A MIDST THE conflict and instability in Mindanao, the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights) in partnership with the Southern Christian College-Community Education, Research and Extension Administration (SCC-CEREA), organized a Children’s Fun Day in conflict-affected communities in Aleosan, North Cotabato. The Children’s Fun Day was conducted on December 19, 20 and 22 (2008) in Barangays Bagolibas, Dunguan and Pagangan, respectively.

Carrying the theme, “Araw ng mga Bata para sa Karapatan at Karapatauan”, the Children’s Fun Day provided a venue for children to play, have fun and express their feelings and opinions.

The Children’s Fun Day was conducted to contribute to the fundamental goal of increasing the resiliency of children to help them cope with the difficult situations they face during war.

Games and activities that promote the rights and total well-being of children were conducted during the Children’s Fun Day.

Booths were also set up for several activities such as play pen, story-telling, freedom wall, Origami (paper folding), Wheel of Resilience.

A total of 1026 children from the three partner communities participated in the Children’s Fun Day.

- Barangay Bagolibas - 244 children
- Barangay Dunguan - 197 children
- Barangay Pagangan - 585 children

Text and Photos by TRACY PABICO
Program and Children’s Presentations

The Children’s Fun Day begins with a short program and presentations (song and dance) from the children.
Games and Group Activities

Facilitated games included the longest line, Tug-of-war, dragon’s tail, sack race, stone relay, bahay-bata-bakwit (modified “open the basket”). Indigenous games were also facilitated such as lantsug and other games requested by the children.
Express Yourself

A freedom wall for children to express their feelings, wishes, hopes and fears through text and artwork.
Dove Paper Folding

Children learn the art of origami. They made doves to symbolize Peace in Mindanao.
I Have, I Can, I Am, A Will

Children spin the wheel marked with the different factors that facilitate resiliency *(I have, I am, I can, I will)* and answer a particular resiliency factor.

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Play Pen

A safe space for younger children was set up, filled with educational toys.
Story-telling

Story telling session for kids. PhilRights’ children’s books on peace were shared with the children.
Distribution of Child Pack

UNICEF child packs were distributed to children.