

Acted Philippines



Strengthen children's
health in day-care centers,
schools through WASH
support and strengthen
health of vulnerable
populations through access
to sustainable food
respectful of the
environment

October 2024

Projet Presentation

Title : Strengthen children's health in day-care centers, schools through WASH support and strengthen health of vulnerable populations through access to sustainable food respectful of the environment

Location : Surigao del Norte (SDN) and Surigao del Sur (SDS), Caraga Region, Philippines

Beneficiaries:

- Direct beneficiaries: 990 including
 - 579 students for WASH components
 - 3 schools supported under WASH components
 - 401 students for the school backyard gardening components
 - 2 unique school (without double counting) supported for the school backyard gardening
 - 10 Indigenous women
- Indirect beneficiaries: 10 406 indirect unique beneficiaries (i.e., without double counting) which corresponds to the whole community of the seven supported barangays (San Pablo; Mabuhay; Jugban; Diaz; Balite; Banbanon; Ima).

Duration: 8.5 months (15/12/2023 - 31/08/2024)

Budget: 15 000 EUR

Objective : The support of the Eurofins Foundation fits into a larger programming supported by UNICEF and since December 2023, where Acted seeks to improve on the long-term access to basic services (water, sanitation and waste management) through an innovative new model for WASH which takes a climate resilient approach to WASH support. **The project's overall objective is that communities in Caraga have improved access to climate resilient basic WASH services.**

Activities: A.1.1: Hygiene promotion sessions provided by Acted and daily handwashing using soap activity for 3 Day Care Centers (rehabilitated centers from former Acted's project).

A.1.2: Provide prefabricated handwashing facility to schools.

A.1.3: Provision of soap, toothpaste and toothbrush for the daily handwashing and toothbrushing of students supporting the same 3 schools.

A.1.4: Creation of WinS Patrol and training of trainers on Hygiene promotion.

A.1.5: Roll out of Hygiene promotion session by the WinS Patrol.

A.1.6: Provision of DOH (Department of Health) approved IEC (Information Education Communication) materials for the same 3 schools and 3 DCCs.

A.2.1: To align with the DA's program on backyard gardening at the schools, Acted provided garden tools and the seeds will be the counterpart by the DA supporting the 3 schools targeted.

A.2.2: Provision of garden tools and seedlings to 10 IP women in 1 barangay.

Driving Change: How Ima Elementary's WinS Patrol Transformed Hygiene Practices and Health

At **Ima Elementary School**, hygiene practices have become deeply embedded in daily routines, thanks to the establishment by Acted of the **WinS Patrol**. This dedicated group of students from Grades 4, 5, and 6 monitors and maintains the school's water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities, leading by example and driving behavioural changes across the school. These young leaders have become knowledgeable advocates for health, encouraging their peers to improve hygiene and wash their hands regularly.

Before Typhoon Odette, handwashing was already part of the school routine, but the destruction of facilities halted these activities. However, with the support of Eurofins Foundation in the framework of Acted's project, the patrol was revived, and handwashing practices resumed. Today, WinS Patrol members guide younger students, and the impact is clear: handwashing has become a school-wide habit, helped by one handwashing facility rehabilitated by Acted. Where only a few children practiced it before, now the 55 students of Ima ES participates, and illnesses have noticeably decreased, leading to fewer absences.

The influence of the WinS Patrol extends beyond the school walls, as students share their newfound knowledge with their families.



Though there were initial challenges in getting others to listen, cooperation grew, and now all pupils properly use the water and sanitation facilities. Thanks to the 4-awareness raising led by Acted and the patrols, the students have realized the importance of handwashing in preventing illness, a vital lesson for their health.

One of the most remarkable achievements of this project is the creation of a song that helps transfer knowledge to younger grades. The entire school now sings this song, ensuring that the practice of proper hygiene is sustained for years to come.



