

The Zero Dropout Program, funded by the WS Family Foundation and implemented by CARD MRI, was conceptualized after the success of an educational loan program of CARD MRI in the provinces of Masbate and Occidental Mindoro in the middle of the year 2010. The program was then rolled-out in 2011 to all the areas in the Philippines where CARD MRI is present.

The Zero Dropout Program is currently offered exclusively to members whose children are in the pre-elementary and elementary level. The interest rate is very reasonable and affordable as it primarily aims to provide the poorest of poor families a chance to give their children the gift of basic literacy.

The Zero Dropout Program

Quarterly Report

April to June 2013

Making both ends meet

Beneficiary's Stories

Rosemarie Gutierrez is a small-scale entrepreneur from Daet, Camarines Norte. In 2011, she decided to become a member of CARD Bank, Inc. to expand her buy-and-sell business. By engaging in livelihood activities, she could make both ends meet for her family as her husband's salary alone could not cover all their financial needs.



One of the financial difficulties her

family faces is the lack of enough funds for her children's education. Public school is free but not the supplies or uniform needed by her children to attend school. Upon learning about the Zero Dropout Program, she saw hope that she could finally provide for her children's other educational needs.

"I feel helpless that my grade school child had to stop schooling just because we do not have enough money to buy school supplies like cardboard, color paper, or crayons. I mean, these are just simple things and it's sad that I can't provide them. However, through the Zero Dropout Program, we now could buy what was once not included in our daily budget," said Rosalinda whose seven year-old son is now a Grade 3 student.

The loans from the Zero Dropout Program are especially designed to have a low interest rate making it affordable for the poor microentrepreneurs.

Launching of the Zero Dropout Program

Event Highlights



The launching, which was held on April 2, 2013, was attended by individuals and organizations sharing the same mission of CARD MRI to assist the children coming from poorest of poor families with their educational needs. Sitting on the rightmost side of the picture is the US Ambassador to the Philippines, Harry K. Thomas, Jr. Beside him is CARD MRI Founder and Managing Director, Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip.



Mr. Washington Z. SyCip, the first person to donate funds to the program, encouraged his friends and colleagues to give poor children a chance to have a better future by finishing gradeschool education through the Zero Dropout Program.



One hundred ninety-one guests, of which some are prominent names in the business sector, attended the event. The event raised PhP2.4 Million which is enough to assist the educational needs of more than 800 elementary students from poor areas in the Philippines.

Program Updates

Geographical Distribution of Zero Dropout Program Beneficiaries



- Legend:
- NCR (National Capital Region)
 - CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region)
 - Region I (Ilocos)
 - Region II (Cagayan Valley)
 - Region III (Central Luzon)
 - Region IV -A (Calabarzon)
 - Region IV -B (Mimaropa)
 - Region V (Bicol)
 - Region VI (Western Visayas)
 - Region VII (Central Visayas)
 - Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)
 - Region IX (Mindanao)
 - Region X (Northern Mindanao)
 - Region XI (Davao Region)
 - Region XII (Central Mindanao)
 - Region XIII (Caraga Administrative Region)

As of March 2013, a total of PhP 41,286,000 was disbursed to 12,345 beneficiaries. The loan balance is PhP 6,833,603.

Moreover, the program has generated PhP 2,883,800 as of May 2013.