



PAGKINABUHI SA DALAN

The Streetchildren of Cagayan De Oro City

January 2020

Based on a survey conducted by Social Weather Stations in June 2019 for
Lifebank Microfinance Foundation, Inc.

Copyright © 2020 by Lifebank Microfinance Foundation, Inc.

Published by

Lifebank Microfinance Foundation, Inc.
Gov. Fermin Caram Street, Barangay Maria Clara,
Iloilo City, Philippines

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means electronic or mechanical without prior written notice to and permission from the publishers.

Layout and cover design by Marianne Antonette Escarlan

Cover photo by Streetchildren NGO Support Project (SNSP)

Foreword

This monograph presents the socio-demographic profile and other relevant information of the City of Cagayan De Oro's Children in Street Situations (CiSS), also known as Street Children. The report is part of a larger initiative undertaken by Lifebank Microfinance Foundation, Inc. (LBF) in collaboration with Social Weather Stations (SWS) to gather current and accurate information on the number, profile and condition of street children in Iloilo City and other major cities in the Philippines.

Lifebank Microfinance Foundation, Inc. is a non-stock, non-profit organization based in Iloilo City engaged in delivering microfinance services to enterprising poor women and social programs to its members, their families and communities, and to society in general to achieve the mission of "breaking the chains of poverty". LBF's Street Children Project, launched in 2018, aims to establish a Network of Street Children NGOs in the Visayas and Mindanao, gather more accurate information on the number and profile of these children, provide financial support for NGOs needing technical assistance, and offering microfinance services to deserving families of street children.

With this monograph, LBF wishes to contribute to the activities and plan of Cagayan de Oro City Government for its street children. Hopefully, the report can also encourage policy action and mobilize resources from private groups that will result in multi-sectoral services for this vulnerable sector.

Let us all join hands in addressing the plight of street children, rebuilding their lives and giving them the dignity that they deserve.

Vicente P. Perlas M.D.

President

Lifebank Microfinance Foundation, Inc.

Message

Social Weather Stations (SWS) is very pleased that it was part of this endeavor (pioneering to SWS!) to do research on children in street situations (CiSS); and doubly glad that Lifebank Foundation decided to immediately share the findings with the public.

SWS in designing the methodology was cognizant of the oft-repeated limitations of this kind of research: (a) sample is not representative as there was no observational headcount done; (b) many of the children may not be covered since many of them move from place to place continuously; (c) getting reliable information on some activities (e.g. illegal or disreputable activities) may not be possible; and (d) data might not be collected in places with threats of violence.

In developing the questionnaire, SWS reviewed previous studies done by Filipino colleagues on Filipino children and literature on research done on street children in many other countries.

In both pre-survey activities, SWS recognized importantly that the research would not be successful unless backed up with first-hand knowledge of “doers” themselves, i.e. those who go out of their way and have mandated themselves to protect and care for children whether in the streets or not. Initially, SWS tested its ideas with the Social Services Development Department of the local government of Quezon City and the Commission of Human Rights-Child Rights Center (especially on the consent/ assent forms).

In order to have others critique its methodology and generate the kinds of questions that can be asked of children, SWS then proceeded to conduct an FGD with the Subcommittee for the Protection and Welfare of Children in Street Situations of the Council for the Welfare of Children. Armed with more resolve, SWS conducted an FGD with members of the City Council for the Protection of Children respectively of Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro. It was such a tremendous help that the Mayor and City Administrator/ CSWDO Head of both cities took a direct hand in organizing and inviting participants to the FGDs; and subsequently providing support (most importantly security and safety) during the interviews itself, a good number of which took place in the wee hours of the morning.

Over a 1000 interviews in each of the cities of Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro were completed.

The project was indeed a challenge to undertake but the work of SWS was definitely made easier by collaborating with people and organizations who made it their goal to protect and care for children in street situations.

We have so much to thank Lifebank Foundation for piloting this visionary corporate social responsibility.

Linda Luz Guerrero

Vice-President/COO and Project Team Leader
Social Weather Stations

Table of Contents

Foreword	i
Message	ii
Acknowledgements	iv
List of Acronyms	v
Highlights	1
Introduction	2
Scope and Method	2
Profile of Respondents	3
Respondents of CiSS Category	4
Education and Literacy	5
Work Activities	10
Time Use	15
Hazards of Street Life	16
Violence	17
Access to Service	18
Comparing with Study of CiSS in the City of Manila	18
References	19

Acknowledgement

We thank our partners, especially Social Weather Stations, the City Government of Cagayan de Oro City, the Council for the Welfare of Children, ASMAE Foundation, relevant government agencies and various civil society organizations working for children in Cagayan de Oro City, and all who are united with us in pursuing a vision of giving Filipino children a better future.

List of Acronyms

CDO	Cagayan de Oro
CISS	Children in Street Situations
CWC	Council for the Welfare of Children
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
FLEMMS	Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey
ILO	International Labor Organization
LBF	Lifebank Microfinance Foundation, Inc.
NGO	Non-government Organization
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
SWS	Social Weather Stations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Highlights

CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS



Children 5-17y aspire for a good education, to have stable jobs, and meet basic health needs



are in school

83%

of 5-17y are currently studying

80%

of 5-17y completed last school year 2018-19



have homes

78%

of 5-17y are street-working but not street-living



rarely beg for money

3%

said they have earned money by begging

HOWEVER, MANY



don't know of government assistance programs

31%

of 0-17y cited no assistance received

25%

of 5-17y avoid authorities like DSWD and police



are functionally illiterate

39%

of 10-17y are functionally literate



work more than play

have no safe spaces for play

In the past 7 days, 5-17y spent an average of 19 hours playing and 36 hours working in the streets



started working at an early age

66%

of 5-17y started working before they were 10y

70% of 5-9y, 97% of 10-14y, and 95% of 15-17y have experienced working (paid or unpaid)



Introduction

As of 2015, the Philippines has a population of 101 million, of which 36.6 million belong to the 0 to 17 years age group. Nearly a third (31%) belong to poor families. In Northern Mindanao (Region X), which includes Cagayan de Oro, 48% of the region's 1.8 million children belong to poor families. (PSA, 2015)

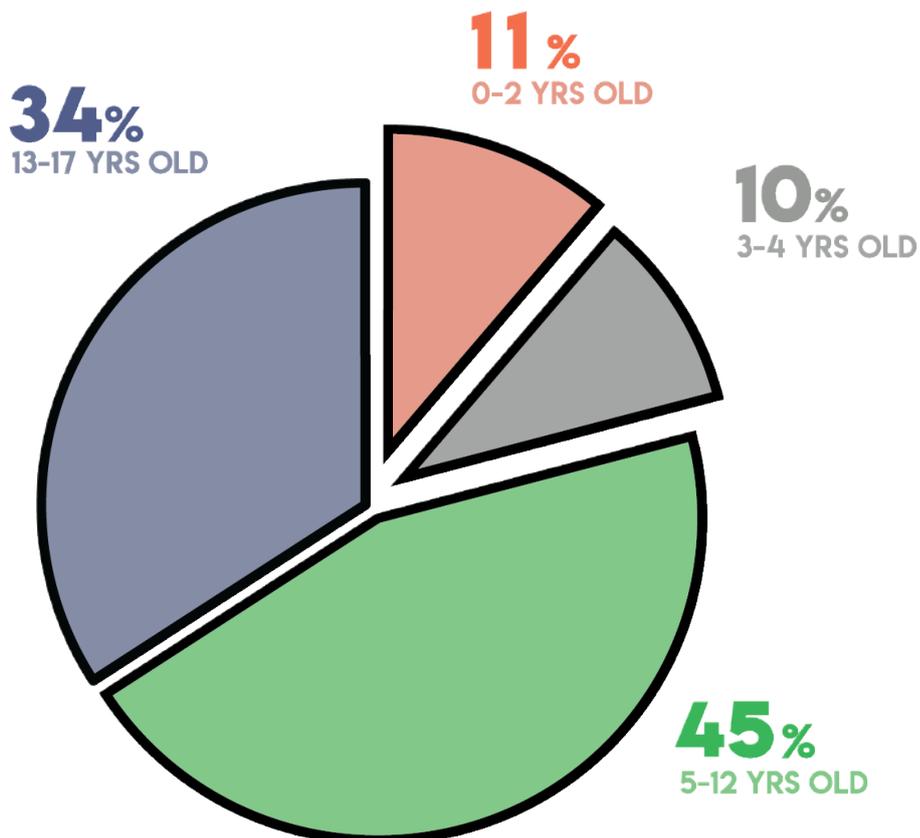
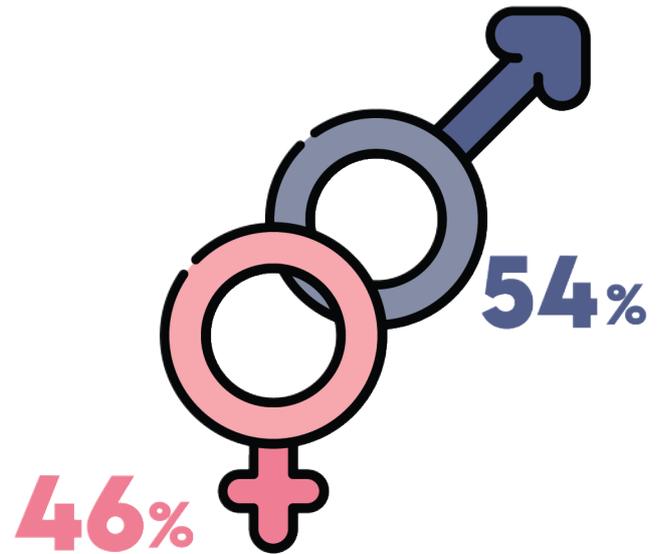
Cagayan de Oro (CDO) is a first-class highly-urbanized city located in the southern Philippines. It is the tenth most populous city in the country and is the largest city in Northern Mindanao. CDO has an area of 412.8 square kilometers, 3.4% of the region. It has a population of 675,950 and is home to 238,972 children aged 0 to 17 years (PSA, 2015) of whom 30,957 belong to poor households. SWS estimates that there are potentially 4,478 streetchildren in Cagayan de Oro. (SWS, 2019)

