

**Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) 2025
Regional Winner SOCCSKSARGEN Region
Organization - Corporate Category**

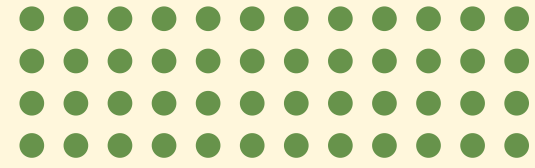


MAHINTANA FOUNDATION, INC

**Building Resiliency,
Sustaining Development**



Background

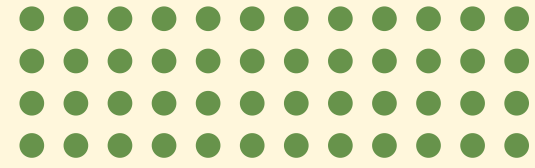


Founded on August 12, 1977, Mahintana Foundation, Inc. is the brainchild of a group of executives from Dole Philippines, Inc. and professionals from South Cotabato. The foundation was then registered under the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 12, 1977. Blaan terms 'mahin' and 'tana' — meaning "sea" and "land" — were used in honor of the Blaan settlers in the area. Staying true to this meaning, the Foundation has focused its voluntary efforts on the protection and conservation of vital natural resources, particularly the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape and Mt. Matutum Protected Landscape, which require sustained interventions.

Mahintana Foundation, Inc. spun off from the company's supervision in 1993 to expand its programs and partnerships. Since then, it has worked with both local and international donors, including Dole Philippines, Inc., USAID through its contracting partners, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Save the Children Philippines, BASE Bahay Foundation, Inc., BPI Foundation, Inc., and AY Foundation, Inc.



Background



Under the leadership of President Martiniano L. Magdolot and Executive Director Liza Duropan-Lopez, the Foundation continues to promote resilience, sustainable development, and inclusive growth for diverse communities, including Indigenous Peoples, farmers, youth, and civil society groups.

Mahintana is committed to building resilient and sustainable communities by empowering people through volunteerism. Strategic collaborations with local communities, organizations, and institutions further enhance impact, ensuring long-term progress and shared responsibility. What makes Mahintana unique is its principle of discouraging dole-outs, as it seeks to instill in its beneficiaries a sense of responsibility, ownership, and partnership. Through initiatives in peacebuilding, health, education, and the environment, Mahintana engages volunteers as key partners in driving meaningful change across vulnerable communities in SOCCSKSARGEN.



ProPEACE Programme

Promoting Peace Engagements and Community Empowerment (Phase 2)

- > One of its primary initiatives, the ProPEACE Programme Phase 2 (Promoting Peace Engagements and Community Empowerment), is a capacity development project that aims to promote peace and development in vulnerable communities of South Cotabato and Sarangani Province. Since its launch in 2020, the project has partnered with local religious and tribal leaders, youth, and Local Government Units to foster tolerance and respect for tri-people diversity—Muslims, Indigenous Peoples, and Christians/settlers through culture-of-peace training workshops and learning conversations.

Recognizing the need to continue and advance grassroots-led peace initiatives, the second phase of the project began in January 2023 and has continued through 2025. This phase includes the provision of livelihood support to enable the tri-people to live in peace and security and to benefit from inclusive social services, economic opportunities, and governance. The project continues to be implemented across eight (8) municipalities in Sarangani (Alabel, Kiamba, and Malapatan) and South Cotabato (Banga, Lake Sebu, Polomolok, Tboli, and Tupi).



January 23, 2023 - ProPEACE Phase 2 Program Launching and Ceremonial MOU Signing, at the Greenleaf Hotel, General Santos City

ProPEACE Programme

Promoting Peace Engagements and Community Empowerment (Phase 2)

➤ The ProPEACE Programme Phase 2 facilitated the successful reintegration of three rescued friends in Tupi, inspiring hope and second chances within the community, while also holding peace sessions and summits across tri-people communities. The programme strengthened tri-people collaboration through 32 training workshops, including Culture of Peace sessions, Professional Teaching and Administration training, and 18 community-government activities that benefited over 15 institutions. It empowered the Muslim Council of Elders in co-governance efforts, institutionalized the Polomolok Values Formation Council, and secured support from the AY Foundation, Read to Achieve Foundation, and Assumption College, which led to ALPABASA training and the provision of reading kits for five Madrasahs. Additionally, ProPEACE played a vital role in finalizing the IP Senior High School curriculum and helped establish the Philippines' first Cultural Heritage Learning Center at Landan National High School, advancing indigenous education and preserving cultural heritage for future generations.

