

# World Vision Urban Programming

## Safe and Prosperous BASECO



**Metro Manila's 2021 population is estimated at 14.2 million<sup>1</sup>. Of this number, about 1.8 million are living in the **City of Manila**, a dense, diverse and dynamic capital city.**

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision (ST/ESA/SER.A/420). New York: United Nations.

METRO MANILA  
POPULATION  
ESTIMATES

**2000**

10  
million

**2020**

14  
million

**2030**

16.8  
million

## CONTEXT

The smallest administrative division in the Philippines is the barangay. Baseco is Barangay 649, an urban poor community and the largest among five barangays in the port area. It is a 48 hectares of poorly reclaimed land around the Manila Bay with almost 10,000 housing structures surrounded by garbage and are highly vulnerable to both natural and man-made disasters such as typhoon and flooding, fire and earthquake.

It is congested with a population of almost 60,000 individuals (13,000 families) with approximately 45% children. Residents of Baseco are mostly informal settlers with low-income, insecure jobs and limited access to basic services such as education, healthcare, sanitation and proper shelter. The lack of solid waste management is a major issue contributing to child vulnerability.

### Most vulnerable groups

#### Informal settlers

- Migrants
- Victims of displacement and/or trafficking from provinces

#### Informal sector workers

- Scavengers (adults and children)
- Street vendors
- Street children
- Beggars

#### Victims of abuse and neglect

- Orphans
- Out-of-school children and youth
- Teenage mothers





## THE BASECO URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

World Vision in the Philippines is popularly known in Baseco as a child sponsorship organization since 2002. Considering that several NGOs operating in Baseco implement sponsorship projects for children, the community has been exposed to a sponsorship model wherein exclusive direct benefits like school supplies, transportation allowance and, in some instances, tuition fee support are provided. The implementation of World Vision *Tulong Aral* (educational assistance) Project in 2002 has affirmed this perception. The community has also come to know World Vision for its massive relief operation after the 2004 fire in Baseco, which left thousands of families homeless. The Baseco UDP is an ongoing program that started in 2009.

Given that Baseco is a highly urbanized community surrounded by several government agencies and with a strong civil society presence, World Vision has positioned itself in the area as catalyst in strengthening CSO cooperation and in leveraging resources with various community stakeholders to address child well-being and community issues, in general. It has established its role well in the community as one of the primary partners towards community development and is the **convener since 2013 of the Baseco Inter-Agency Network (BIAN)** composed of people's organizations, civil society organizations and government units.

## Main Programmatic Interventions



Local government capacities for child protection



Implementation of child-friendly spaces



Self-managed savings groups



Solid waste management and technology



Community engagement and local-led advocacy on DRR

## Projects in Baseco 2009-2019

Channels of Hope for Child Protection

Spiritual Nurture for Filipino Children

*Tulong Aral* Project

ING Learning Center

Pro Futuro Digital Education Project

Community-managed Savings and Credit Association (CoMSCA)

Aiding Vulnerable Families through Value Chain Development

Urban Gardening

Child-focused DRR

Waste to Wages (*Pag-asa sa Basura*) Project

Municipal Waste Recycling Project

Birth Right Campaign

Channels fo Hope for HIV & AIDS

Mother-Baby Friendly Philippines

## PROGRAM GOAL AND APPROACH

The Baseco Urban Development Program's overarching goal is "Children achieve their own rights on survival, protection, participation, and development towards a peaceful and safe environment in order to attain their full potential." This goal is consistent with the Safe and Prosperous Cities in World Vision's **Cities for Children Framework**. World Vision's approach in Baseco is to enable the community to drive change by working alongside the local governments, organizations and individuals in the community. It applies World Vision's Urban Ministry

Model a.k.a. **Citywide Self-sustaining Model** by focusing on contextual issues affecting the most vulnerable children (e.g. solid waste management); building community capacity to decrease the impacts of vulnerabilities while empowering communities to become self-sufficient; partnering with the government to increase their capacities for service delivery and scale up urban development programs; and leveraging World Vision's global brand and local presence by influencing policy and advocacy on urban issues affecting children.