Scope and Methods

Lifebank Foundation commissioned Social Weather Stations (SWS) to conduct a study on Children in Street Situations (CiSS) in the cities of Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro. Surveys were conducted from June 13-29, 2019 in Cagayan de Oro City. Respondents were spotted on the streets and asked if they may be interviewed. Children 5-17 years old responded for themselves and carers or guardians responded for children 0-4 years old. The survey questions covered socio-demographics, migration history and living arrangements, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and food intake, maternal and child health and nutrition, access to services, education, functional literacy, aspirations, quality of life, work activities, time use, hazards of street life, risk behaviors, and experience of any form of violence.

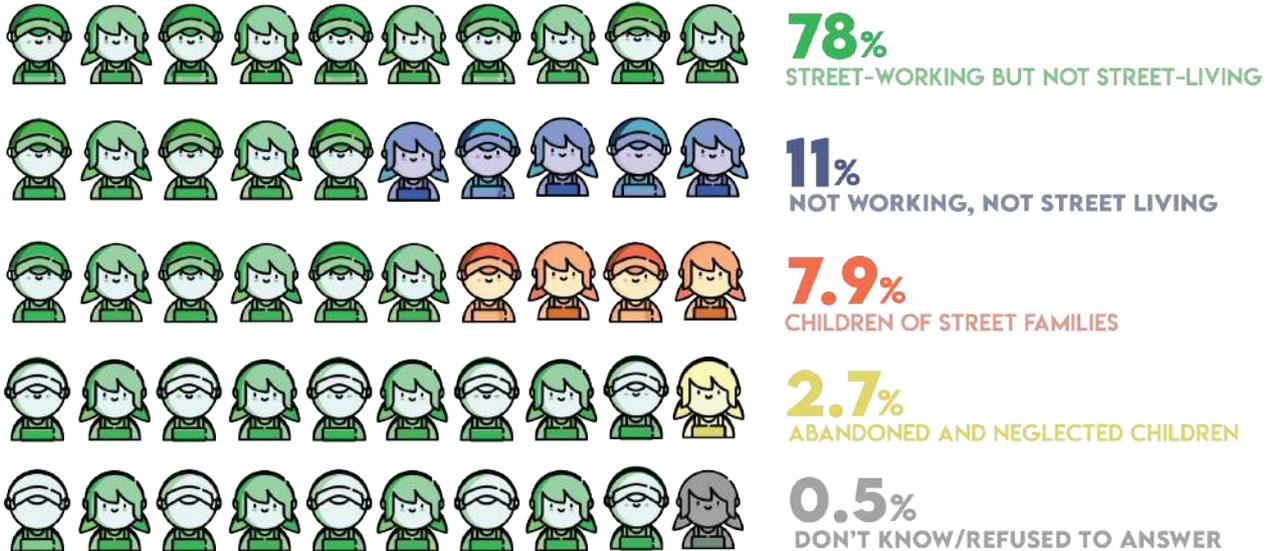
Profile of Respondents

The survey covered a total of 1,349 CiSS in Cagayan de Oro, of whom 727 (54%) were males, 622 (46%) were females. Nearly half (45%) were 5-12 years old and 34% were 13-17 years old. To gather information on children below the age of five, their guardians were interviewed and they comprised 21% of all children profiled.



CiSS 5-17 years old by Category

Contrary to popular perception, most CiSS have homes to return to when they are not in the streets. Rather, they see the streets as source of their livelihood and recreation areas as only on the streets can they earn money and play with others.



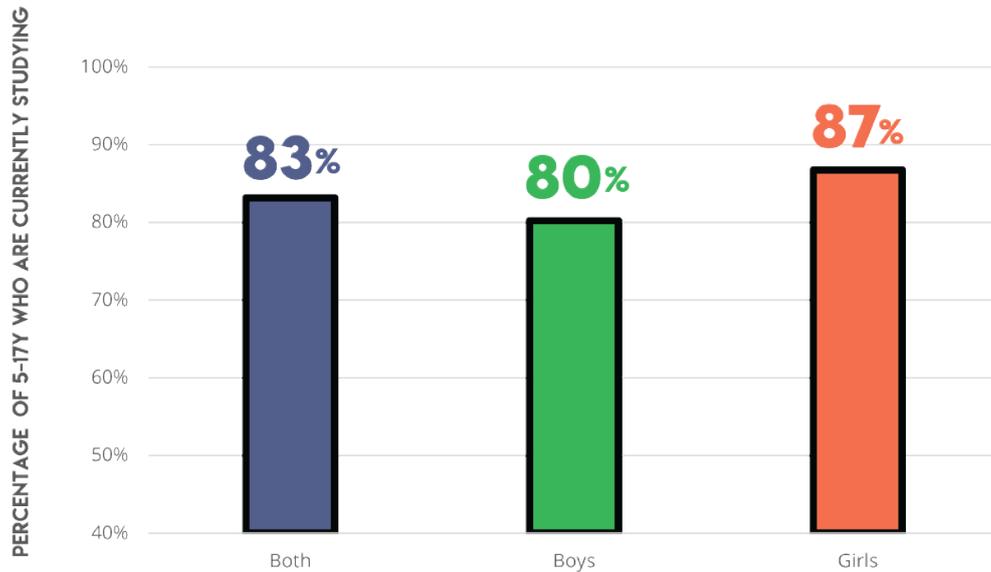
The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) defines two categories of CiSS

1. "Children on the streets" work on the streets but do not live there. They return to their families or communities on a regular basis. They are often in school.
2. "Children of the streets" can be children of street families or abandoned children
 - c. Children of street families live with their family, who have long been itinerant
 - d. Abandoned children have no connection with their families. They are often out of school.

