



Mobile Midwives



A health and human rights initiative to empower former victims of sexual exploitation and equip them to provide women's health services and to screen and protect vulnerable youth in the Philippines

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PROJECT BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

The sex industry in the Philippines has reached alarming levels in recent years. The U.S. Department of State has placed the country on TIER 2, because the government has failed to comply with the minimum standards set by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).ⁱ The U.S. Department of State also reported that between 300,000 to 400,000 women, and 60,000 to 100,000 children are trafficked annually.ⁱⁱ Most of these children are caught in prostitution rings, and various forms of sexual exploitation.ⁱⁱⁱ The most rapidly growing problem in the Philippines is cyber child pornography and prostitution. According to Interpol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Philippines has contributed one billion dollars to the global child pornography industry, with cyber child pornography and prostitution growing by 300% just since 2011.^{iv} The Philippine National Police has declared it the country's number one crime^v and as of 2010, the Philippines was ranked as the 4th most prevalent places for cyber pornography in the world.^{vi}

In response to the growing concern of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sex-trafficking of women and children, sex tourism, and cybersex crimes in the Philippines, *Mobile Midwives* offers a way to educate and empower former victims through an accredited midwifery program, and the resources necessary to reach and assist more women and vulnerable youth, by means of a fully equipped mobile Jeepney clinic.



This proposal is for a 3-year pilot program comprised of two stages. The first stage involves the sponsorship of 30 former victims of sexual exploitation to a 2-year Midwifery diploma

accredited by the Philippine Technical Educational Skills and Development Agency (TESDA). Recipients of the scholarship will be selected based on applications, essay submissions, and applicant interviews. TESDA is a Philippine government agency established by the Republic Act 7766 in 1994. It “provides direction, policies, programs and standards towards quality technical education and skill development.”^{vii} There are currently 238 TESDA accredited courses in the Philippines encompassing a number of fields such as the Health Sciences, Engineering, Business, and the Arts.

The TESDA accredited midwifery diploma prepares students for entry-level midwifery competencies and includes courses in Clinical Practicum in Foundations of Midwifery, Normal Obstetrics and Care of Newborn, Introduction to High Risk Obstetrics, Basic Care of Infants and Feeding, Basic Family Planning, Primary Health Care and Midwifery Ethics, and Law and Practice. Graduates of the program are qualified to take the government licensure exam.^{viii} The practice of Midwifery has been regulated in the Philippines since 1901. In 1992, the Republic Act 7392 was ratified through the national Professional Regulation Committee (PRC) which ensures the competence of professionals by credible and valid licensure exams. This law, in Section 21, inhibits the practice of midwifery by anyone without a valid certificate of registration and a professional license as a midwife. Upon completion of the midwifery diploma, it is necessary for the graduate to undergo a national licensure exam^{ix}. After passing the licensure exam and granted registration by the PRC and Board of Midwifery, the midwives can legally practice in the Philippines.

For the second phase of the Mobile Midwives program, graduates will be assigned to mobile Jeepney clinics specializing in providing women’s health services. Jeepneys are the most widely used mode of public transportation in the Philippines and a trademark to Philippine culture. By customizing 10 Jeepneys, fully equipped with health screening supplies, and midwifery kits, midwives can make women’s health more accessible, as well as identify victims or at-risk cases of sexual exploitation.

Metro Manila is home to the world’s busiest maternity ward, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital. Birthing beds are commonly shared by multiple women, to accommodate the 60-100 births per day^x. In poorer communities, children are often born at home in conditions



that may be unsafe or unhealthy and without the appropriate support from a midwife. The Mobile Midwives would be a sanitary, safe, private, and certified clinic where women could deliver babies, screen for cervical cancer through a Papanicolaou (Pap) test, receive pregnancy tests, free contraception and family planning advice, and undergo breast exams. In addition, the mobile clinics would serve as a safe space for woman and youth to receive support if they are at risk or victims of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. An advantage of working with women who have been victims themselves, is that they are able to identify others at risk more readily than those who have not experienced it firsthand. To ensure that the midwives can provide the appropriate support for sexually exploited women and children, seminars will be held for the midwives by the University of Santo Tomas (UST) Psycho Trauma Clinic, which is the first and only clinic specializing in Psychological Trauma in the Philippines. The UST Psycho Trauma Clinic regularly conducts training and consultations for professionals and government agencies^{xi}.

The pilot program would place 5 Jeepney clinics within Metro Manila, and 5 Jeepney clinics in Cebu City, both heavily prone areas for sexual exploitation. The budget for this program is 594,534.47 USD. If with 10 Jeepneys we are able to screen as little as 200 individuals a day, 5 times a week, then the estimated number of individuals screened in just one year of operation amounts to 520,000 people. Averaging 1.14USD per screening, Mobile Midwives will be a cost-effective, life-saving, and high impact program.

BUDGET

Items	Cost per unit in Philippine Pesos	Cost per unit in US Dollars	Quantity	Total cost in USD
PHASE 1: Scholarship Program				
Tuition Fees	200,000	4,255.32	30	127,659.57
Monthly Stipend (for 24 months)	120,000	2,553.19	30	76,595.74
PHASE 2: Jeepney Clinics				
Jeepney	350,000	7,446.81	10	74,468.09
Painting	10,000	212.77	10	2,127.66
Supplies				
BP Sets		20.00	10	200.00
Midwifery Kit (Unicef)		1,955.39	10	19,553.90
Human Resources				
Midwives Salary (12 months)	180,000	3,829.79	30	114,893.62
Jeepney Driver Salary (12 months)	116,750	2,484.04	10	24,840.43
Psycho Trauma Clinic Consultant (Seminar)	5,000	106.38	2	212.77
Other Expenses				
Fuel	200,000	4,255.32	10	42,553.19
Maintenance	40,000	851.06	10	8,510.64
Parking	18,000	382.98	10	3,829.79
Program Costs				495,445.39
Program Coordinator			2	99,089.08
Total Expenses				594,534.47

ⁱ <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2015/243366.htm>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.protectionproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Philippines.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://theconversation.com/philippines-webcam-child-abuse-arrests-come-after-decades-of-exploitation-and-inequality-22128>

^{iv} <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEXYvySOkFc>

^v <http://www.preda.org/world/cyberporn-now-deemed-philippines-no-1-crime/>

^{vi} <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/issues/poverty/70169-online-child-pornography-philippines>

^{vii} <http://www.tesda.gov.ph/About/TESDA/11>

^{viii} <http://www.arellano.edu.ph/colleges/midwifery>

^{ix} <http://www.prc.gov.ph/uploaded/documents/MIDWIFERY-LAW.PDF>

^x <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2001422/Busiest-maternity-ward-planet-averages-60-babies-day-mothers-bed.html>

^{xi} <http://ustpsychotrauma.org/about/>