



Young Focus Catch UP Program



Executive Summary

Vision

To improve the spiritual and social well-being of young people in poor communities by means of education and personal support.

Mission

To give underprivileged children and young people the chance to develop themselves intellectually, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually by means of education and personal coaching. The organization wants to see young people developing their (hidden) talents and gifting and in doing so escape the vicious circle of poverty.

Context

Young Focus operates in a highly complex environment, holistically addressing a myriad of socio-economic issues for target beneficiaries - children and families who live in the Smokey Mountain area (Manila's former dumpsite). Many scavenge through garbage for a living.

History

Young Focus started in the Smokey Mountain area with 225 beneficiaries in 2008. In the present school year Young Focus has a total of 1100 beneficiaries.

Programs

Young Focus believes that providing quality education for the poor, who have limited access to schooling, is the most powerful means of giving children and young people opportunities to break the vicious circle of poverty. We do that by providing education opportunities and school materials, tutorials, and life skills activities in our **Early Childhood Care and Development programs** (ECCD), as well as for students Grade 1 to college in our **Student Support Program** and **Catch-UP** which has special programs for school drop-outs. Our **Social Support** reaches out to the children and families with more complicated needs, and our **Family Care** approach makes sure that all parents are part of what their children are doing.





About Young Focus

Young Focus has been working with children and their families in the Smokey Mountain area of Tondo, Manila, since 2008.

Young Focus believes that education is the most powerful tool to overcome poverty for children and young adults. Young Focus therefore provides access to education, as well as the chance for children to develop themselves intellectually, emotionally and psychologically. Young Focus wants them to develop their hidden talents and reach their full potential.

Young Focus enrolls children from elementary school age to college into government education, providing them with extra tutorials, life skills training, personal coaching and social support.

Children who have dropped out of school, can join our 'catch-up' education programs and then enroll (again) in school.

Young Focus also has a preschool for 3+4yr old's.

Throughout the child's education, Young Focus supports the parents too by providing teaching and coaching programs.

STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

1

Student Support: Elementary, High School & College

For students from Grade 1 - College, Young Focus provides school fees, uniforms, books and other school materials. Young Focus runs compulsory tutorials for all students at our centers, as well as life skills activities and creative learning opportunities.

2

Catch-UP: Love2Learn, PostCare, ALS & YoUNgLI

Young Focus has a several levels of 'catch-up' approaches for children who have dropped out of school, providing them with customized education before re-enrolling into a regular school.

SOCIAL CARE PROGRAMS:

3

ECCD: ChildCare & ChildCare PLUS

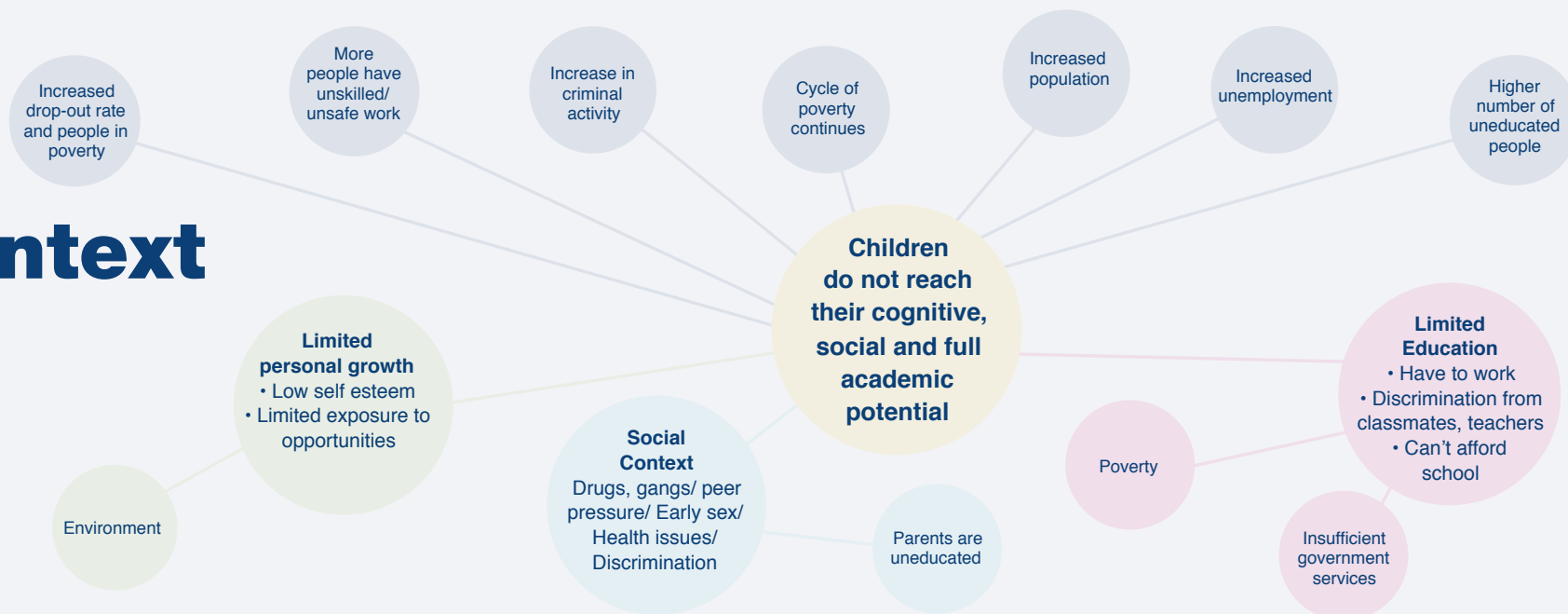
Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD) works with children from 0-4. *Child Care* focuses on the younger ones who are behind in their physical or mental development. *Child Care PLUS* is a preschool for children aged 3 – 4 years old, providing them with quality education and preparing them for elementary school enrollment.