Education and Literacy

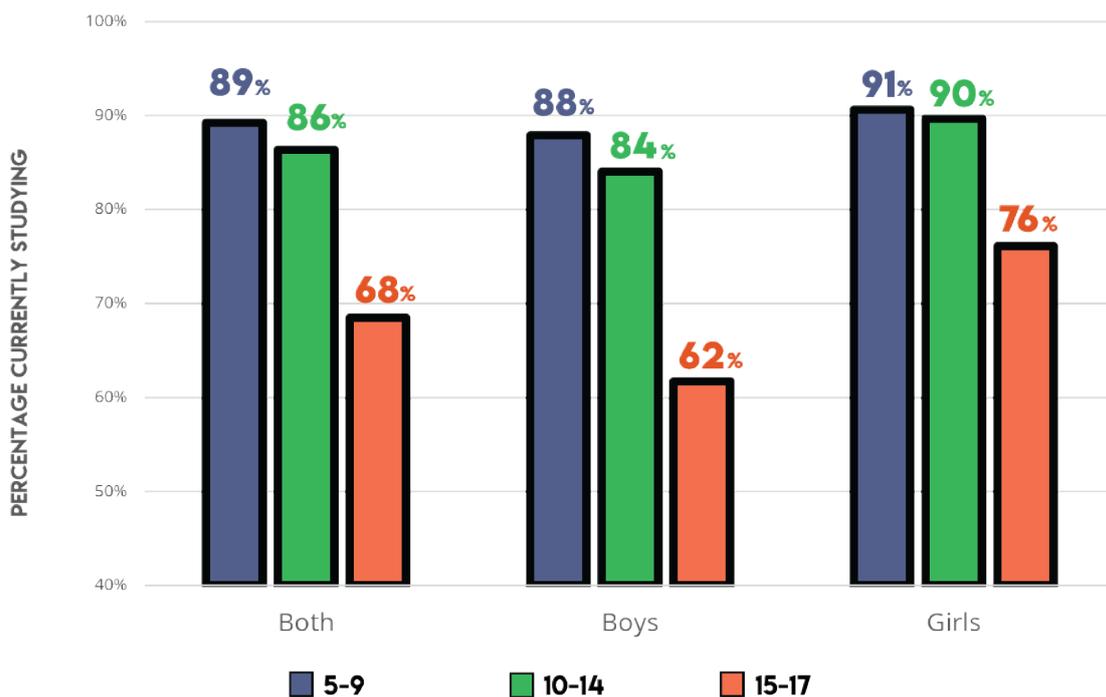
Majority (83%) of 5-17 year-old CiSS interviewed are currently in school. A larger proportion among girls (87%) than among boys (80%) are currently studying.

MOST GIRLS ARE CURRENTLY IN-SCHOOL



When respondents' ages are taken into account, a much smaller percentage of 15-17 year-olds are currently in-school compared to their younger counterparts.

FEWER OLDER CHILDREN ARE IN SCHOOL



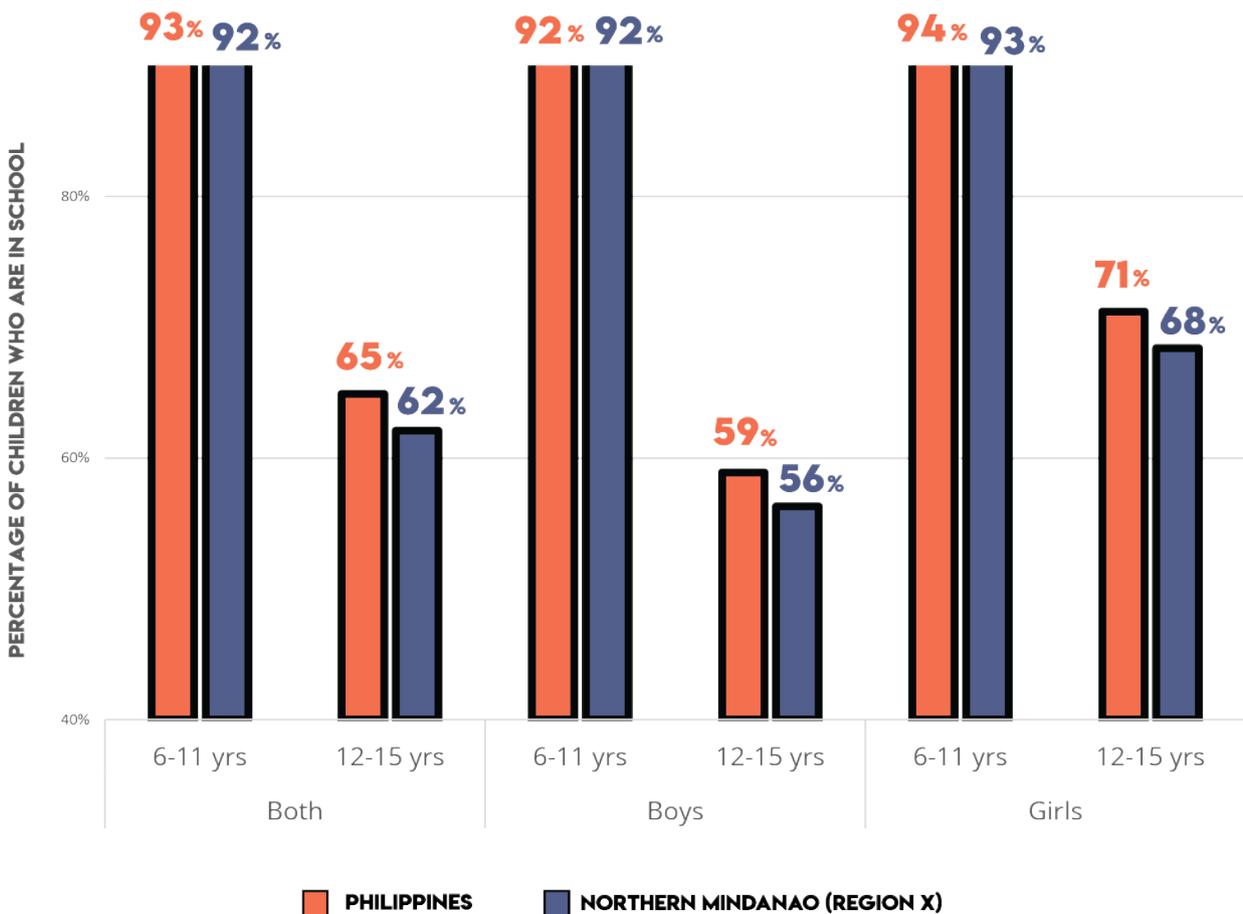
The national Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey shows that 92.6% of children 6-11 years old and 64.9% of children 12-15 years old are enrolled in school. (PSA, 2013)

Net enrollment ratio (%)

	Both		Boys		Girls	
	6-11	12-15	6-11	12-15	6-11	12-15
Philippines	92.6	64.9	91.8	58.9	93.5	71.2
Northern Mindanao (Region X)	92.0	62.1	91.6	56.3	92.5	68.4

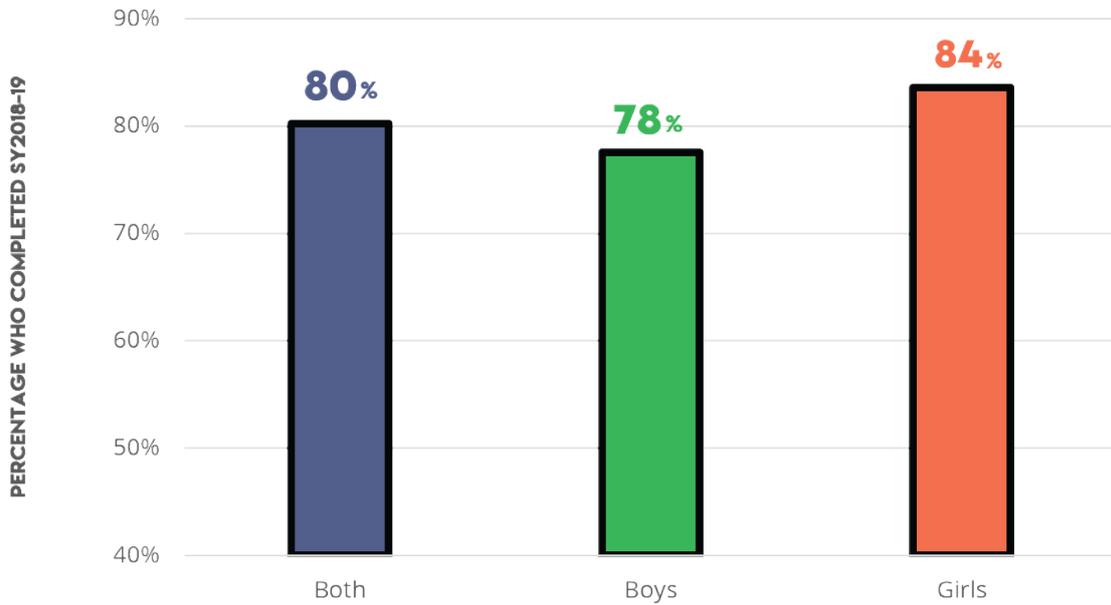
Source: Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) 2013

**PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN SCHOOL
NATIONAL AND NORTHERN MINDANAO**



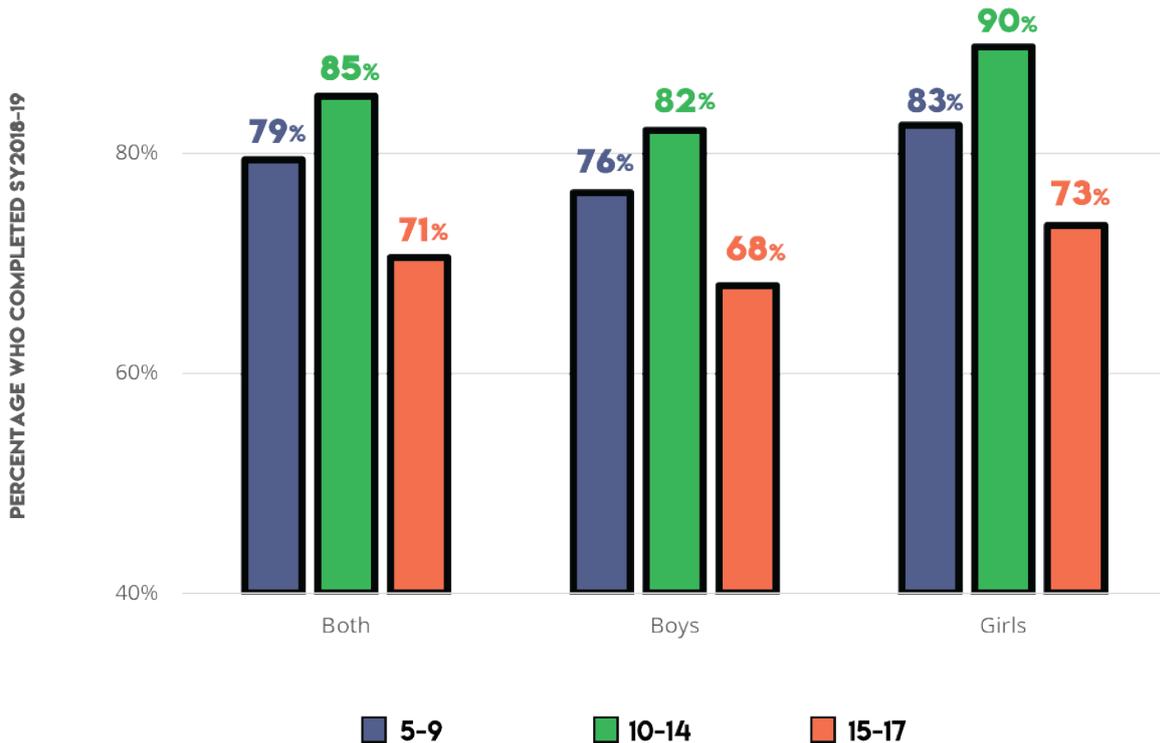
Not all children enrolled at the start of the schoolyear complete the year. Majority (80%) of 5-17 year-old CiSS interviewed completed the last schoolyear (SY 2018-19). A larger percentage of girls (84%) than boys (78%) completed the previous schoolyear.

MORE GIRLS COMPLETED LAST SCHOOLYEAR



School completion drops during high school among both girls and boys. Eighty-five percent (85%) of 10-14 year-olds, but only 71% of 15-17 year-olds, completed last schoolyear.

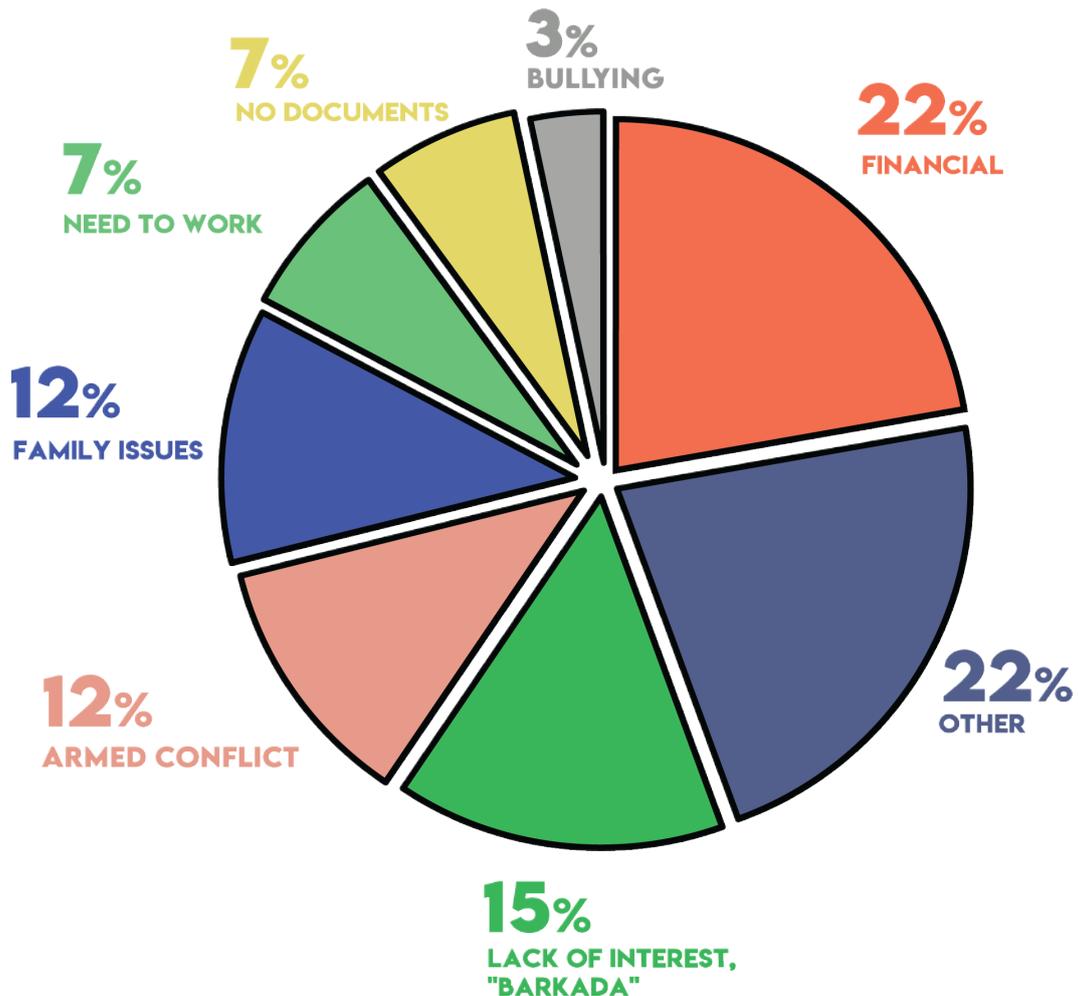
FEWER OLDER CHILDREN COMPLETED LAST SCHOOLYEAR



Almost 1 out of 5 (17%) 5-17 year-old CiSS are out-of-school or have never been in school.

Financial difficulties are most commonly cited as the primary reason for not being in school. Most (84%) out-of-school CiSS are still interested in studying. However, few of those out-of-school have accessed government or NGO alternative learning services (13%), learning activities held in churches or mosques (28%), street classes (14%), or community (7%) or mobile (1%) libraries.

