

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Manulife Philippines launches significant CSR initiatives to help build a better world

- *The global financial services provider implements Manulife's global Impact Agenda in the country as part of its Community Investment push*
- *Partnerships forged with three NGOs: Gawad Kalinga, CSAMF, and Haribon to collectively help empower sustained health and well-being, drive inclusive economic opportunities, and accelerate a sustainable future*

Manila, Philippines — Manulife launches significant Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in the Philippines, aiming to inspire change for the better as part of its Community Investment push, through partnerships with three non-government organizations (NGOs): Gawad Kalinga, Corazon Sanchez Atayde Memorial Foundation (CSAMF), and Haribon Foundation.

Manulife Philippines's three new partnerships interconnect with the three pillars of Manulife's recently launched global [Impact Agenda](#): empowering sustained health and well-being, driving inclusive economic opportunities, and accelerating a sustainable future.

"We are very excited about these initiatives, which allow us to bring to the Philippines Manulife's commitment to creating long-term value for our communities and championing sustainability," said Melissa Henson, Chief Marketing Officer, Manulife Philippines. "We have partnered with three NGOs that are aligned with our values and have the knowledge, expertise, experience, and track record to effect positive change. By collaborating with these organizations, we are confident that we can maximize engagement with our sustainability programs and make an impact on the communities that we serve."

Empowering sustained health and well-being with Gawad Kalinga

Addressing nutrition security and infrastructure development issues will be the focus of Manulife's partnership with Gawad Kalinga. Through *Goodbye Gutom*, Gawad Kalinga's family food sufficiency program, Manulife will support 300 families by training them in organic agriculture and guiding them in maintaining family plots.

“Our partnership with Manulife helps us empower more families to grow their own nutritious food so they can secure their families’ well-being, and we can help alleviate the problems of food insufficiency in the country,” said Daniel Bercasio, Executive Director, Gawad Kalinga. “We are grateful for Manulife’s investment in our cause, and we look forward to helping them create meaningful change for many Filipino families through *Goodbye Gutom*.”

In addition, Manulife will establish five Peso Smart Learning Centers, named after its award-winning financial literacy program [Peso Smart](#), to drive the importance of financial well-being by providing classrooms in Gawad Kalinga villages, so they can support remote schooling for children.

Driving inclusive economic opportunities with CSAMF

Financial education is one of Manulife’s core programs to help uplift the lives of Filipinos. Since 2020, Manulife has been working with CSAMF on Peso Smart x RecoveREADS, reaching out to public elementary schools in Metro Manila and the provinces to promote financial literacy among students, teachers and principals, and support distance learning. Since its inception, Peso Smart has produced more than 400 graduates across its different sub-programs, including Peso Smart University where Manulife financial experts teach university students the importance of financial transformation.

This year, Manulife and CSAMF aim to expand the number of Peso Smart x RecoveREADS graduates to 1,200 public school students in more cities and provinces and create bespoke financial literacy modules for homemakers.

“By instilling the right financial mindset and attitude, Peso Smart teaches learners and their families to work together to achieve their financial goals,” Margarita Atayde, Executive Director, CSAMF. “Peso Smart’s collaborative approach to financial education has inspired us to extend the program to female heads of households so we can level the playing field and make financial solutions more accessible to all Filipinos. Through *Peso Smart Pinays*, we aim to help women become more financially independent and empowered decision-makers throughout their lives.”

Accelerating a sustainable future with Haribon Foundation

Globally, Manulife actively incorporates climate change considerations into its decision-making for its operations, investment decisions, and products and services. Manulife Philippines’ partnership with Haribon Foundation demonstrates the importance of nature-based solutions in helping to preserve the planet we all share.

Through the *Forests for Life* program of Haribon, which aims to restore Philippine rainforests, Manulife Philippines commits to planting 15,000 seedlings covering about 12 hectares of land in Haribon’s conservation areas in the provinces of Laguna, Quezon, and Rizal.



Anna Varona, Chief Operations Officer, Haribon Foundation, shared: “A multi-sectoral approach is essential to create a sustainable future. We mark this day as Manulife joins and supports Haribon Foundation’s *Forests For Life* movement. We act on mutual interest to create sustainable programs that aid in the preservation of biodiversity, while helping to restore ecosystems and vital resources of our planet.”

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About Manulife Philippines

The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company opened its doors for business in the Philippines in 1907. Since then, Manulife’s Philippine Branch and later The Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. (Phils.), Inc. (Manulife Philippines) has grown to become one of the country’s leading life insurance companies. Manulife Philippines is a wholly owned domestic subsidiary of Manulife Financial Corporation, among the world’s largest life insurance companies by market capitalization. Learn more about Manulife Philippines by visiting their website www.manulife.com.ph and following them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ManulifePH), Twitter (@ManulifePH), and Instagram (@manulifeph).

About Manulife

Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services provider that helps people make their decisions easier and lives better. With our global headquarters in Toronto, Canada, we provide financial advice and insurance, operating as Manulife across Canada, Asia, and Europe, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States. Through Manulife Investment Management, the global brand for our global wealth and asset management segment, we serve individuals, institutions and retirement plan members worldwide. Our principal operations are in Asia and Canada, and the United States, where we have served customers for more than 155 years. We trade as 'MFC' on the Toronto, New York, and the Philippine stock exchanges and under '945' in Hong Kong. In the previous 12 months we made CAD\$31.8 billion in payments to our customers.

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