

March 2022 News Sheet

A Birth Certificate is not just a piece of paper.

Another story from the isolated village community of Sitio Pintor beside the San Isidro Rubbish Dump.

Children of the Dump has been the first charity working here for nearly a year now and offers the youngest children, such as those in the photo, their first opportunity for school through our outreach classes. In this community there are some children who have not got Birth Certificates. In the Philippines the government thinks that there are as many as 7 million people like this. The implications of this are serious. Without a Birth Certificate it means that the children can have no access to health services or public schooling. In some places it makes them more vulnerable to abuse, including child trafficking and because they are not officially registered anywhere it is easier for them to disappear.



As adults' people without Birth certificates can't get a National Insurance number which excludes them from official jobs, so they remain doomed to live in the low pay of the underground economy.

The government is keen to achieve late registration of births, but parents need to take time off from scavenging (which means loss of pay) to travel to the local government offices, often for more than 1 trip as they lack any paperwork at all. Many parents are illiterate themselves so the whole process is daunting, and they worry (usually needlessly) about costs arising and fines because of late registration.

Children of the Dump has already helped out by providing transport, reassurance, and advice to parents to enable birth certificate registration to take place. It's all part of the slow process of helping transform children's lives. Of course, none of this would be possible without your support.

ESSENTIALS - Support the children without sponsoring a child.



Many supporters prefer to give small and regular donations instead of sponsoring a child which we call the ESSENTIALS programme. This means that the money can be used where it is most needed such as for the one-off programme of ensuring everyone has a Birth Certificates and even a small level of monthly support can be spread across all the children helped.

You can contribute as much or as little as you like, perhaps just £3 per week collected as £12 every month, through this link on our web site

<https://childrenofthedump.org.uk/how-you-can-help/essentials-monthly-donation>

Changing young lives, one at a time.

Caring and educating vulnerable children in the Philippines.

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