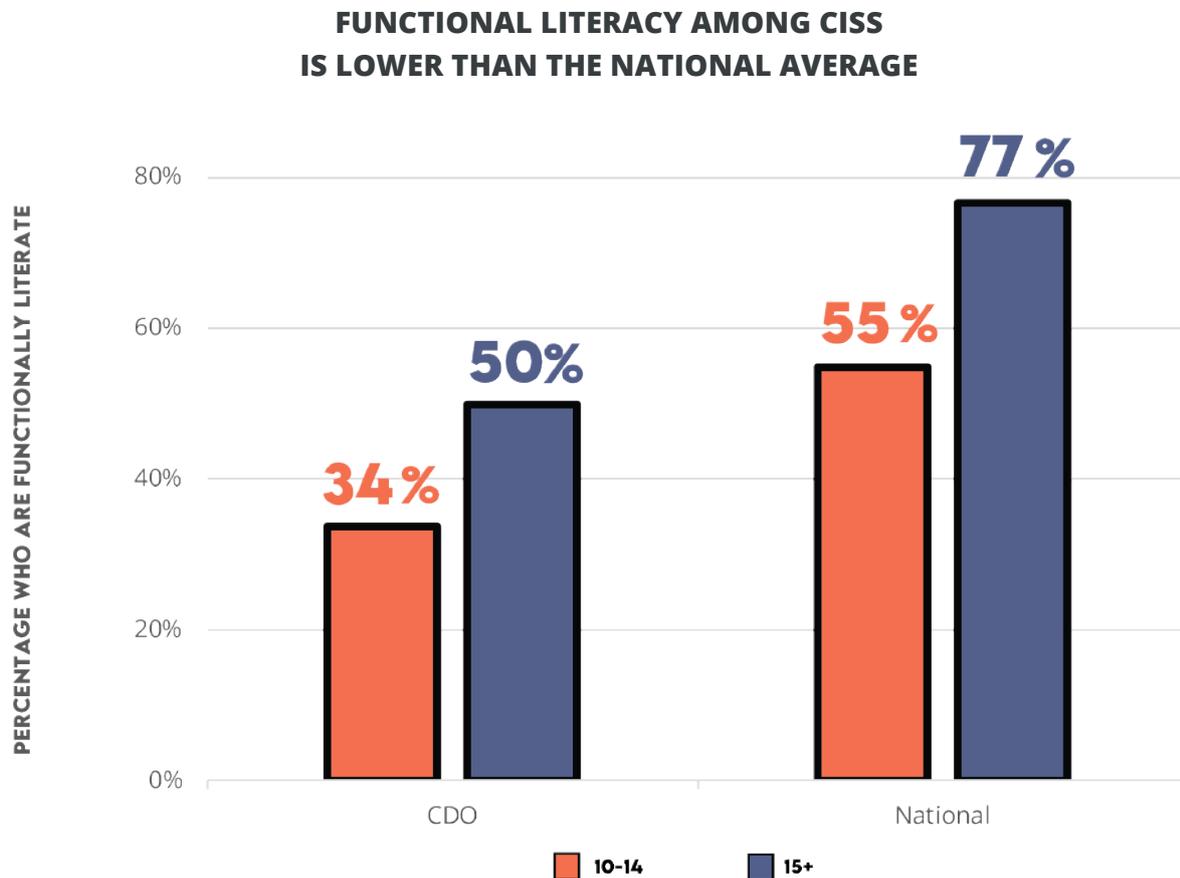
FINANCES ARE THE MOST COMMON REASON FOR NOT BEING IN SCHOOL



Although most (83%) of 10-17 year-old CiSS are in school and 80% of are able to read and 72% are able to write numbers and words, *only 2 out of 5 (39%) are functionally literate.*



National figures place basic literacy rate at 97.4% among 10-14 year-olds and 98.3% among 15-19 year-olds. Functional literacy rate is 83.2% among 10-14 year-olds and 93.7% among 15-19 year-olds. (FLEMMS 2013)



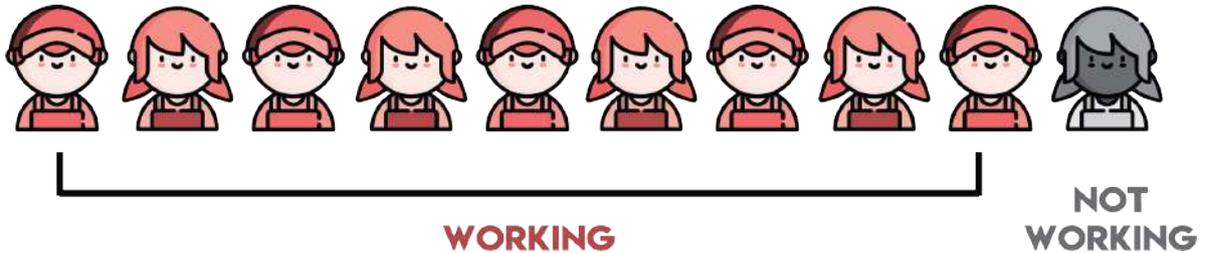
Note: CDO figures are for 15-17 year-olds while national figures are for 15-19 year-olds

Functional literacy is a significantly higher level of literacy which includes not only reading and writing but also numeracy skills. The skills must be sufficiently advanced to enable the individual to participate fully and efficiently in activities commonly occurring in his life situation that require a reasonable capability of communicating by written language. A functional literate person is one who can at least read, write, compute and/or comprehend. Also, persons who graduated from high school or completed higher level of education are classified as functionally literate. (PSA, 2013)

Basic or simple literacy is the ability of a person to read and write with understanding a simple message in any language or dialect. The basic literacy status of an individual can be determined based on respondent's answer to the question "Can ___ read and write a simple message in any language or dialect?"

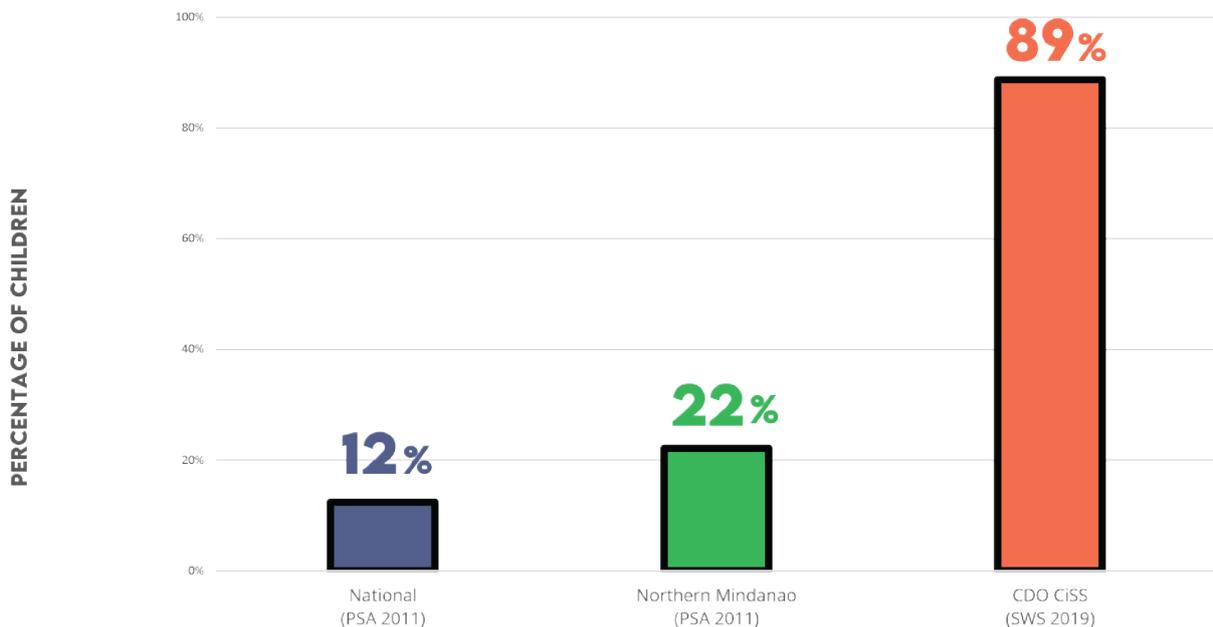
Work Activities

Nine out of 10 CiSS ages 5-17 years old have experienced working, paid or unpaid, or have ever done something to earn a living. Seventy percent (70%) of all 5-9 year-olds, 97% of 10-14 year-olds, and 95% of 15-17 year-olds have worked.

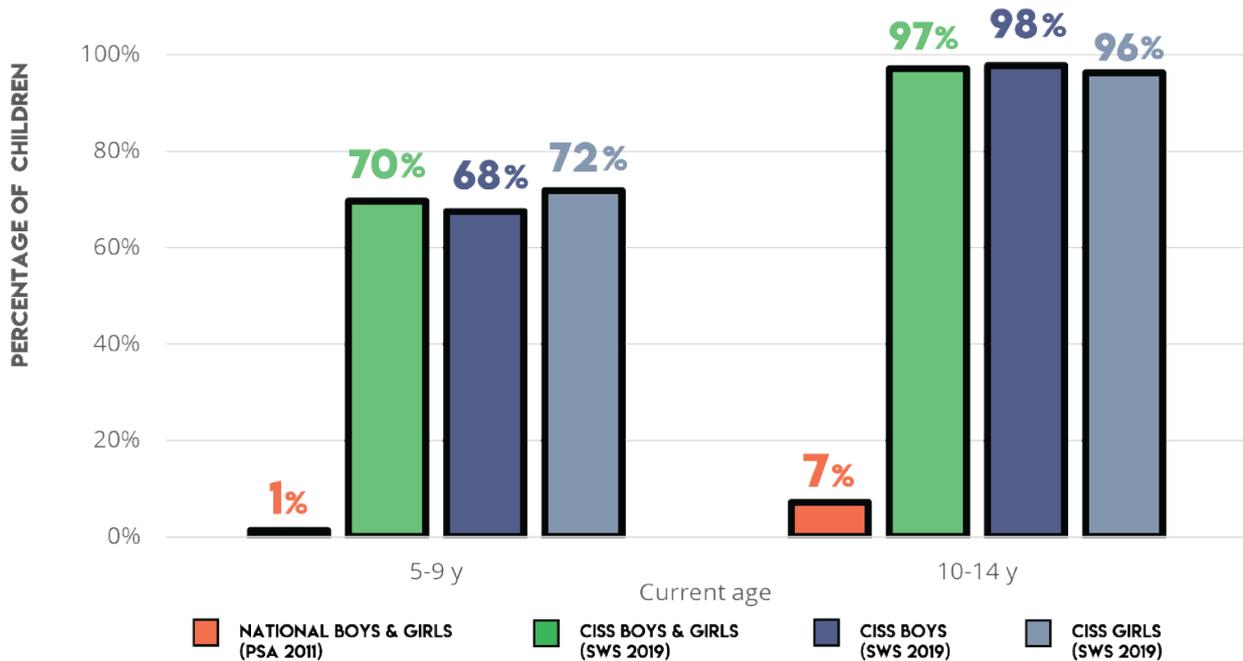


The national Survey on Children found 12.4% of 5-17 year-olds worked for at least one hour during the past week. In Northern Mindanao (Region X), 22.1% of children are working. (PSA & ILO-IPEC, 2011)

