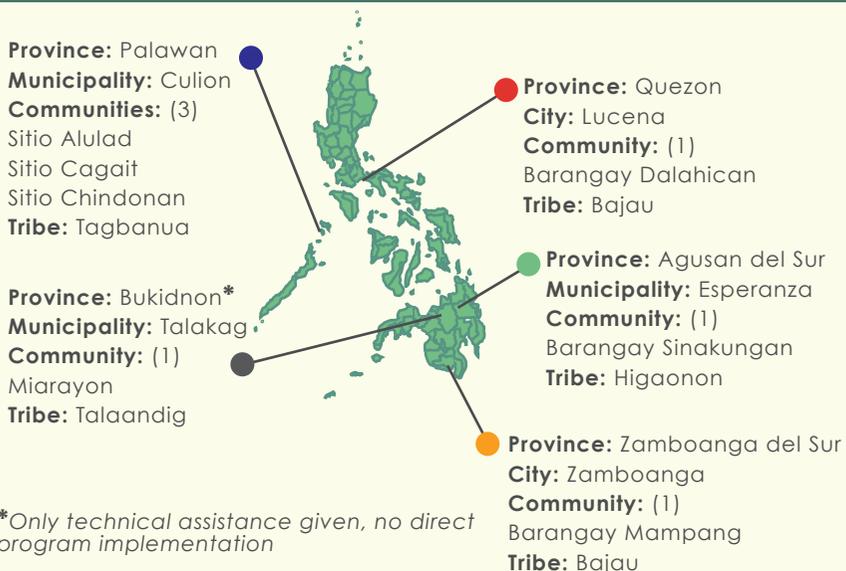
Bajau young learners from Mampang, Zamboanga proudly don their traditional attires during Angiskul ma Bangka's first commencement exercises in June 6.

In Lucena, Quezon, the indigenized curriculum and teachers' guides have been turned over in July to continue ensuring culturally relevant education for the Bajau young learners of their coastal community.

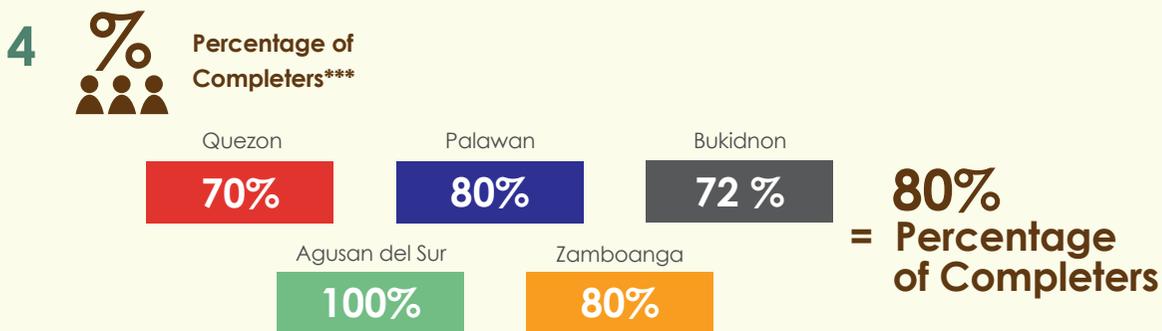
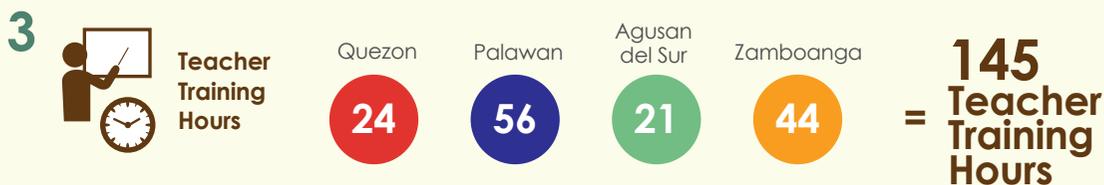


Bajau learners from Lucena look through the pages of the teachers' guides with details on lesson plans and instructional materials developed specifically for them.

Early Childhood and Elementary Education (ECEE) Program



**Pupil days refer to the "aggregate number of class days attended by ALL learners" within the indicated period of time (adapted from the BLT School Feeding Program, Jollibee Group Foundation, 2012).



***Pertains to percentage of completers vis-à-vis number of official enrollees at the start of the school year



Higaonon learners from Agusan del Sur create body movements as part of expressive arts activities shared with them on April 23.



Bajau teacher Relinda Montimor (standing) from Zamboanga leads in presenting their community's vision of a boat classroom for their young learners.