Previous tensions and strained relationships between tri-people youth, indigenous communities, and security forces were transformed to mutual respect and partnerships through the ProPEACE Programme Phase 2. Through life-skills training, livelihood support, and peer education on health, peace, and governance, 238 youth, including in-school and out-of-school participants, SK members, and youth leaders, were empowered to implement community action plans. By partnering with Security Forces, LGU Polomolok, and Dolefils, the program fostered trust and collaboration, resulting in the Polomolok Youth Development Roadmap, which now guides youth-led initiatives across the municipality.

Through its innovative approach that blends peace education with culture, livelihood, and learning, the programme empowers communities, strengthens trust with the armed forces, and nurtures inclusive, gender-equal, and sustainable development. This transformative model advances the SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2023–2028 vision by supporting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), fostering resilient communities and lasting social cohesion.



ProPEACE Programme Related Activities



May 20, 2025 -Pinboo Training was successfully conducted at the Antonio O. Floirendo Foundation Compound in Panabo City,



March 14, 2025 - Ramadhan Islamic Symposium at Ma'had Daud Marjuk Al-Islamie, Brgy. Lampari Banga, South Cotabato



October 5-6, 2024 - 21st Life Skills and Livelihood: Business Enterprises Service Training cum Virtual Peace Conversation for Tri-People Youth



September 21, 2024 - Renovation of the Madrasah Arramanyah Al-Islamiah Renovation , and the construction of the Maharlika Islamic Learning Center



July 8-10, 2024 - Madrasah Teachers (Asatidz) successfully participated the ALPABASA Training



November 14, 2024 - Mindanao OGP Regional Forum and ProPEACE Learning Exchange in General Santos City



April 24-27, 2024 - ProPEACE Livelihood Partners Successfully Complete Livelihood Management Seminars



April 2024 - First Grand Iftar and Ramadan Symposium conducted by the Muslim Council of Elders-Polomolok.



October 2024 - Learning Conversation among Tri-People Groups and Stakeholders of Polomolok



August 30, 2023 — Ceremonial Turnover of the Bangsamoro Women Multi-purpose Learning Shed



April 22 & 28, 2022 - Training of Trainers on Tarbiyah by the Ulama and Ustadz of Sarangani



October 5-7, 2022— Intercultural Youth Exchange in Polomolok, South Cotabato



May 2022 - Madaris in Polomolok receive armchairs and school supplies through ProPEACE programme

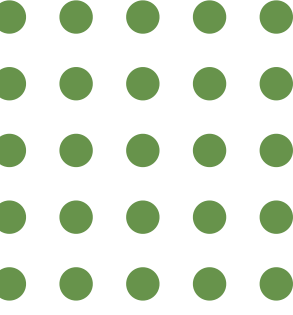


August 18-21, 2022 — Trainor's Training on Peer Education and Counselling



June 22, 2021 - educational film viewing activity of the 10th Special Forces at Brgy. Koronadal Proper, Polomolok, South Cotabato

HEALTH Plus Project



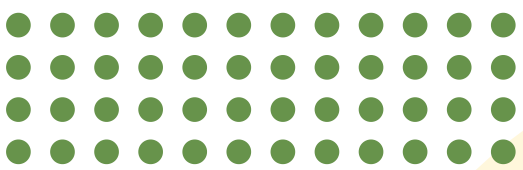
From empowering communities to transforming healthcare access, Mahintana has led innovative solutions since 2007 through the HEALTH Plus Project, delivering safe, affordable, and effective medicines to underserved populations in Region XII. In 2024, the HEALTH Plus Project reached a major milestone by serving its one millionth patient, bringing the total beneficiaries to 1,094,277 indigent patients and clients. The project now supports 10 public hospitals and two rural health units (RHUs) in Region XII, covering 46% of their total pharmacy requirement.