MORE CISS ARE WORKING COMPARED TO CHILDREN IN GENERAL



UNDERAGE LABOR (<15 YEARS OLD) IS MORE PREVALENT AMONG CDO'S CISS COMPARED TO CHILDREN IN GENERAL



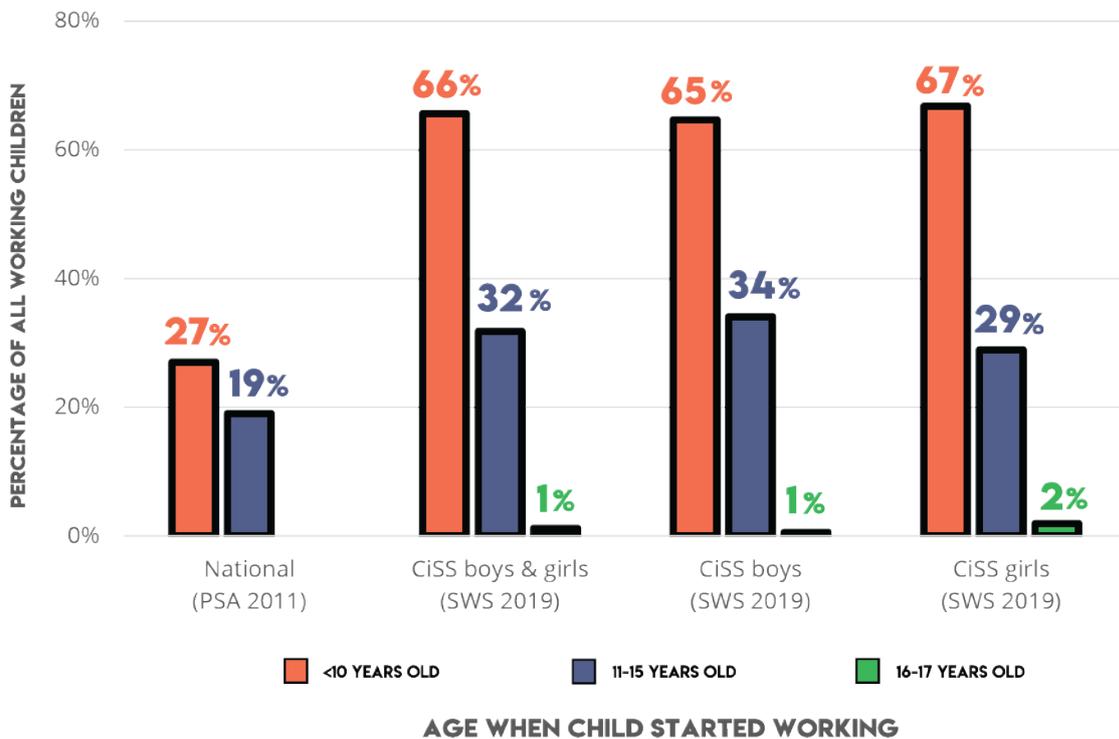
Child Labor

“Child labor” refers to any work or economic activity performed by a child that subjects him/her to any form of exploitation or is harmful to his/her health and safety or physical, mental or psychosocial development.

Children aged 15 to below 18 years of age are permitted to work in any economic activity not considered child labor, but not more than eight (8) hours a day and in no case beyond forty (40) hours a week. They shall not be allowed to work between 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. of the following day, and employer should provide the child with access to at least elementary and secondary education. (DOLE, 2012)

Two out of three (66%) 5-17 year-old working street children started working before they were 10 years old. In comparison, national figures say one of four (26.8%) of working children started working before age 10 and 18.8% started working at age 10. (PSA 2011)

MOST WORKING CISS IN CDO BEGAN WORKING BEFORE THEY WERE 10 YEARS OLD



The most common type of work is selling (69%).

Children worked an average of 6 days during the past 7 days. Two of three (69%) working children -- 59% of all CiSS -- worked every day in the past week. Two of three (68%) -- 58% of all CiSS -- stopped working between 6 pm and midnight.

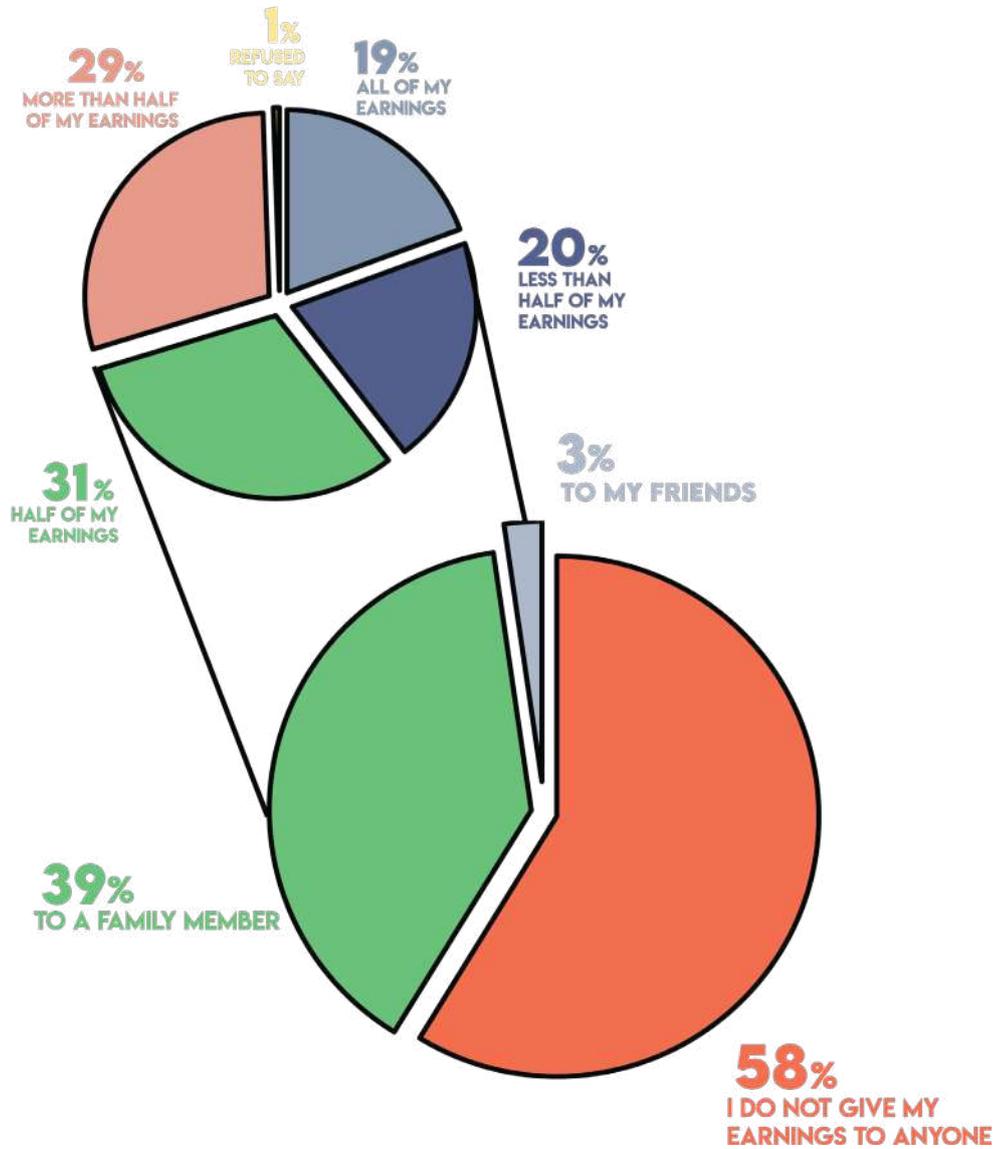
Table 1. Work done during the past 7 days (one child may have multiple answers)

