



## CASE STUDY: Child protection is everyone's responsibility in the Philippines

In the **Philippines**, ChildFund piloted a community-based program to address violence against children in schools, homes and communities through its two-year project *Not in Our Community*.<sup>4</sup> Advocating that “child protection is everyone’s responsibility,” the project focused on nine schools where a baseline study had identified peer bullying and violent discipline by teachers and parents as protection concerns.

Working alongside partners, ChildFund trained teachers, parents, and students on issues such as positive discipline methods, anti-bullying, and child rights, and enlisted children to speak out about violence using community radio broadcasts, school newspaper articles, and posters.

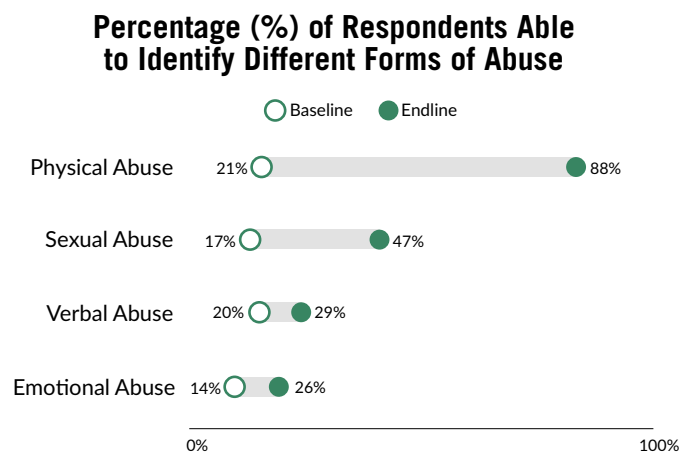
One of the major contributions of the Not in Our Community project was to help stakeholders, particularly children and teachers, to develop a much broader and more intimate knowledge of child abuse and protection including forms and sources of violence, risk factors and where to go for assistance.

The project also set up **zero-tolerance child protection committees** at the schools, where children could report cases of violence and abuse. These in turn were linked to local government child protection committees and provincial level Child Protection Units (established through the project), to ensure that, where necessary, children received additional support and services.

**“Linking community-based mechanisms to the formal child protection system is one of the best practices from this project that can be replicated in other countries.”**

-ChildFund Philippines Staff

A Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) study at the end of the project indicated that teachers showed positive changes in attitude toward protecting the rights and welfare of children, and that students were more aware of their rights and responsibilities.<sup>xxiii</sup> Participants also demonstrated a better understanding that violence against children most often occurs at the hands of family members or friends.



However, the survey also found that local officials continued to have gray areas in the ways that they viewed physical and verbal violence, neglect and even sexual abuse of children. Parents seemed unconvinced of their ability to protect or guide their children, with a few continuing to resort to corporal punishment. This is symptomatic of the broader challenge of shifting deep-rooted attitudes and harmful behaviors over a short period of time, especially in the private realm of the household.