Cultivating Health and Hope: How Acted's support transformed San Pablo Elementary School

At **San Pablo Elementary School**, gardening has become more than a simple activity—it's a source of nourishment and learning for both students and their families

When Acted first visited the school, the headmaster immediately reached out for assistance. The school was grappling with a shortage of restrooms for its 157 students, and while a comfort room was eventually built, sanitation challenges persisted. Acted looked for another way to address the school's needs—one that would foster long-term impact.

That opportunity came through the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP), a gardening initiative encouraged by the Department of Education. Acted stepped in to provide vital support, making the program more feasible for the school by helping create a productive school garden. Acted's assistance enabled the students and parents to start planting vegetables that not only fed the children but also fostered a sense of community and shared responsibility.

The garden began to thrive, parents came together to cultivate the garden, planting seeds and working through the challenges of extreme heat, which dried out some of the crops. The fresh vegetables harvested were brought into



the school kitchen, where teachers cooked nutritious meals for the students, many of whom didn't have regular access to the school feeding program. For San Pablo Elementary, the garden became a vital source of health and learning, and the nutritious food they harvested helped reduce illnesses and absenteeism.

The impact didn't stop at nutrition. Acted's involvement empowered the children to take ownership of the garden. They now actively care for the crops, sharing their newfound knowledge with their families and inspiring them to plant gardens of their own. What started as a school initiative has blossomed into a wider community effort, with families now growing their own vegetables at home.

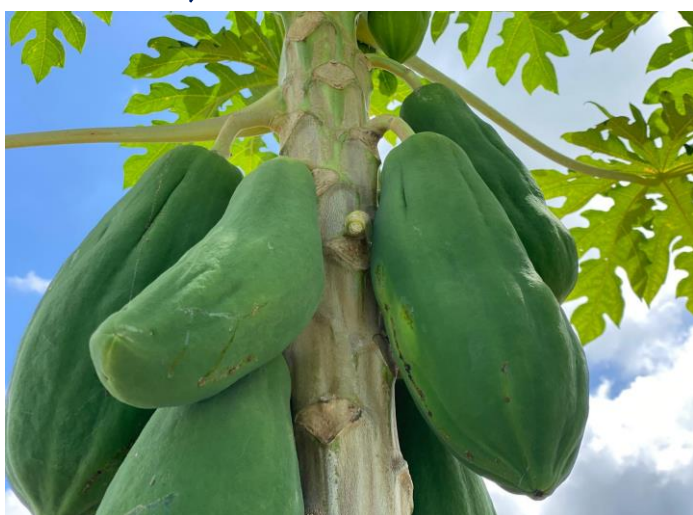
Transforming lives through sustainable gardening

For Angelica and Ruby, **two Indigenous Women**, gardening has been a way of life since their teenage years. With the support of Eurofins Foundation, Acted provided seeds and essential tools and thus they have been able to strengthen their ability to provide for their families.

Through Acted's training, Angelica and Ruby gained valuable new skills—learning how to properly prepare the soil, use organic insecticide sprayers, and adapt their gardening techniques to changing environmental conditions. These new skills have not only enhanced their harvests but also contributed to healthier diets, providing their families with fresh fruits and vegetables. This self-sufficiency has made a real difference in their daily lives, reducing their dependence on outside food sources and allowing them to meet basic needs more easily.



However, climate change has posed new challenges. The unpredictable weather, with increasing heat and more frequent rains, has made gardening more difficult. In response, they have begun planting trees to provide shade and installing nets to protect their crops from the intense sun. Through Acted's project, they've also learned the importance of selecting climate-resilient crops. ***"We recommend growing plants that are adapted to our climate, rather than crops like carrots that struggle in these conditions,"*** they share, focusing on local, sustainable gardening practices.



Now, Angelica and Ruby actively encourage others in their community to start backyard gardens, sharing how this practice can alleviate the pressures of food insecurity. ***"Backyard gardening helps minimize our daily expenses and ensures we have enough food to eat,"*** they explain.

Thanks to Eurofins Foundation's support, Angelica and Ruby have not only improved their own circumstances but also become advocates for sustainable agriculture in their community. By sharing their knowledge and experiences, they help others build resilience, one garden at a time.