4

Family Care & Social Support

Young Focus works with families and students who are in need of more specialized social support, and gives training on nutrition, health, hygiene, family planning and parenting skills to all parents of Young Focus. Besides teaching on nutrition, *Combat Malnutrition* also provides nutritious meals for the children who need extra attention.

Context



Target groups

In the Smokey Mountain area of Manila, thousands of families rely directly or indirectly on the garbage 'industry'. Jobs range from scavenging for recyclable materials to driving bike taxis. The average family income for a family with these jobs is \$5 USD/day. Financial constraints, as well as a lack of educational and social support, mean that many children are unable to complete their education, and in turn, are unable to break the cycle of poverty.

Economic status

Young Focus identifies 5 categories and gives priorities to these 3 categories below:

CATEGORY 1: Single parent or grandparent(s)/relative(s) are guardian who have no work or work as scavenger, *palero*, sidecar driver, *labandera*, maid or working student / no parents.

CATEGORY 2: Parents, single parent or grandparent(s)/relative(s) are guardian who work as scavenger, *palero*, sidecar driver, *labandera*, maid, jeepney/ truck or family driver, factory worker or any other job with an income less than a minimum salary.

CATEGORY 3: Parents, who have a job with a salary around the minimum. More than 5 children in the family under 21 years old

Goal, Solution & Impact

GOAL

Giving the most marginalized children living in the Smokey Mountain area the opportunities to realize their potential through access to education, personal growth and work opportunities.

SOLUTION

Supporting children throughout their education and filling in the gaps in the government system not just academically, but through activities which enhance personal and creative growth, and supporting the family to give the best foundations for each child so they can realize their potential.

IMPACT

A changed mindset so children believe they can have a better situation than their parents, and have the self-confidence and independence to create their own path in life to end the cycle of poverty. In order to do that, a basic education is vital, as well as structured programs to build their sense of self. (Specific targets set under each objective).

Justifications

Young Focus strongly believes in a holistic approach as far as child and youth development is concerned. That holistic approach goes hand in hand with believing in the potential of each child regardless of their psychological, mental, social or academic obstacles.

Young Focus also covers all ages in terms of development: starting at the baby level up to college and even beyond as Young Focus helps the graduates to find a job. Young Focus operates very close to, and in the community.

Young Focus believes that the long-term investment in education is the most effective way to tackle poverty in this specific target group. Our costs are low as we build upon the existing government system, and we work within this infrastructure. By not having our own 'school', we keep costs low, whilst maximizing impact through our comprehensive after school tutorial programs, as well as providing creative development with personal and customized coaching systems and access to social support.

All students who have gone through some level of education provided by Young Focus services will benefit from the impact for the rest of their lives. This is also true with the preschool as research shows that early childhood education has a lasting impact on the development of children.

Our approach can be expanded elsewhere, since Young Focus believes in empowering Parent Leaders in the different locations where families live and stay in touch with the coordinators.



Young Focus has four objectives to change the lives of children and their families

1

To enroll children into the local education system and provide extra educational support and coaching through tutorials, life skills, social & creative development

2

To motivate, stimulate and prepare children and youth who have dropped out of school so that they will be able to finish elementary, high school or college

3

To provide Early Childhood Care and Development programs for 0-4 yr olds and give them a solid basis for enrolling in elementary school

4

To provide individual social support and social education for all the students, their families and the different communities Young Focus works in

Catch UP Program

Motivate, stimulate and prepare children and youth who have dropped out of school so that they will be able to finish elementary, high school or college and provide individual social support and social education for all the students and their families



PROJECT SUMMARY

Young Focus has a strong passion for disadvantaged children who have dropped out of school, wanting to give every child - from the Smokey Mountain squatter area in Manila - the chance to discover and develop their talents, as well as recapture their love for learning.