With the help of volunteers, HEALTH Plus addressed nearly 100% of unserved prescriptions, directly assisting 120,500 admitted patients in 2024. Its Shop-in-a-Shop system also generated ₱7.06 million in additional income for provincial hospitals. Volunteers extended assistance beyond hospitals through the Lakbay Buhay Kalusugan mission, which served 1,111 indigent patients, and through donations of essential medicines and supplies that reached 22 organizations and 26 individuals. Facility upgrades, such as the renovated Polomolok East Community Center, further improved healthcare access for Indigenous Peoples' communities - proving its direct impact on making essential healthcare more accessible and reliable for vulnerable communities.

For these efforts, Mahintana was recognized by the DOH SOCCSKSARGEN Region during the Pugay Kalusugan 2024 Regional Awards for its contribution to Universal Health Care.



HEALTH Plus Project Activities



Mahintana's HealthPlus Project reached a milestone, serving its one-millionth patient, Mr. Roger Intendencia, a 50-year-old resident of Purok Mainuswagon, Dajay, Surallah, South Cotabato



May 2024 - Health Plus Shop In-a-shop (HPSiS) Pharmacy in DEI- CODA at Brgy. Ned, Lake Sebu



September 2024 - *Lakbay Buhay Kalusugan,* in Barangay Lumakil, Polomolok, South Cotabato benefited a total of 461 beneficiaries.



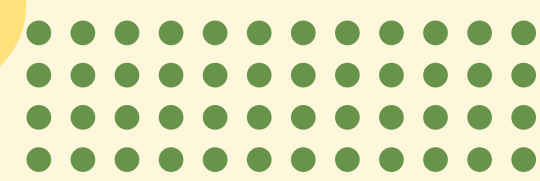
July 2024 - Turnover Ceremony of the newly renovated Polomolok East Community Clinic (PECC) to the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Polomolok



July 2024 - Serbisyo Caravan of the PLGU Sarangani-, the HealthPlus Program, distributed nutribun, hygiene kits and IEC materials



August 2023 - Gift Giving during the 54th Founding Anniversary of South Cotabato Provincial Hospital



Chairs-for-Trees Project

Mahintana Foundation, in harmony with the ProPEACE Program and other Dolefil-assisted initiatives through the Polomolok Task Force: Kalusugan, implements the Chairs-for-Trees Project, which aims to improve the chair-to-pupil ratio by providing comfortable armchairs to help create a more conducive learning environment.

In 2024, the project provided 615 armchairs to nine (9) schools and learning centers, including the Moro Islamic Learning Center, Magsaysay, and Sitio Bio in Lapu, Polomolok; Datal Helek Day Care Center in Datal Dlanag, Tboli, South Cotabato; Lampari National High School in Banga, South Cotabato; Sumilil National High School and Sumilil Elementary School in Bagumbayan, Sultan Kudarat; as well as the Cultural Heritage Learning Center and Landan National High School in Polomolok, South Cotabato.



In line with its environmental commitment, the project also facilitated the planting of 44,400 trees in these areas. As of 2024, a total of 56,438 armchairs have been distributed, and 2,178,197 fruit and forest trees, including bamboo, have been planted across 265 partner communities. These achievements would not have been possible without the active participation of volunteers, who carry out the physical work of transporting, assembling, and delivering chairs, as well as the labor-intensive tree planting that sustains the program's environmental legacy.

The Chairs-for-Trees Project demonstrates the power of volunteerism to transform classrooms and communities—enhancing learning environments for students and promoting greener surroundings for future generations, in direct support of Sustainable Development Goals on Quality Education and Climate Action.