Type of Work	Number	% of children who worked in the past 7 days
Selling, helping in shop or eatery	628	69%
Watching/washing cars	83	9%
Other	81	9%
Scavenging	71	7%
Portering & delivery	48	5%
Pedicab/tricycle driver	29	3%

Type of Work	Number	% of children who worked in the past 7 days
Construction	24	3%
Begging	20	2%
Sex and pimping	5	1%

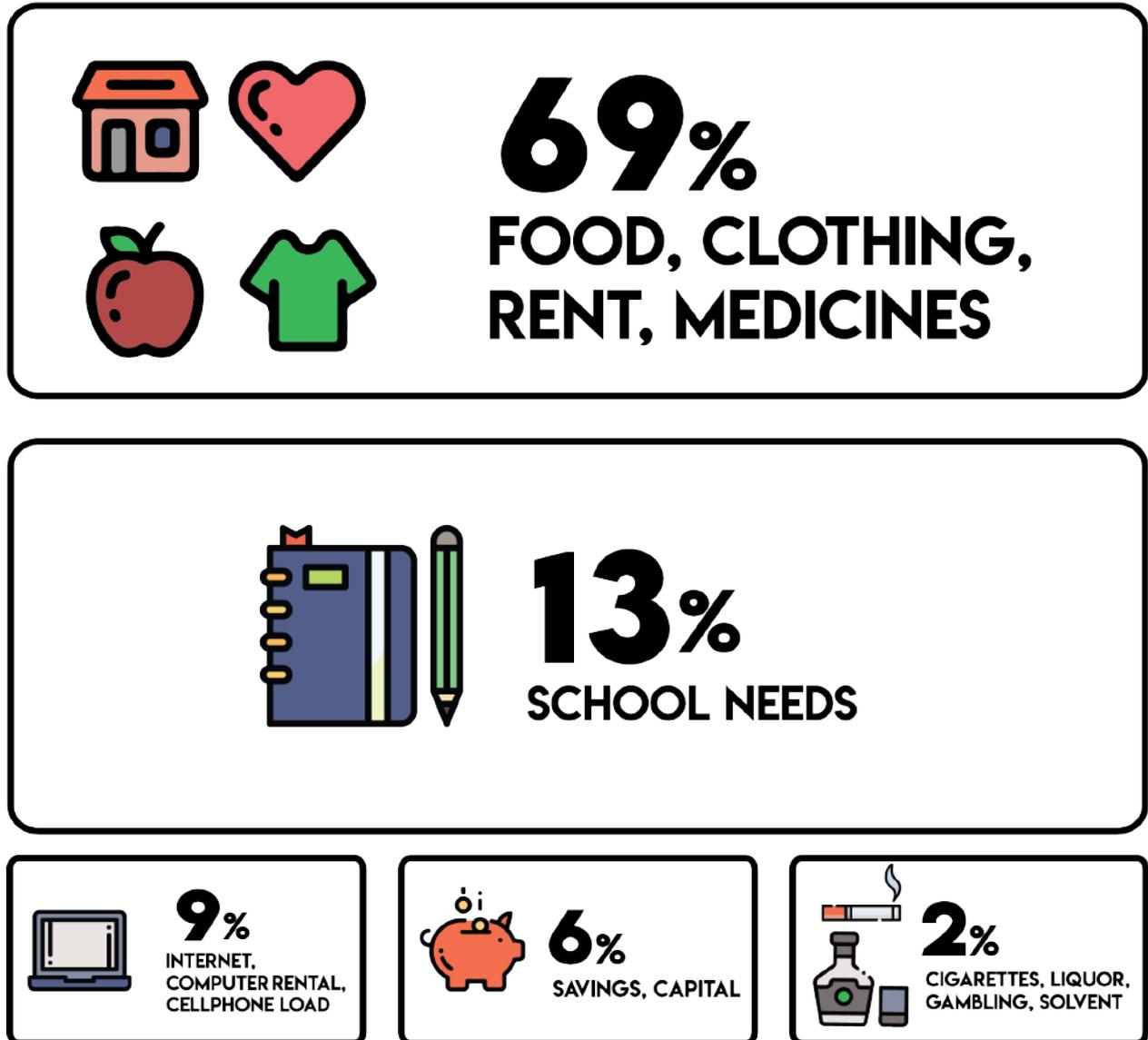
Most (62%) of those who worked in the past 7 days earned less than 100 pesos a day, 31% earned between 100 and 300 pesos a day.

One third (39%) give earnings to a family member, 2% to friends. Of those who share earnings, 51% gave only half or less than half to others.



More than half (58%) of those who work don't give earnings to anyone. Among these, 69% spent it on food and basic necessities, 13% on school-related expenses, 9% on internet/computer rental, 6% on savings, and 2% on cigarettes, alcohol, or gambling.

WHERE WORKING 5-17 YEAR-OLDS SPENT THE MONEY THEY KEPT FOR THEMSELVES



The national Survey on Children showed 41.7% of working children give all or part of earnings to parents or guardians, 15.7% buy things for school needs, and 22.7% buy things for himself/ herself. (PSA 2011)

Time Use

In the past 7 days, 5-17 year-olds spent an average of 99 hours (59%) of their time in the streets or public spaces.

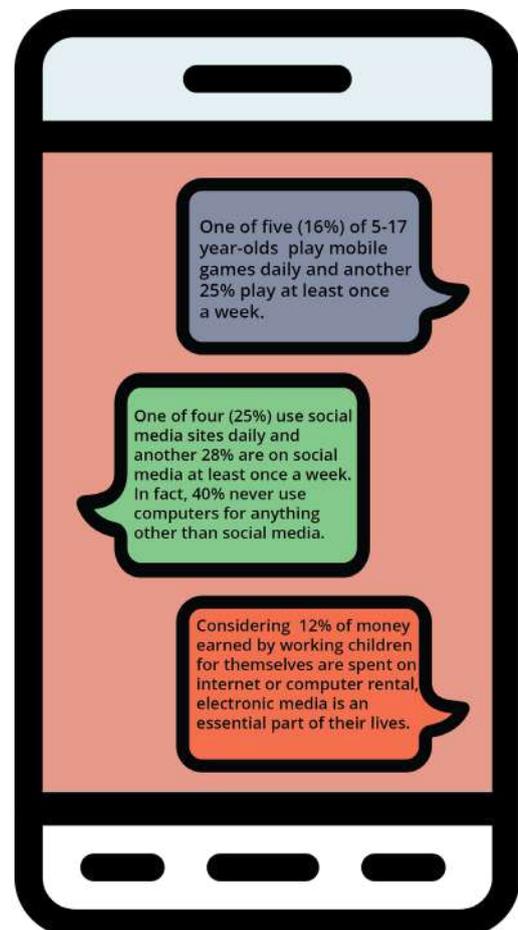


In the past seven days, in a typical day, 16% moved around the city just to kill time.

Among other non-work activities, 41% of 5-17 year-olds watch TV daily, another 40% at least once a week. Less than half (48%) visit the mall at least once a week.

