# Philippines

In the Philippines, undernutrition endangers the well-being of women, infants, and young children, resulting in stunted growth, weakened immune systems, and a higher chance of illness and death. Since 1983. Helen Keller Intl has supported the Philippine government in improving health and food systems for families and communities, including helping local governments take ownership of and invest in health and nutrition services. Together with our partners, we ensure children and families have access to nutritious foods, essential vitamins and minerals, and high-quality health and nutrition, especially during the crucial first 1,000 days from pregnancy to age two.

Number of staff: 34 People reached annually: 11,800



Office opened: 1983 Operating budget: \$2.3 million

## Challenges

- 1 in 5 pregnant women have at least one micronutrient deficiency, putting them at risk of delivering low birth-weight babies.



27 out of 1,000 Filipino children do not live past their fifth birthday.



Nearly 1 in 10 Filipino children ages 5-19 are overweight due to a rise in marketing of unhealthy foods.

### Where We Work



- Antique
- Bangsamoro Autonomous **Region in Muslim** Mindanao (BARMM)

- Bohol
- Camarines Sur
- Capiz
- Cebu
- Iloilo
- Lanao Del Norte
- Manila
- Negros Oriental
- Nueva Ecija
- Northern Samar
- Oriental Mindoro
- Pangasinan
- Sorsogon
- Zamboanga del Norte

#### **Our Solutions**



Ensure pregnant women receive the nutrients they need to support their health and the health of their babies.



Strengthen local governments' investment in and capacity to provide health and nutrition services to their communities.



Partner with schools to improve school food environment and encourage healthier food choices in the diets of children and their families.





#### **Our Impact**

- Reached nearly 2,600 pregnant women with multiple micronutrient supplements and nutrition counseling to improve maternal and infant health.
- Supported routine health services to reach over 7,400 children under five with early childhood health services, like vitamin A supplementation and deworming.
- Trained teachers and canteen staff at 3 pilot schools on key nutrition guidelines to improve school nutrition and help address child malnutrition.

**Key Partners:** Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Nutrition International, United Nations Children's Fund, USAID, World Food Programme, Vitamin Angels

#### **About Helen Keller Intl**

Helen Keller Intl partners with communities that are striving to overcome longstanding cycles of poverty. By delivering the essential building blocks of good health, sound nutrition, and clear vision, the organization helps millions of people create lasting change in their own lives. Working in 20 countries – across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the United States – and together with a global community of supporters, Helen Keller helps to ensure every person has the opportunity – as Helen did – to reach their true potential.

#### **Contact Information**

For more information please contact:

