

# Outreach Partnership Program Updates

MARCH 2022 | PHILIPPINES

2021 challenged us all with some obstacles that were bigger than any of us could have expected. But rather than halting our progress, you still came through, making our victories even bigger than we could have imagined. We were all fatigued from uncertainty and isolation, from having to adjust to a new normal. And as volunteers and fundraisers, you had to rethink strategies to keep helping us do our work with your support. And you succeeded, as always, more impressively than ever.

So, thank you. Thank you for your perseverance, for advocating for our mission, for sharing our story in new and creative ways. Thank you for being our voice that allowed people everywhere to continue to make a positive difference during these unprecedented times.

We envision a world where communities work together to overcome the challenges of chronic poverty. Your partnership makes this a reality. The victories you have made possible are your victories, too.

**We're proud to present you with this partnership update, so you can see a small example of the good that your generosity makes possible in the country you choose to support. And enclosed is your 2021 Giving Report, summarizing the contributions made toward your partnership last year.**

*We hope you enjoy and find inspiration in this edition of the Partnership Program Updates. If you need more resources to share with your group, please visit our website at [outreach-international.org/resources](https://outreach-international.org/resources). If you have specific questions or just want to say "Hello!", please contact Marsha Penrose at [m.penrose@outreachmail.org](mailto:m.penrose@outreachmail.org)*



## Pride and Perseverance

The community-based organization (CBO) in Bosque has been working with Outreach since 2017, and over time, they have analyzed and prioritized their issues. Something that continually rose to the top of the list was the fact that they had insufficient income. Families were falling short of their financial needs during the times they could not work in farming and agriculture.

After much discussion and debate, the group agreed that they would pursue developing a microloan program to enable participants to set up their own livelihood initiatives to fit their individual needs, interests and skill sets. More than 50 people signed up to participate in the project, so they could gain access to these microloans.

The CBO developed a proposal requesting start-up capital for their microloan program and submitted the proposals to Outreach. We approved the concept and released \$5,000 to fund the project. When the CBO in Bosque received the official "letter of approval," congratulating them on the success of their efforts, the work of development could begin. The people who wanted to apply for a microloan then participated in training led by the facilitators, learning how to build their business idea, and then presenting their proposal for loan approval. Each participant engaged in two to three

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days of intensive training on how to develop their business concept, and then finalized their business plan.

Ultimately, we invested in 50 entrepreneurs, helping to initiate 50 small businesses. And what did these loans finance?

- Several animal projects, including chickens, pigs, ducks, and goats. Each of these animals serves a distinct purpose and creates ongoing and sustainable income for those who work to care for them.
- One entrepreneur used the funding to access yarn to make hammocks.
- One intrepid entrepreneur opened a cell phone store, where people can buy phones and data, connecting them to each other and the world in ways they were not able to before.

As each of these fledgling businesses gets off the ground, income is created. Participants become more successful through their own ideas and hard work, and the loans get paid back. What a sense of pride and accomplishment it must bring to conceptualize a business idea, convince others it will work, and then succeed to the point where you can pay back your starting loan!

This is the kind of work Outreach can do. And never forget, it's all because of you.

