

Asia-Pacific Impact Reports

June 2023

Vietnam - 636973 - Leadership Training Program (Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena: \$8,000)

The Federation of Dominican Sisters of Vietnam is a voluntary membership association of 11 Dominican congregations representing over 2,200 Dominican sisters. Every two years, the Federation of Dominican Sisters of Vietnam has a leadership training program for all the leaders, including significant superiors, leadership team, and formators. The sisters requested funding for a conference to address the urgent needs of vulnerable groups in the pandemic crisis. The program would train and prepare the sisters with sufficient knowledge to respond to pressing social needs and to help address anxiety and other concerns, including the loss of loved ones, jobs, and financial security. HFS has funded prior Dominican Federation conferences.

Impact: 400 sisters from 80 congregations participated in two conferences. The training directly benefited over 600 adults and children.

As a result of this project, the sisters can train more volunteers and build a network of individuals with sufficient knowledge to help their communities of the poor, marginalized, and oppressed to cope with COVID-19 and rebuild their lives in the post-COVID-19 world. The volunteers will address anxiety, prevent depression, create connectedness, and rebuild the community.



February 2022

Vietnam – 541536 - Dominican Federation of Vietnam Sisters Leadership Training Program (Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena \$7,000)

The members of the Federation of the Dominican Sisters of Vietnam share a common charism. This federation provides periodic training programs for the new sister leaders of the member congregations to strengthen their leadership skills and enable them to perform their leadership roles effectively and promote the mission of Christ in today's world. These leaders, in turn, animate the sisters in their respective congregations with the vision, energy, and courage they need in their ministries to God's people in fresh and compelling ways. The federation asked for funding to provide a three-day leadership-training program for leaders in eight Dominican Sisters groups in Vietnam.

N. B. This grant was funded by HFS rather than the Hilton Foundation grant for religious conferences and networks.

Impact: 44 participants of Dominican and other congregations who influence over 1000 members of their congregations

Through this leadership-training program, the leaders have internalized, absorbed, and imbibed Jesus's way of being. This program has encouraged the participants to exercise leadership and serve as graced companions who animate their sisters with the vision, energy, and courage they need in their ministries to God's people in fresh and compelling ways. The Dominican priest who hosted the conference and served as monitor recorded that he met several participants who felt that the experience was personally enriching. These leaders were eager to share their experiences and enthusiasm for the mission with members of their congregations.

The sisters also noted that collaboration and networking now exists among the leaders of the participant congregations. This networking will strengthen the mission of Christ in today's world.



October 2022

Lebanon – 615952 – Computers for St. Vincent School (Daughters of Charity \$19,400)

The Daughters of Charity have ministered in Beirut since 1847, when it was a small village port with narrow sand paths. Their school serves the densely populated area of the city, a community living in poverty fueled by lack of employment and social poverty stemming from drug abuse, lack of nutrition, and inadequate healthcare. This setting, coupled with the devastating situations of the COVID crises and the Beirut Port explosion in August 2020, has made the living situation far worse. Families struggle to provide food and a home for the children. The one place of normalcy is in their school. The school suffered significant damage in the blast. The laptops and accessories were lost. The sisters asked for funding to replace the technology so that the sisters could continue their commitment to education in this community.

Impact: 24 teachers and 450 students were impacted by the reinstallation of technology.

This grant is featured not for the computers but to demonstrate how the HFS grants continue to make a difference in communities of underserved populations worldwide. The purchase and installation of 25 laptop computers and Internet at St. Vincent School restored student access to computers and educational technology, which helped return these children to essential elements of modern, high-quality education.



June 2022

Philippines – 612990 - Salvatorian Pastoral Care for Children (Sisters of the Divine Savior \$11,600)

For 20 years, the Salvatorian Pastoral Care for Children (SPCC) office has promoted the protection of women, children, and members of the LGBTQIA group through its parish-based child protection program. Over the years, the program has evolved tremendously. In this application, the sisters asked for funding for the celebration year as the office published a book of the participants' success stories. The sisters also wanted to relieve 150 women and children during the celebratory year.

Impact: 2,806 persons trained as Civil Rights Advocates, and 250 children and their families received relief aid

Two hundred fifty children and their families received relief goods consisting of ten kilos of rice, two sets of blankets, 800 grams of coffee, one kilogram of milk, one package of biscuits, 800 grams of choco powder, packs of pasta with sauce, and one pail. These beneficiaries come from impoverished families in the Archdiocese of Manila, the Archdiocese of Cebu, and the Diocese of Alaminos.

The book entitled *Care and Protection of Children in the Parish Community: Two Decades of SPCC Experience (A Pastoral Strategy for Child Protection in Local Church Communities)* was

released. The publication recounts the SPCC journey from 2001 to 2002, highlighting effective strategies, success stories, and the most significant changes and impact on the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) and parishes across five dioceses and archdioceses, as well as the lives of children, women, and families. During the year, SPCC hosted workshops to train Civil Rights Advocates (CRA), who then entered city commissions that support the dignity of at-risk persons in their communities.



October 2019

Myanmar—457918—Hostel for Girls—Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition

In 1965, the government nationalized all private schools in Burma (Myanmar since 1969). Losing their schools, the sisters transformed their mission, providing nursery classes and teaching English, music and vocational skills. The sisters also opened a hostel for those young girls looking for jobs or other vocational and professional training. The sisters opened the doors, in the spirit of Pope Francis, to accept girls of all religions and races. They come from remote areas where education is not available; many are internally displaced persons (IDPs), victims of natural disasters, or civil unrest.

Now, after four decades of nationalization, the sisters are applying for a permit of occupancy for a new structure, constructed by the Porticus Foundation, for 45-55 girls. The sisters are seeking funding for beds, bookcases, electric fans, kitchen utensils, dining room tables, and a water tank and plumbing.

Impact: 65 girls housed and educated

The hostel has furniture! In addition to providing a dignified and secure environment to the young women, the sisters are providing social, moral, and spiritual assistance to the girls. Several factors challenged the sisters during this project. Due to the instability of the country and the poor economy, the prices increased after the budget was submitted, so the sisters had to do more with less. The sisters also experienced the prejudice of some in the community who believe that these girls are not worthy of their assistance. The sisters have hope for the future but have learned that they must prepare by formulating a strategic plan, which includes training for a mistress in the hostel.



June 2018

Australia--338287--Skills Workshop for Sudanese Migrants: Daughters of Mary Help of Christians

The Salesian Sisters serve the refugees and migrants from the Republic of Sudan and South Sudan. Most of these families have fled their country after experiencing war and trauma, with nothing but the clothes on their backs. They resettled in Western Sydney within the low socio-economic suburbs of Blacktown, St. Mary's and Penrit. The refugees experience a high rate of unemployment. The sisters provide counseling, vocational training, personal development and referral programs for the young people and requested funding for a two-day workshop for the young adults who would like to gain access to

employment and further education opportunities. The workshop includes the development of leadership and employment skills, group dynamics and mental health issues.

Impact: 250 Young-adult Sudanese Migrants

The monitor reported that many of the young-adult clients received suitable employment opportunities and practical assistance to ease into the workplace. Several young people with identified leadership potential subsequently attended a youth leadership conference in Melbourne and are already utilizing their newfound skills and enthusiasm in their local context. “I have personally witnessed their enthusiasm and leadership in action.” One young person reported, “I was shy at first but by the end of the week, what I learned and took away helped me.”

The sisters invited various community groups and providers to give presentations to the youth during the workshop. The networked approach provided many opportunities for the young people.

