



newsletter

Island Kids
Philippines 

2025/4

In this edition

- Buwan ng Wika – Celebration of National Languages and Culture
- PIKIFI Elementary School Introduces ARAL Program to Promote Reading Skills
- Free Healthcare
- Training on Trauma-Informed Care
- Workshop Peer Trainer for Child Safety
- Children in Street Situations – Definition and Support
- Successes in the Fight Against Human Trafficking and OSAEC
- Events with Thomas Kellenberger
- BRASSmeetsVOCALS Charity Concerts of the “Die Gendarmen”

Dear Friends of Island Kids Philippines

The latest activities of PIKIFI show a great commitment and collective strength, focused on the central pillars of development: identity, education, health, and child protection:

During “Language Month” (“Buwan ng Wika”), our elementary school celebrated the national and indigenous languages and the Philippine cultural heritage.

With the introduction of the ARAL program, the school is focusing on targeted educational support.

Our Medical Missions contribute a decisive part to the quality of life in poor areas.

A special focus of our work lies on the protection of children. Training and education support the fight against human trafficking and OSAEC (Online Sexual Abuse and/or Exploitation of Children) in cooperation with official authorities.

All of PIKIFI's the work – from fighting serious crime to producing organic fertilizer – shows that sustainable development only succeeds with a comprehensive approach including care, education, security and environmental awareness.

■ Buwan ng Wika – Celebration of National Languages and Culture

In the Philippines, August is associated with “Buwan ng Wika” (Language Month). Due to its profound national and cultural significance, it is one of the Country’s most important celebrations. During the whole month, various events aim to motivate the population to actively use and appreciate their national language. At the same time, the more than 170 different indigenous languages are honoured, and their preservation as a valuable part of the national cultural heritage promoted.

Several activities also took place at PIKIFI’s elementary school, under the motto “Development of the Philippine and Indigenous Languages: Historical in the Context of the National Unity of the Nation”:

- Poster competition: Creative posters on the theme of Buwan ng Wika
- Poetic presentation: The children recited poems in order to express their love for the Philippine language
- Talent contest: A contest promoting the pupil’s capacities related to the Philippine language, literature, and culture
- Song contest
- Highlight and end of the celebrations with a performance of traditional dances



The whole of the Philippine Culture – including traditional dances, music, literature and clothing – is being celebrated during this time.



You can find a colorful picture gallery on our [website](#).



■ PIKIFI Elementary School Introduces ARAL Program to Promote Reading Skills

The Department of Education has launched the ARAL program (Accessible, Relevant and Accelerated Learning) in order to intensively promote the basic literacy skills. It aims to create a shared culture of literacy.

PIKIFI Elementary School officially launched the program on 13th September. Teachers, pupils, and especially parents were informed about ARAL, as parental support plays an important role in promoting reading and writing at home.

Afterwards, the pupils immediately started with their new learning materials in their classrooms. They were listening to stories, and with enthusiasm participated in reading activities. A performance of folk dance by the 6th grade rounded off the ceremony.



ARAL-Programm

■ Free Healthcare

Whenever possible, PIKIFI organizes free Medical Missions for the people living in our project area. On 21st September, medical professionals volunteered their services at the community center in Landfill of the two poor settlements, ManoMano Village and Mother Ignacio Village. The services offered included:

- dental and eye checks
- blood sampling and testing
- general medical consultations
- distribution of free medication where necessary

*Christian non-profit organization with psychologists and social workers who offer a range of therapeutic activities for children who have been abused (see also Newsletters 2024_2 and 2024_3)

■ Training on Trauma-Informed Care

In August and September, [Balik Kaanyag](#)* organized a four-part training course on strategies and approaches to Trauma-Informed Care (TIC). TIC aims to recognize the far-reaching effects of trauma. The emphasis is not on treating the trauma itself, but on preventing re-traumatization and creating an environment that enables healing and empowerment.



Under the guidance of a certified trauma specialist from [Balik Kaanyag](#), participants received practical tools to support children from difficult backgrounds

The valuable training took place at PIKIFI's Alice Rose Clover-Center and was aimed at social workers and house parents from PIKIFI, our partner organization Just One Touch, as well as other participating organizations. Under the guidance of a certified trauma specialist from Balik Kaanyag, participants received practical tools to support children from difficult backgrounds, in particular:

- principles of trust-based relationship intervention
- strategies for self-regulation and co-regulation
- support group activities for building healing and strengthening relationships

**Christian non-profit organization with psychologists and social workers who offer a range of therapeutic activities for children who have been abused (see also Newsletters 2024_2 and 2024_3)*

■ Workshop Peer Trainer for Child Safety

In a one-day workshop, a group of young people were taught to become peer trainers so they can educate other children and young people about safe/unsafe touching and online safety. The following topics were discussed in groups during the workshop:

- Safe and unsafe touching: The participants identified acceptable and unacceptable touching, represented them graphically with green/red, and practiced how to defend themselves in role-playing exercises.
- Online safety: The young people discussed which personal events can be safely shared on social media and which information could put them at risk.