September 2024 - Turnover ceremony of 200 armchairs donated to Sumilil Elementary School and Sumilil National High School



April 13, 2024, the Barangay Lapu Daycare Center received 11 kiddie tables, 44 kiddie chairs, 1 teacher's table set, and 1 bookshelf



March 2025 - Mahintana Foundation Inc. donated 100 armchairs to Cebuano Elementary School - Mambusong Extension



November 19, 2024 - 50 armchairs were provided to The first Cultural Heritage Learning Center (CHLC) in the Philippines



November 2024 - The Upper Sepaka Integrated School recently received 100 armchairs



February 2024 - 100 armchairs were provided to Maharlika Learning Center in Brgy. Magsaysay, Polomolok, South Cotabato

Ridge to Reef (R2R) Program



Aiming to unite various development efforts from the headwaters of the Klinan (Mt. Matutum) and Silway (Mt. Malibato) rivers' watersheds down to the Sarangani Bay Seascape, recognizing the interconnectedness of the different sub-ecosystems, the Silway-Klinan River Watershed to Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape Ridge to Reef Program (R2R) program was implemented by Mahintana Foundation, Inc. since 2014.

In 2024 alone, the program planted and maintained 215,500 bamboos, 158,800 fruit and forest trees, and 10,500 mangroves, covering 769.6 hectares or 192.4 kilometers of riverbanks and coastlines, promoting natural regeneration and ecosystem protection.

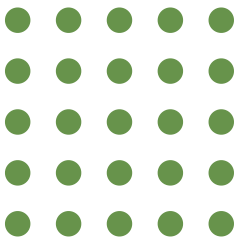
Through the Livelihood Assistance of the program, the project organized 25 Blaan Farmers in the Municipality of Malungon for seedling production, which will be utilized in bamboo and tree-growing activities. Livelihood initiatives empowered 25 Blaan farmers for seedling production, assisted 621 farmers under TUPAD, and trained 15 mangrove farmers, linking ecosystem restoration with community well-being.

R2R's significance lies in its holistic approach to protecting biodiversity, enhancing resilience, and fostering a culture of volunteerism. Avian assessments documented 29 bird species, including three eagles, showing how collective action can transform communities into custodians of their natural heritage for generations to come.



Ridge to Reef (R2R) Program

Related Activities



July 2024 - The Adopt-A-Hectare planted 2 hectares of land inside MMPL at Purok Ulo, Landan, with a total of 2000 hills of assorted fruit and forest trees.



July 2, 2024 - 500 participants plant a total of 3,000 seedlings, which included bamboo, forest, and fruit trees along the terrain and riverside of Brgy. Kapate.



September 2024 - Mahintana planted 600 bamboo seedlings in Sitio Bato, Barangay Landan



March 4, 2024 - 2,000 Bamboo Seedlings Planted in Barangay Lapu



October 2023 - Planting of 6,000 hills of fruit forest trees and 500 hills of bamboo at Polomolok, South Cotabato




March 2025 - Linggo ng Mt. Matutum 2025, With 189 participants, 500 seedlings of endemic trees were planted



June 24, 2023 - Tree Growing activity was conducted, and a total of 200 hills were planted.



August 9, 2021 - BLGU Poblacion planted 300 bamboo seedlings as part of their flood mitigation and riverbanks erosion prevention



Mahintana Foundation, Inc. stands as a steadfast partner in advancing peace, health, education, environmental conservation and protection, and livelihood development across the SOCCSKSARGEN region. By weaving volunteerism into its every initiative, including empowering tri-people communities through ProPEACE, improving healthcare access via HEALTH Plus, transforming classrooms and landscapes with Chairs-for-Trees, and protecting ecosystems through the Ridge-to-Reef Program, the foundation nurtures resilience and inclusivity at the grassroots level. Its initiatives are firmly aligned with national priorities, the SOCCSKSARGEN RDP 2023–2028, and global development goals, ensuring that progress is both innovative and sustainable.

Additionally, Mahintana has demonstrated its strong commitment to creating valuable partnerships with private organizations, government agencies, and other non-profits, which helps widen its reach and increase its impact. Through this spirit of collaboration, the foundation drives meaningful change not only in Region XII but also in other vulnerable communities across the country, leaving behind stronger families, empowered communities, and a legacy of hope that inspires future generations.



Mahintana Foundation, Inc.

