



# PHILIPPINES

GREATER MANILA

PROJECT  
**(24)**

Over 65,000 families in Metro Manila live below the poverty line. These families cannot afford basic needs – including clean drinking water. Little wonder it is among regions with the highest incidence of diarrheal diseases and cholera.

Typhoons and heavy rains always cause flooding in the area, which increases the transmission of diseases through water contaminated with human or animal waste.

Some residents rely on water refilling stations for clean, safe drinking water. But a study by The Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of the Philippines reveals that although water from water refilling stations test negative for microorganisms, it can still be contaminated by unsanitized containers, poor personal hygiene, inappropriate attire, and improper handling, storage and transport of refilled water.

A recent independent research also found that **approximately 70 percent of water-refilling stations in Metro Manila do not fully meet the Department of Health’s guidelines.** The risk of contamination remains considerably high even if many households trust water-refilling stations.

**Nine-year-old “Mary” lives and works with her family on the streets of Manila, Capitol of the Philippines.** The family occupies a corner of the pavement outside of coffee shop in Binondo Square where they sell cigarettes and newspapers, cook and eat, and sleep outside at night. Mary works with her mother on the family stall and looks after her younger sisters. She’s been out of school for three years.