Young Focus 'Catch-UP' provides opportunities for school dropouts to go back to school through different programs, depending on age and academic level. The goal is that after a year they are ready to go to a regular school.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Family circumstances, extreme poverty, social issues, peer pressure and parents lacking education themselves are some of the reasons why children drop out of school in the impoverished communities of Manila. Without schooling these children remain uneducated, and have no chance of developing their talents, building a future, and pursuing a career when they become adults.

HOW WILL THIS PROJECT SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

All the children receive a basic education that will eventually qualify them to continue their education at a regular school. Also, once they enroll at a regular school, they will receive ongoing support and coaching from Young Focus.

POTENTIAL LONG-TERM IMPACT

The long-term impact of education on these children is that they will become young adults who can study for a 'normal' career, breaking the vicious cycle of poverty. Many of them grow up in the 'garbage industry', where scavenging through waste materials is the main source of income.

Graduating from college or university enables them to find a good job, and helps provide for a better future.

Catch UP Program

'Catch-UP' consist of 4 different program elements:

1. Love2Learn 2. PostCare 3. ALS & 4. YoUNgLI

1. Love2Learn

Focuses on children who have dropped out of elementary school due to poverty and a lack of educational and social support. The program provides tutorials for 1 year before re-enrolling them into the local schools. When children are malnourished they receive extra nutrition. A total of 80 children from ages 8 to 15 years old

2. PostCare

These students have re-enrolled into government schools. During the the transition from being a school drop-out these students receive extra coaching to prevent them from dropping out again. Total op students per year depends on the number of students who move up from the previous year. Usually 25-50 students.

3. Alternative Learning System (ALS)

The ALS program is the formal 'study acceleration' program of the government. It allows us to work with students who can't re-enroll into high school as they have been out of school for too long. Students receive an official high school certificate upon completion. A total of 80 teenagers doing a one year course before they can do an exam and move further.

4. YoUNgLI (Young Unlimited)

Focusses on the most vulnerable 15+ year old's who have received little education or no education at all. Sometimes they use solvents. They are provided with a safe space to hang out and receive training in hygiene, education, personal coaching and life skills, as well as a good meal. The aim is that they recapture a love for education so that we re-enroll them in school. A total of 30 participants throughout the year.



Catch UP Program

Social & Family Care

The educational programs of Catch UP go hand in hand with the social and family care of the students and the families/ parents.

The Social Work Team of Catch UP identifies personal issues our students have and family problems. Often these issues are the cause of dropping out of school so our social workers' goal is to solve the issues.

The team identifies whether children drop out of school because of academic, financial, health, behavioral reason or violation of the law. The team implements Young Focus child protection policies guide.

Catch UP also trains on health, hygiene, family planning and parenting skills to all parents of Young Focus students, and empowering Parent Leaders to support YF families in the community. Parent leaders will also respond to any emergencies that families of our beneficiaries may be facing.

Young Focus wants to build a strategy for organizing the resources of the community around student success.

The team also teaches parents and children on life skills topics. This includes teaching on health, hygiene, nutrition, parenting skills, family planning, spiritual and mental health, as well as the rights of the child.



Facilities



Budget

Programs	CATCH UP				SOCIAL CARE		Total
	L2L	PostCare	ALS	Young Unlimited	Social Support	Family Care	
Salaries + Professional fees	17,640	5,130	11,900	11,350	6,500	3,860	56,380
Honorariums						1,250	1,250
Uniforms & school supplies	1,000						1,000
Educ material, supplies & life skills	5,000	800	1,200	1,500	50		8,550
Other program materials & supplies				600	600	1,250	2,450
Nutrition	3,000	1,000		2,000		1,000	7,000
Equipment	200			200	50	50	500
Utilities (electricity, water)	2,400	800	1,600	2,400	350	350	7,900
Maintenance (incl. cleaning)	1,200	200	600	1,500	250	250	4,000
Transport	600	200	300	600	50	200	1,950
Staff training	200	100	100	50	50	25	525
Meetings & relationships	50	10	20	40	15	15	150
Administration	6,260	1,650	3,145	4,050	1,585	1,655	18,345
Total USD	37,550	9,890	18,865	24,290	9,500	9,905	110,000



Name & address of organization	Young Focus for Education & Development Foundation Inc. 284 Dayao Street, Balut, Tondo 1013 Manila, the Philippines
Contact person	Paul J. van Wijgerden <i>Managing Director</i>
Tel & Mob	+63 (0)9778106681 & +63 (0)9778106681
Email	paul@youngfocus.org
Websites	www.youngfocus.org / www.facebook.com/youngfocus.org
Information video on YouTube	Information video on YouTube: https://youtu.be/48cglF27fSo See also Young Focus channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC54TotAgd44LhknnUqYp8hg
Registration	SEC: CN200719374 at Dec. 28, 2007/ DSWD: DSWD-NCR RL-000122-2013
Bank account PHP & USD	BPI (Bank of the Philippine Islands) Young Focus for Education & Development Foundation, Inc PHP Account no.: 4651-0036-58 USD Account no.: 4654-0059-45 BIC/SWIFT code: BOIPHMM

