



Photo by Howard Bacayana/CRS

Stories from the field

WASH IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

House of Hope Foundation in Cagayan de Oro City is a health facility sheltering individuals with psychiatric needs. The facility has been sheltering at least 1,000 psychiatric patients all over the Philippines since 1997. To improve their facility, House of Hope relies on support provided by the diocese, government institutions, and donations from individuals.

In the past years the facility has seen a significant rise of patients accessing their services particularly after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, capacity to provide optimum care is limited and affected by their aging facility. With the help of the WASH in Health Facilities project supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters, House of Hope has accessed to improve their facility. Using the Clean Clinic Model (CCM) assessment tool, the facility with CRS has identified domains for improvement. The assessment result informed and prioritize what construction support they needed in relation to WASH.

Through the project, House of Hope has improved their WASH facilities – newly renovated washing area with anti-slip tiles and showers, hand-hygiene stations available in waiting and public areas, water storage that can provide at least 2 days of safe water, and newly constructed dedicated waste storage area. Aside from construction activities, the project also helps the facility improve facility management by reviewing their operations policies and integrating WASH policies. Now, from the average of 65.1%, the facility has now scored an average of 84.9% on their CCM assessment – a 20% increase. House of Hope is now planning to institutionalize integration of patients who are helping in simple cleaning task to signed the cleaners record.