If given a choice, most (51%) would want to stay in the streets for the same number of hours or even longer. Sixteen percent (16%) wish to spend less time in the streets. Only 32% do not want to stay in the streets at all

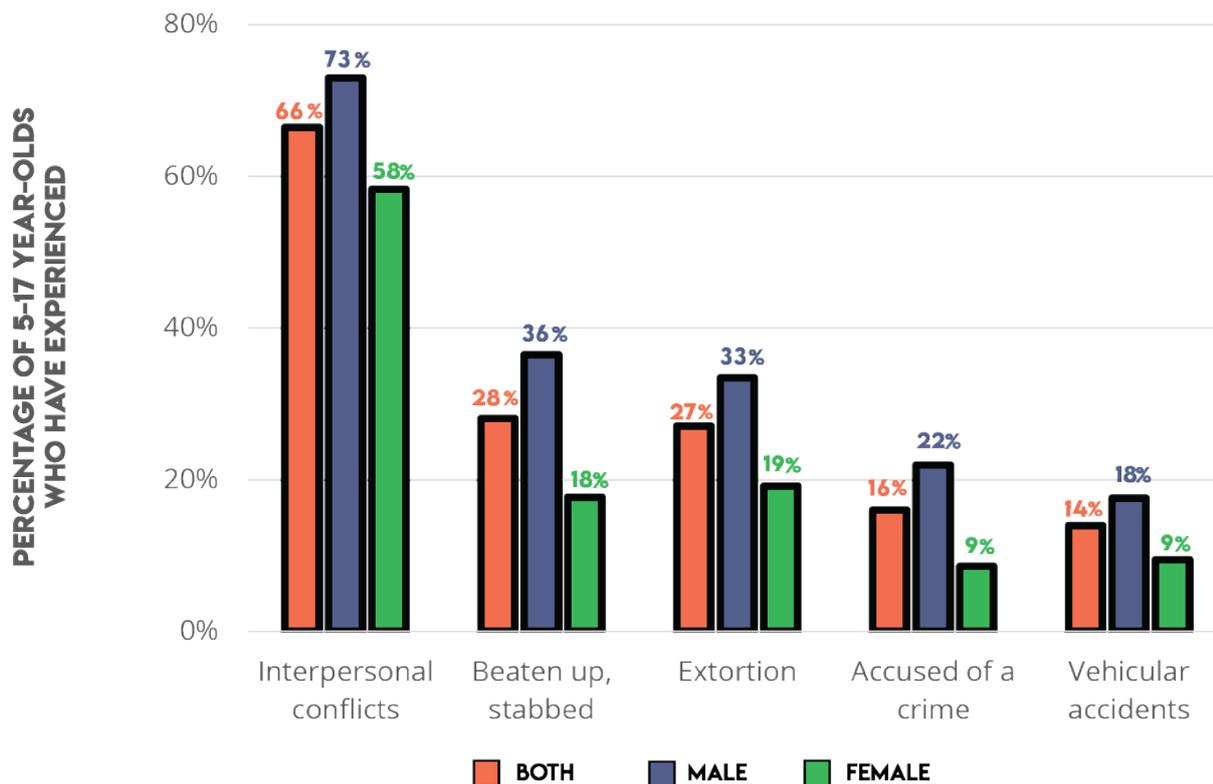
Electronic Media is Pervasive among CiSS 5-17 Years Old



Hazards of Street Life

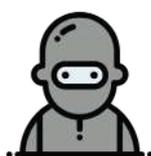
Two-thirds (66%) of 5-17 year-olds have faced conflicts or quarrels with other children or people. One in four (28%) have been physically injured, beaten up, or stabbed. More boys than girls experience these hazards.

CISS HAVE EXPERIENCED VARIOUS HAZARDS



CISS have learned to avoid certain persons in the streets.

PERSONS TO AVOID



87%
KIDNAPPERS



57%
SYNDICATES



25%
AUTHORITIES

Most (87%) said they avoid kidnappers and 57% avoid syndicates. The third type of person they avoid are authorities like the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and police (25%).

Violence

CiSS 5-17 years old disclosed that they have experienced physical, emotional, and sexual violence, usually at home from family members.



- **46%** of 5-17y have experienced physical violence
- **93%** of whom experienced it at home by a family member(s); **77%** didn't ask for help from anyone



- **28%** of 5-17y have experienced verbal / emotional / psychological violence
- **77%** of whom experienced it at home from a family member(s); **80%** didn't ask for help from anyone
- **20%** experienced it in the community; **75%** didn't ask for help



- **2%** of 5-17y have experienced sexual violence
- **33%** of whom experienced it at home from a family member(s); **11%** at home from a non-family member; **88%** didn't ask for help
- **50%** of whom experienced it in the community; **33%** didn't ask for help, **33%** asked for help from friends, the rest from barangay officials, social welfare staff, NGO workers, and neighbors (**11%** each)

Definitions of Violence used by SWS

Types of Violence	Definitions
Physical	Spanking, slapping, pinching, tying, putting inside a sack, etc.
Psychological	Cursing, use of hurtful words, threats and intimidations, discrimination/ favoritism, rejection, etc.
Sexual	Voyeurism, touched in one's private parts, asked to take off clothes to be taken a video or photo of, rape, gang rape, etc.

Access to services

The common forms of assistance that 0-17 year-old CiSS received from the government or private organizations are health center services (39%), Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (30%), and feeding program (24%). However, about a third indicated that the child not receive any assistance.

Comparing with a study of CiSS in the City of Manila

In 2018, Association Soeur Emmanuelle or ASMAE, with project funding support from Agence Francaise De Developement (AFD), conducted a Baseline Study on Children in street situations in the City of Manila, particularly in Districts 1, 3 and 5. They found a greater proportion of children “of the street” or street-working but not street-living (55%) compared to children “on the street” or street-living (43%) and children in shelters (2%). This is similar to the findings of this SWS study in Iloilo City and Cagayan de Oro, where most CiSS have homes to return to after they work or play in the streets.

Majority of CiSS in Manila were currently enrolled in school (68%), but this is a smaller proportion than in Iloilo City (93%) and Cagayan de Oro (83%).

More children in Manila earned a living by begging (13%) than other activities. In Iloilo City and Cagayan de Oro, very few (2%) went begging. In Manila, 15% were vendors, while it was 45% of CiSS in Iloilo City and 69% in Cagayan de Oro. More often, working children in Manila gave their earnings to a family member (68%). Less than half of children in Iloilo City (38%) and Cagayan de Oro (39%) gave their earnings to a family member.

Streetchildren in Manila frequently used computers and cellphones recreationally (80% played video games) like their counterparts in Iloilo City (81% play at least once a week) and Cagayan de Oro (41% play at least once a week).

The most striking finding running across the three surveys is the primacy of hope. Like all children, children in street situations have aspirations of completing their education, having a stable job, and being able to provide for themselves and their family.

References

ASMAE Philippines. (2018, October-December). *Baseline Study on Street Children in Manila*.

Council for the Welfare of Children and UNICEF. (2016, October). National Baseline Study on Violence against Children: Philippines, Executive Summary.

International Labor Organization-International Program for the Elimination of Child Labour and the National Statistics Office. (2011). *Survey on Children 5-17 years old*.

Department of Labor and Employment. (2012, June 26). Retrieved from Department of Labor and Employment: <https://www.dole.gov.ph/news/dole-provides-definition-of-child-labor-related-terms/>

Philippine Statistics Authority. (2010). Population and Housing Census.

Philippine Statistics Authority. (2013). Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey.

Philippine Statistics Authority. (2015). Official Poverty Statistics, Poverty Statistics for the Basic Sectors, FIES-LFS.

Social Weather Stations. (2019). Estimates of Potential Children in Street Situations in the Philippines: A Discussion Paper (report submitted to Lifebank Foundation, Inc.).

Lifebank Foundation, Inc.'s mission is to be a catalyst in poverty reduction through provision of financial solutions to micro-entrepreneurs coupled with social services for their family members. **The Streetchildren NGO Support Project (SNSP)** aims to strengthen the capacity of the network of non- profit groups and local government units in creating a better future for Children in Street Situations

For futher information, contact



Ms. Dinah G. Bohol

*Vice President - Social and Sustainable Development Department (SSDD)
Lifebank Microfinance Foundation, Inc.*



Ms. Norma Chan-Pongan

*Project Coordinator
Streetchildren NGO Support Project (SNSP)*



Gov. Fermin Caram Street
Barangay Maria Clara, Iloilo City, Philippines



2nd floor Fernandez Building, McArthur Highway, Tagbac, Jaro, Iloilo City



+63 33 333 3951



+63 33 323 4390



lbfcare@gmail.com



www.lbfstreetchildren.org/streetchildren/



@lifebankfoundation



@lbfcare

Social Weather Stations (www.sws.org.ph), established in 1985 as a non-stock, non-profit, and non-partisan social research organization, is a byword in Philippine survey research. SWS aims to generate pertinent, accurate, timely and credible data on social, political and economic issues of contemporary importance. The SWS surveys regularly cover the quality of life, poverty and hunger, governance, corruption, elections, crime victimization, and the state of democracy. In most of these matters, SWS is the Philippine survey pioneer. On the subjects of poverty and hunger, SWS is the de facto quarterly provider of national survey data, since governmental statistics are produced not oftener than every three years.

For futher information, contact



Linda Luz Guerrero

*Vice-President and COO
Social Weather Stations (SWS)*



guerrero@sws.org.ph



52 Malingap St., Sikatuna Village,
Quezon City 1101 Philippines



www.sws.org.ph



+63 2 8924-4465; 8926-4308;
8924-4458; (fax) 8920-2181