**Cities for Children Framework: Promoting just and inclusive cities where children thrive in safe, healthy, resilient, and prosperous environments.**

## CHILDREN FOR CITIES FRAMEWORK

'Cities for Children' is World Vision's emerging framework for addressing children's vulnerabilities in urban contexts. It is anchored in World Vision's child well-being aspirations and links with tested urban approaches developed by various UN agencies such as UN-HABITAT, UNISDR, UNICEF, WHO and The World Bank. The Framework consists of four inter-related domains of change affecting child wellbeing in cities: health, safety, resilience and prosperity. Underpinning these domains is the enabling factor of advocacy to seek justice and inclusion of the most vulnerable through policy change.



## SECTOR FOCUS

Programming in Baseco started with a focus on education but through working with and through BIAN, World Vision was able to expand its programming in the area to include child protection and disaster risk reduction. Increasing opportunities for partnership with both international and local, public and private stakeholders enabled World Vision to later on expand its programming to also implement interventions on livelihood, health, and on solid waste management (starting in 2017), which all contribute to addressing identified pressing issues in the community.



## RESOURCING

In the 63 years that World Vision is operating in the Philippines, it has focused its funding strategy on a single product i.e. one-to-one child sponsorship. It was only in the past ten years that the organization has explored other channels outside child sponsorship to ensure financial diversification and sustainability. Given that most businesses and corporations are located in the city, World Vision leverages on private partnerships and grants (on top of child sponsorship) for urban projects in Baseco, which has contributed as a funding driver for the organization.



Child  
sponsorship



Private  
funding



Grants

The Solid Waste Management Program in Baseco is an example of partnering and resource pooling that brought together community stakeholders, Procter & Gamble (P&G), and The Plastic Bank (a Canada-founded organization that provides social plastic recycling innovations). This was a successful six-month pilot and the first attempt of World Vision in solid waste management in the Philippines. The project became the springboard to scale up the solid waste management urban project in Manila and further diversify its funding from other partners including USAID's Municipal Waste Recycling Program.



## Key impact

**BASECO** is the  
**1<sup>st</sup> BARANGAY**  
to organize a  
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
TEAM IN MANILA

## 365 CHILDREN

*received birth certificates in 2017*  
GIVING THEM BETTER ACCESS  
TO HEALTH SERVICES

## PhP600,000

(approximately USD 11,650)  
*government funds accessed through the*  
**BOTTOM-UP BUDGETING**  
and used to train nearby villages on  
“CHILD-FOCUSED DISASTER  
RISK REDUCTION” in 2015

## MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY

*built from unused  
government land*

## 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### 1,200 adults and 2,663 children

oriented on proper solid waste management awareness and advocacy



### 248 hours of training

on solid waste management and/or plastic reduction in marine environment (PRIME) provided to government officials, CSOs and the private sector



### 35 teachers

trained on learner-centered pedagogical approaches provided by WVDF in partnership with DepEd



### 1,128 children and youth

received spiritual nurture and values-based life skills development training



### 125 parents trained

on children's rights and positive discipline education



### 99 family members trained

to engage in sustainable livelihood projects, accessing markets and relationship-building with suppliers/service providers; and provided with technical assistance and access to savings and credit facilities.





## Enhanced contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals



- Education of at least **500** individuals on HIV&AIDS prevention, control, and treatment from 2017 to 2018
- improved literacy skills of **1,054** children from Kinder to Grade 6 in 2019
- At least **50,000** including children capacitated and became more equipped to deal with disasters as of 2019
- **1,200** households have improved their waste management practices in 2019
- solid waste management projects through weekly coastal clean-ups impacted the lives of **60,000** individuals in Manila
- **70MT** of polyester (Polyethylene terephthalate or PET) type of plastics collected by 150 waste recyclers, which increased their incomes by 20% in **2019**



## Citywide partnership for citywide impact

through regular collaboration and coordination with the local inter-agency network BIAN, schools, churches and corporate partners in the implementation of community shared plans and issue-based projects

## Key outcomes



### Enhanced urban governance

- through promoting community engagement and local-led advocacy for residents to actively participate in the government's planning and development processes at barangay and city levels
- influencing policy and advocacy on urban issues affecting children



