

Humanitarian Missions - Children's Aid, Philippines by Noémie Schiever

Mon expérience de mission humanitaire aux Philippines (juin-juillet 2015) :

I went on a humanitarian mission for six weeks in the Philippines, in Bogo in June and July 2015. After two years of difficult university studies, I had to make a parenthesis and change the environment. Going on a humanitarian mission far from France was the best choice to make. It was the most beautiful human experience of my life. I had the chance to meet incredible people, children who upset me. I grew up a lot through this project and could not be more grateful to all the people who allowed me to live this beautiful experience.



Going with Project Abroad helps to ensure optimal organization and security. From the moment the registration is made, I had regular contact with Project Abroad. This allowed me to better organize my mission. Upon arrival at Cebu airport, we are supported by the local team and immediately put in trust. We are taken to our host family, we have a day of introduction, to get to know the places where we will work but also around.

My wish during this humanitarian mission was to feel useful, to have the impression of helping some children. My mission in a Kindergarten class in Bogo Central School 3, in Mrs. Shiela's class, allowed me to meet children whose smiles, their looks, their joy of coming to school, I will not forget. to learn, to participate in activities. It is impressive to see the difference between these children and those in Western countries. I felt that the children were happy. For the little one is interested in them, children give much more than they receive. Every morning I arrived at this school, the children welcomed me warmly.



Every morning, all the children took part in the "ceremony flag" with the prayer, the national anthem and a dance. Then in the class we had a small exercise session that amused the children. There was a morning session and an afternoon session with about thirty children in each session. The children were between four and five years old. My role was to help them grow humanly, to learn to think, to question themselves. We did exercises to teach them to write, to draw, manual activities but also every Friday we did a sport session. What I wanted when I arrived in the Philippines was to convey values such as honesty, hard work, courage. But at the same time these children, the parents, the teachers, also transmitted me beautiful values. I

met generous, simple people with a sense of hospitality. With the little they have, for them the important values are friendship and family.

I also had the chance to meet older children, to share with them my culture and to learn about theirs. The children are so respectful, smiling. For the little that they have, not even a ball to play, they are always happy and that marked me a lot. I had the chance to spend a day in the house of one of the children of the class, to realize that they lived in conditions of extreme poverty that we can not realize if we do not do not see it with our own eyes. But even so, her mother was so welcoming. I am very attached to this little one, named Ian, and I hope to help him in the future.



With the help of Project Abroad, each child was offered a toothbrush and toothpaste. I was able to teach them to brush their teeth, I hope that in the future they will have better oral hygiene. My last day at school was very emotional. I received many thanks from children and parents, drawings, photos and I was offered a dance and song. I was very touched and it was difficult to leave.

Sleeping in a host family also allowed me to learn more about Filipino culture. I had a great time with the girl from home. We went to the pool and the beach together, we exchanged a lot on our crops. I will remember for a long time the rice that I ate at every meal even at breakfast ...



Going with Project Abroad, also allowed me every weekend to visit this beautiful country that offers a lot to see and do. I had the chance to swim with whale sharks, feed monkeys, visit the Chocolate Hills, swim in turquoise waters with other volunteers from around the world.

Back in France, I took a step back from life and learned to relativize. Always stay positive, keep a smile on your face despite the difficulties of life. This wonderful experience invites me more to want to embark on humanitarian projects, to help these children in Bogo and I intend to return next year.

Noémie Schiever