Deepening Involvement among Adults

Adult Capability Building (ACAP) Program

The desire for opportunities in lifelong learning has grown among adult community members. They see how their aspirations can come within reach as they make initiative in communicating their needs and follow through with dedicated action.

In Culion, Palawan, the Tribal Education Council or TEC—a platform for culture-sharing among Tagbanua community members—in CARTWHEEL's three partner sitios of Alulad, Chindonan, and Cagait has become increasingly active in school year 2015-2016. After necessary groundwork and encouragement from their teachers, their TECs now regularly gather twice a month in sharing various aspects of their distinct indigenous culture like arts and livelihood. Through the TEC, they also meet to discuss ways on how to address pressing issues that are relevant to community life.



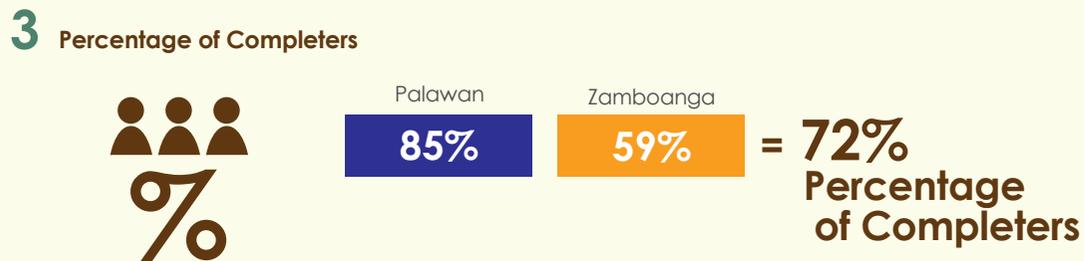
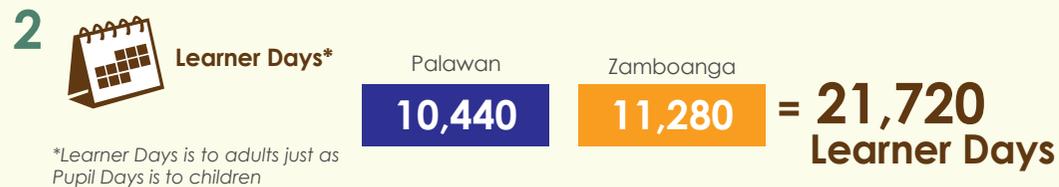
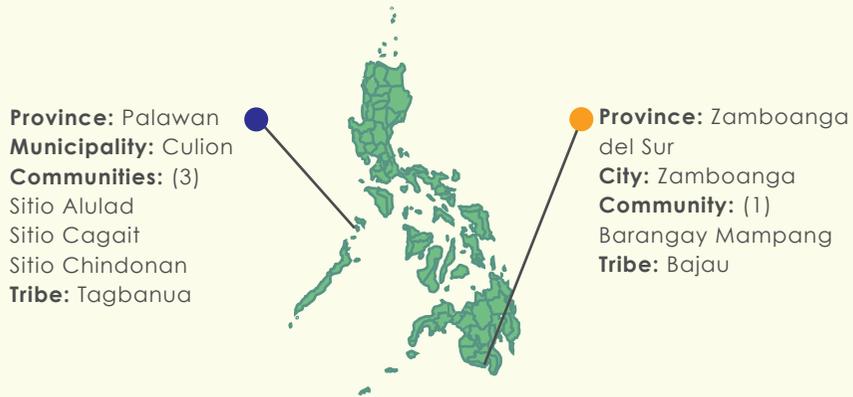
Community organizer Jojo Zapanta (standing) facilitates program assessment with Tagbanua community members of Sitio Chindonan.

In Mampang, Zamboanga, *Kahapan, Kasulutan, Kasanyangan Parimpunan* or KKKP (Service, Peace and Progress Organization) was formed among volunteer community members as they regularly helped with the children's school feeding, learning materials development, and participation during meetings. These same Bajau adults expressed how much they wanted to pursue education themselves. Inspired by Angiskul Ma Bangka Program for young learners, mothers have committed to attending classes on weekend afternoons to gain functional literacy and widen their skills set for better, more varied livelihood opportunities. The Functional Literacy Program of ADZU-CCES is currently used as main reference, while CARTWHEEL's process of indigenization has been set as a next step to ensure the integration of IP and Peace Education principles.



Bajau mothers practice their writing during one of their learning sessions.