### Creation of safe and prosperous environment for children

- **1,185** children oriented on Child's Rights and Responsibilities (2019)
- **2,544** students increased their comprehensive knowledge on waste segregation and recycling in 2019
- set up of **6** Child Friendly Spaces benefiting **100** child scavengers and children of street sweepers/waste collectors
- **263** Savings Group in Baseco with **6,634** members and a total savings of \$1.2 million in 2019

## GOOD PRACTICES

1. Collaboration between all stakeholders is a huge development asset in urban areas. A platform like BIAN allows the pooling of knowledge and resources, which strengthens collaboration, prevents competition or duplication of services and instead promote complementation and cooperation, as evidenced by the BIAN Inter-agency Referral Network for various child well-being services.
2. Companies usually care the most about the communities around them, so World Vision has leveraged on the proximity of the community to the central business districts in Manila in acquiring corporate partnerships. The Baseco UDP has provided additional benefits to companies in the form of more frequent and less costly community visits and volunteer activities that lead to better donor relationships. Baseco is also known as one of the “poorest of the poor” communities, making it very appealing for companies to support.
3. A programme is successful when the community cares about it and believes in it. The local government, NGOs, CSOs, FBOs and other partners support and empower the residents of Baseco to become co-implementers resulting in them having a sense of ownership for the program and projects. As evidence, the level of community participation and engagement is being evaluated annually using World Vision's Changing Role Tool that analyzes the role of partners and World Vision in the area of planning, implementation, monitoring and resources. The average annual overall result of Baseco UDP's Changing Role Analysis is always above 4 (4.42 in 2019 with 5 being the highest score), which falls in between the category of “nearly all partners” and “all community partners” actively participating/engaging. This has empowered individuals and strengthened Baseco as a whole because the residents believe in what they are doing.







## TRANSFORMATIONAL STORY

### Danny's burden

Every day after school, Danny (not his real name) would dig and sort rubbish from the squalid shoreline of Baseco, considered one of the largest poor urban communities in Manila, and sell to junkshops whatever he found of value.

Danny never thought scavenging a dangerous task. In his young mind, he is only doing what most adults and children commonly do in his community. Scavenging is part of the daily life in Danny's shantytown where people are used to the putrid smell of garbage and human waste thrown in the nearby shoreline of Manila Bay.

Danny has earned up to Php85 through scavenging, and promptly gave the amount to his mother. On other days, he could earn an average of Php10 for a sack of used bottles, cans, and plastics he picked up for an hour or so.

"I use my money to buy candies," he says.

Candies are a luxury in Danny's life. His parents have a combined income of around Php500 a day for selling food and driving a passenger bike. The income supports a family of eight, pays for house rent and other bills, and the children's daily school allowance. With a limited budget, his parents couldn't provide beyond basic necessities, which made Danny join other children in scavenging.

"Scavenging is an unlikely start for young children. Once they've experienced earning, they would stop going to school," Loida Payne, World Vision program officer in Manila, says.

The 2016 US Department of Labor report on the worst form of child labors in the Philippines showed nearly 2 million Filipino children aged 5 to 14 are engaged in child labor, of which 40.5 percent are into services such as domestic work, begging, scavenging, and street selling.



In a interview with 100 child scavengers in Baseco, Manila, World Vision found out that many of the children spend 6 to 7 days a week and allot 3 to 5 hours on the streets and around the community looking for scrap materials that can be sold. They earn Php20 to Php50 a day.

