

PROJECT FACTSHEET:

Philippines

Project Centre: Southern Philippines Medical Centre (SPMC), Davao City, Mindanao

Twinning Centres: National University Hospital (NUH), Singapore
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA

Other Charity Partners: None

Project Leader: Dr Mae Dolendo, SPMC

Project Mentors: Dr Raul Ribeiro & Dr Catherine Lam, St Jude Children's Research Hospital
Prof Quah Thuan Chong

Start & End Date: November 2014 - October 2019



Dr Mae with a patient at SPMC

Background:

Over 1,100 cases of childhood cancer are expected annually in Mindanao - a culturally rich but economically disadvantaged island in the Philippines. Since 2009 World Child Cancer has supported the Mindanao Pediatric Cancer Care Network centred at Southern Philippines Medical Center (SPMC), designed to make childhood cancer care accessible to most patients on the island.



Staff at SPMC

Key Problems:

- Lack of awareness of the symptoms and curability of childhood cancer
- Late- and under-diagnosis
- High rates of abandonment
- Poor accessibility as over 80% of patients live too far away to afford travel
- Lack of access to a reliable supply of affordable drugs
- No reliable childhood cancer database

Project Objectives:

- 1) Increase patient referrals and the level of shared care of patients
- 2) Develop locally-adapted training modules for diagnosis, management and referral
- 3) Increase training of satellite referring physicians, nurses and healthcare professionals
- 4) Improve data collection, presentation and publication
- 5) Develop support groups

Key Project Outputs:

- Establish Butuan City unit as a satellite centre
- Establish and support a local team in Butuan City
- Track referrals within the network
- Conduct training at central unit and satellite centres
- Evaluate and improve data collection systems
- Evaluate programme for sustainability
- Establish a model of shared care for children with cancer

Impact:

- Four established centres providing treatment in the network
- Physical facilities established and developed at each satellite
- Paediatric oncology teams identified, trained and supported
- Increased public awareness through public education campaigns
- Improved referral and access to specialist care