Adult Capability Building (ACAP) Program



The multi-purpose evacuation hall (MPEH) in Sitio Alulad, Culion was completed in 2015. Tagbanua fathers and young men took turns in helping commissioned carpenters in hauling sand, collecting rocks, and completing construction. It was built in response to the damage caused by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013, through the collaboration of organization partners Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan, Ateneo Disaster Response and Management (DReAM) Team, La Inmaculada Concepcion Parish of Culion, and countless other generous donors. MPEHs are likewise set to be completed in Sitios Cagait and Chindonan in early 2016.

Bearing Good Fruit with the Youth

Young Indigenous Peoples (YIP) Leaders Program

Since 2006, CARTWHEEL has been sending its YIP grantees to Pamulaan Center for IP Education in Mintal, Davao. For school year 2015-2016, a second track has been opened in State Universities and Colleges or SUCs. Indigenous youth from CARTWHEEL's existing partner communities are given opportunity to choose their own course and college, usually nearest their hometowns.

Among the four grantees under the SUC track in school year 2015-2016, two were para-teachers serving Higaonon learners in Sinakungan, Agusan del Sur. Their openness for growth motivated them to pursue college degrees in Agriculture. They hope to return soon after graduation and share innovative farming practices with the rest of their community.



Ten YIP Leaders grantees from different tribes graduated with a degree in Sociology and Anthropology from the University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP)-Pamulaan Center for Indigenous Peoples Education on March 31.



Ricman Lidanhug, Higaonon YIP Leaders Program grantee, practices their indigenous farming techniques.

Young Indigenous Peoples (YIP) Leaders Program



Name of Tribes Represented by Grantees

- Misamis Oriental: (1)** Talaandig
- Agusan del Sur: (1)** Higaonon
- Davao del Sur: (7)** Aeta Mag Antsi, Arumanen-Manobo, Mandaya-Dibabawon, Mangguangan, Mangyan Alangan, Manobo, Talaandig

3 **Year and Course**

1st Year	Misamis Oriental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Community Development
	Agusan del Sur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture
2nd Year	Davao del Sur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Technology
4th Year	Davao del Sur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Entrepreneurship



Arjane was among the pre-school learners of CARTWHEEL's very first Early Childhood Education program in the Talaandig community of Miarayon, Bukidnon. She shares fond memories of her teachers then and attributes her ability to focus to her early schooling. In the past years, she has grown into a young IP leader in Pamulaan Center and is set to graduate with a degree in Social Entrepreneurship in March 2016. She looks forward to giving back to the communities by volunteering her service for IP-related causes.



Cultivating Community Resiliency

Project RISE: Re-Igniting Community Strength through Education

Coming to terms with devastation caused by any disaster is a process that takes time. Strengthening a sense of community contributes to reintegrating into the “new normal,” journeying on with the acceptance of past adversity as part of one’s life story.

Initiatives towards recovery have been continued in Culion, Palawan, where Typhoon Haiyan made its last destructive landfall in 2013. CARTWHEEL organized a follow-up psychosocial integration workshop on September 7-10 with local community workers and Tagbanua community members as participants. During house-to-house visits on the same trip, Tagbanua families opened up to express that there continues to be fear and anxiety among many of them—not simply because of calamities but also their everyday shared realities of discrimination and lack of opportunities.

The recognition of inherent strengths among community members was encouraging; indigenous practices like song, dance, and story-telling were affirmed as helpful means to overcome distress. Expressive arts techniques were taught as simple yet effective strategies for self-care.

In following through with efforts to care for holistic well-being, preparations are currently being made for the integration of psychosocial approaches as a significant component into CARTWHEEL’s existing education programs.



Different community workers in Culion embody “community strength” in one of their many activities during the workshop.



Community members from Sitio Cagait, joyfully chant “Duyunan” as one of their activities during the workshop.

CARTWHEEL is grateful for opportunities to share relevant insights on working hand-in-hand with the Tagbanua in strengthening community resilience. The advocacy for psychosocial well-being through expressive arts was shared with both local and international audiences.

CARTWHEEL participated in “Bounce: Living the Resilient Life,” a one-day workshop on stress management, self-care, and the expressive arts on November 16 in Manila. With MAGIS Creative Spaces as organizing partner, CARTWHEEL shared about their experience in working towards the psychosocial well-being of the Tagbanua through the expressive arts. Participants were educators, mental health practitioners, artists, and development workers, among others.



Bricks Sintaon (center, in red) leads participants in the emotional freedom technique during Bounce.