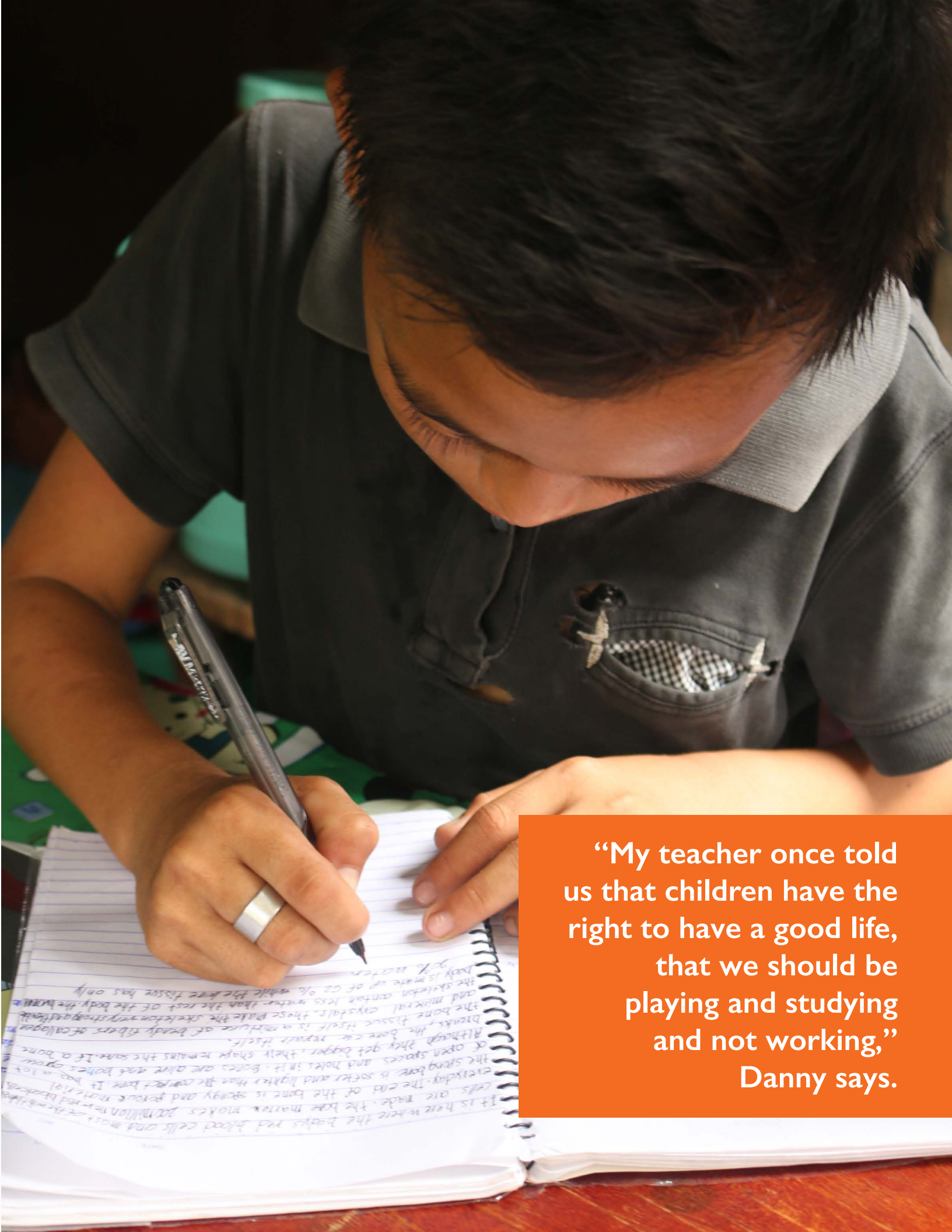
The data compelled World Vision and its community partners and government agencies to establish several child-friendly spaces (CFS) in the community through the Sagip Bata (Save a Child) project. Though CFS is usually done in an emergency context, it was adopted for the purpose of developing a feeling of love and care among child scavengers and to strengthen the community's mechanism in addressing child abuse.

"Child scavengers were consulted on how they want the child-friendly spaces to look like and what they want to see in it," Payne says.

The Sagip Bata project established six CFS managed by two churches, two schools and two non-governmental organizations. The community people and the child scavengers designed their haven, which is far from the smell and sight of garbage. The CFS offered children comfort through various activities such as storytelling, singing, dancing and even tutorial on school lessons.

Child scavengers are also at risk of contacting diseases such as diarrhea, tuberculosis and skin infection. Danny is thin and small for his age. His eyes reflect the bleak reality that he faces everyday.

The six child-friendly spaces in Baseco have been a safe haven for thousands of children since 2014.



“My teacher once told us that children have the right to have a good life, that we should be playing and studying and not working,”  
Danny says.



[www.worldvision.org.ph](http://www.worldvision.org.ph)



worldvisionph



worldvisionph



worldvisionph



worldvisionph