As competent trainers, these motivated young people will spread the awareness of child safety within their communities.

■ Children in Street Situations – Definition and Support

The term “Children in Street Situations” (CISS) is more comprehensive than “Street Children”. It describes children and young people for whom public space has become their central living environment or their essential basis of existence. They can be roughly divided into two groups:

- Children of the streets who permanently live, sleep, and work in public places such as streets, parks, bus stations, or under bridges. Most of them have lost contact with their families.
- Children on the streets who spend most of the day on the streets but return to their families at night. They work in order to support their families financially (for example by providing small services, selling goods, begging, or prostitution). Often, they escape extreme poverty, domestic violence or neglect.

CISS are particularly affected by violation of their fundamental rights (education, health, protection) and are extremely vulnerable to exploitation, abuse and crime. They develop unhealthy survival strategies and urgently need protection and help.



Workshop peer trainers

In Cagayan de Oro (CdO), the **Lifebank Foundation** supports non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working together with CISS through various programs. In August, twelve organizations took part in an information event, among them PIKIFI. The purpose was to network and test the new online platform OSA (Organizational Self-Assessment Tool). It helps NGOs to identify their strengths and deficits in order to optimize their contribution to the well-being of CISS. The exchange will continue in a "chat group".

■ Successes in the Fight Against Human Trafficking and OSAEC

Thanks to increased cooperation, the fight against human trafficking and exploitation of children in the Philippines is achieving significant regional successes:

- The "Justice Zone" is a coordinated initiative by the Philippine Justice (Supreme Court, Department of Justice and Department of the Interior) to intensify the fight against human trafficking and OSAEC. The "**Cagayan de Oro Justice Zone**" comprises an alliance of official authorities (police, social service, city administration) and NGOs (like Balaod Mindanaw and PIKIFI), which work together to deal with violations in this area.
- The Justice Zone Committee met up with Mayor Rolando Uy, who once more assured the continuous support of the city government for future activities and initiatives to strengthen local efforts against human trafficking and OSAEC.
- During the "**World Day Against Trafficking in Persons**" on 30th July, an inspection of guesthouses, boarding houses, hotels, massage salons, bars, and nightclubs took place throughout the city. The aim of this measure was to protect children and rescue them from situations of child prostitution and other violations of their rights. As a result a high number of cases of child trafficking was detected, which underlines the necessity for more intensive educational information.
- A significant success was achieved in Iligan City, 55 km away, where also (former) protégés of PIKIFI live. During a successful operation, five minors affected or threatened by human trafficking were rescued. They were victims of a Canadian man and

a Philippine accomplice who allegedly exploited them through live streaming and filming obscene acts. This successful operation shows the strong and effective cooperation between the government and partner organizations. "In commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, we affirm our pledge to protect every child from human trafficking and online sexual exploitation", the authorities confirmed. They explicitly encouraged the public to immediately report suspicious activities via the official Facebook page. Public participation is crucial in order to protect children and to reduce online abuse spreading.

■ Bata Alima

Following the workshops at Binahon Agroforestry Farm (see Newsletter 2025_3), the knowledge acquired was put into practice: Through fermentation from mixing natural materials like fish, fruit, sweet potato leaves, ginger, garlic, and molasses, precious products were obtained within seven days: organic fertilizer and natural plant protection sprays for prevention and treatment of plant diseases.

■ Events with Thomas Kellenberger

Thomas Kellenberger will give a lecture on human trafficking at the Bern Cantonal Police. In addition, he will talk about his work, his experiences and encounters at various events. His deep love for people in general, but especially for those in the Philippines is always moving and inspiring.

03.12.2025, 19 h, Wetzikon

„IKP and Hiking in the Philippines“
[Garage Wetzikon](#), Bahnhofstrasse 24
Door Opening 18 h, Bar

05.12.2025, 19 h, Meiringen

Multivision «Kuya Thom Goes Home»
Kirchgemeindehaus Meiringen, Kirchgasse 19
Door Opening, 18 h, Bar

07.01.2026, 19 h, Oberuzwil

„IKP and Hiking in the Philippines“
Kirchgemeindehaus Oberuzwil, Wilerstrasse 20
Door Opening, 18 h

In Egg, Canton of Zurich, board member Dominic Cabaya had the opportunity to present IKP for 10 minutes during the "Day of Nations".

■ BRASSmeetsVOCALS

Charity Concerts of the "Gendarmen"

As for so many years, the "[Die Gendarmen](#)" invite once more to their charity concerts in December 2025. We are delighted about this valuable support! The power trio "[Quattro Schtatzjoni](#)" will be performing for the ninth and, sadly, the last time. Do not miss out on this treat!

Friday, 12.12.2024,
20 h, Ref. Kirche Spiez

Saturday, 13.12.2024,
20 h, Ref. Kirche Ins BE

Sunday, 14.12.2024,
16 h, Ref. Kirche Signau

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Actual information you'll find as well
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