The CARTWHEEL Team was fortunate to have been chosen as presenters at the 11th International Expressive Arts Therapy Conference of the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association (IEATA) held in Hong Kong on October 7-10. Represented by Pia Ortiz-Luis (Executive Director), Coleen Ramirez-Panahon (Corporate Secretary and CFI International Country Manager) and Bricks Sintaon (Education Coordinator), they shared about the resilience and rich cultural heritage of Filipino indigenous communities through the session entitled “Nurturing Hope among Filipino Indigenous Communities through Arts-based Approaches.” CARTWHEEL consultant, Dr. Carmen “Titay” La Viña, likewise highlighted Project RISE in her presentation.

The team learned from expressive arts practitioners from around the globe about the value-adding contribution of the arts toward healing and social change. The insights from the learning exchange re-affirmed the value of its advocacy for partner Indigenous Peoples’ (IP) communities; deeper understanding was gained on the techniques of expressive arts, particularly in relation to efforts to integrate psychosocial support into existing programs.



L-R: Pia Ortiz-Luis, Dr. Carmen La Viña, Bricks Sintaon, Coleen Ramirez-Panahon present learnings at the IEATA Conference in Hong Kong.



Sustaining Strong Partnerships

Cartwheel Foundation International (CFI INTL)

CFI INTL has been a most valuable development partner since 2013, when they collected donations from the United States for Tagbanua partner communities in Culion, Palawan devastated by Typhoon Haiyan. In 2015, they contributed to staff development initiatives and have taken the lead in project development and fundraising for Project LUSOG (Linking the Underserved with Opportunities for Growth and Health) to help improve access of 100 Tagbanua families to basic health care and nutrition. Project LUSOG's research phase is slated to begin March 2016.

<http://www.cartwheelfoundationintl.org/>

Global Fund for Children (GFC)

GFC has been CARTWHEEL's development partner for seven years with their continuous full-program support for Higaonon young learners of Sinakungan, Agusan del Sur. In 2015, they awarded an Opportunity Grant enabling more of CARTWHEEL's team members to participate in the 11th International Expressive Arts Therapy Conference in Hong Kong. GFC has linked CARTWHEEL with other funders and made for learning exchange between their Asian program partners.

<http://www.globalfundforchildren.org/>

MAGIS Creative Spaces

MAGIS continues to work closely with CARTWHEEL in learning innovative ways of harnessing the arts in journeying towards well-being. A training workshop on Expressive Trauma Integration was organized in February 2015, and was in turn shared with Tagbanua community members from Culion, Palawan in September. Perspectives from the training continue to be applied as an approach, with the process of integrating psychosocial care into CARTWHEEL's existing programs.

<http://magiscreative.net/>



CFI INTL hosts Art for Health fundraising event in Arlington, Virginia on November 8.



Tara Vanacore (center, standing), GFC Programs Officer for East and Southeast Asia, visits the Bajau community in Lucena, Quezon on February 4.



Members of MAGIS and CARTWHEEL Teams learn that expressive arts like body movement can contribute to psychosocial well-being.



Sharing our Light of Gratitude

*Your invaluable generosity and support
 have borne good fruits this year.
 Our sincerest thanks to all of you!*

FUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

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VOLUNTEERS AND CONSULTANTS

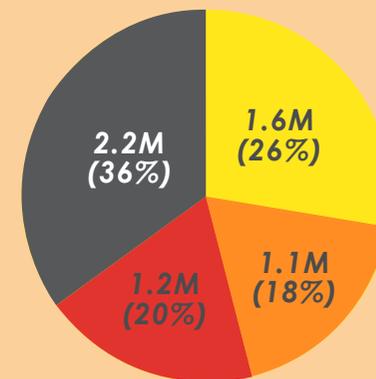
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Figure 1. FUND UTILIZATION

Based on Audited Financial Statements (Dec. 31, 2015)



- ECEE Program and Related Projects
- YIP Leaders Program
- Project and Stakeholder Management
- ACAP Program

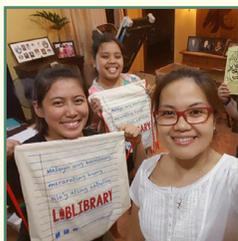


Tilling Land for the Future



DONATE

Help a child grow in culturally relevant learning! Be a sponsor and match our partner communities' efforts in educating their children. Visit <http://cartwheelfoundation.org/i-want-to-help/be-a-sponsor/> for more details.



INITIATE

Start a project to fundraise for our indigenous learners in a thousand creative ways! Your bright ideas can contribute much to the education of our partner communities.



ADVOCATE

Tell others about our IP advocacy and the urgency of our work with Filipino culture-bearers. Or you may invite the CARTWHEEL Team to speak at your organization – we would very gladly oblige!

Our utmost gratitude goes out to Bambi Gamban and Charise Delson for their help in the infographic design and lay-out of this Annual Report.



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