



In their hands, lives.

Sustaining the training of 133 midwifery students at Salay Community College, Philippines - where the midwife is often the only access to care.



KABAW Association • Fully (Valais)

Recognised public-benefit organisation · kabaw.ch

The project at a glance

On the island of Mindanao, in the Philippines, the municipality of Salay stretches from a lively coastline to mountainous inland areas. In these remote communities, the role of midwives is strategic in guaranteeing every family fair access to care. It is precisely for this mission that Salay Community College is today preparing **133 students** in its young Midwifery programme.

In 2026, the college obtained its official certification (COPC), a recognition that confirms the seriousness of its programme. For this now-certified training to run in good conditions and remain compliant, its practice room must be equipped, for the long term, with the equipment required by national public-health standards.

KABAW, a Swiss public-benefit association, supports this step by funding and directly delivering the teaching equipment defined with the college management.

In line with our principle of direct management, we pay the suppliers ourselves and keep all receipts: every contribution is thus allocated, without loss, to tangible resources for the students.

Our goal for 2026 is to raise **CHF 13,390**, an amount entirely devoted to equipment and its logistics.

By supporting this project, you help secure the path of an entire class and sustain a programme that is essential to the future health system of the region.

Project lead	KABAW Association · Fully (Valais, Switzerland), recognised public-benefit organisation, CHE-197.414.819
Beneficiary	Bachelor of Science in Midwifery programme, Salay Community College (Misamis Oriental, Philippines)
Students supported	133
Goal	To equip the Midwifery programme, now certified (COPC 2026), for the long term, so that 133 students can train in good conditions
2026 budget	CHF 13,390, entirely dedicated to equipment and its logistics
Our commitment	Direct purchase and shipping · volunteer committee · reviewed accounts · project endorsed by the Mayor of Salay · tax-deductible donations
Support	Bank transfer · kabaw.ch
Contact	info@kabaw.ch

Table of contents

The project at a glance.....	3
Table of contents.....	4
Origin of the project.....	5
A strategic milestone for the Midwifery programme.....	6
Salay: a territory between sea and mountains.....	7
Salay Community College (SaCC): a pillar of local empowerment.....	8
Needs assessment: an approach based on listening.....	10
List of priority needs.....	12
People and institutions involved.....	14
Our journey.....	16
Budget.....	17
Looking ahead: investing in teacher training.....	19
Supporting the project.....	20
Contacts.....	21
Appendices.....	22

How the project began

This initiative was born from a human encounter and a shared will to act for equal opportunities through education.

In late 2024, Simon Carron, a 44-year-old Swiss national, travelled to the Philippines for the first time. A passionate diver, he discovered a many-sided archipelago and was deeply touched by the warmth and generosity of the local people. During his journey, he met Mae Hope Pante Tongon, a 43-year-old Filipina living in Salay.

In June 2025, driven by a strong determination to resume her studies, Mae Hope seized an opportunity offered by her municipality: joining the Midwifery programme opened in 2024 at Salay Community College (SaCC). This local programme is a precious chance, giving residents the possibility to train without leaving their homes.

While accompanying Mae Hope on her new academic path, Simon discovered the admirable commitment of the teaching staff and students of SaCC. He also became aware of the logistical challenges that local institutions face in delivering quality technical training. Conscious of how fortunate he was to have grown up in the Swiss education system, Simon wished to put his energy at the service of this local momentum. The objective is simple: to support the college's efforts to consolidate this young Midwifery programme and to give students the tools they need to succeed professionally.

A strategic milestone for the Midwifery programme

The Midwifery programme of Salay Community College (SaCC) is entering a key phase of its development. After two years of promising growth, the college obtained, in August 2026, its Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC), issued by the Philippine Commission on Higher Education (CHED).



Students during an Anatomy and Physiology class

This certification confirms the excellence of the training. It is, however, subject to maintaining the prescribed standards: it requires the programme to be equipped, for the long term, with facilities and teaching equipment that meet national public-health standards.

This support project aims to help SaCC consolidate its certified programme: by strengthening the college's technical equipment, we secure the path of

current and future students and give the programme, for the long term, the means to train, class after class, midwives at the service of the health of the communities of Salay and its surroundings.

Salay: a territory between sea and mountains

In the province of Misamis Oriental, on the island of Mindanao, the municipality of Salay is home to a dynamic community of 30,000 inhabitants, spread across 18 barangays (villages).

The territory is marked by a geographical duality that makes its richness:

- An open coastline: the urban centre (Poblacion), located by the sea, is the engine of local activity.
- Preserved inland areas: a large part of the barangays lie in the hinterland, mountainous areas with magnificent landscapes but demanding topography.



This unique geography highlights the importance of local services. The natural isolation of some mountain communities makes the role of local health professionals, such as midwives, absolutely strategic.

Training specialists able to work directly in these isolated areas is therefore much more than an educational necessity: it is an essential lever to guarantee every family in Salay, even the most remote, fair access to care and public services.

Salay Community College (SaCC): a pillar of local empowerment

Salay Community College (SaCC) is the only higher-education institution in the municipality. A genuine lever for social inclusion, it holds a strategic place in the educational landscape of the province of Misamis Oriental.

Governance and commitment

Unlike large universities focused on fundamental research, SaCC is a *Local College* placed under the aegis of the local government (*Local Government Unit* - LGU). Its mission rests on two pillars:

- Universal accessibility: under national law RA 10931 (Free Higher Education Act), the college helps break the cycle of poverty by guaranteeing free, high-quality education to the region's families.
- Community development: the college trains qualified citizens, ready to contribute immediately to the economy and social fabric of their own municipality.

Dynamic and ambitious development

The history of SaCC is one of successful resilience. Created to maintain an educational offering after the departure of the *Bukidnon State University* satellite campus, the institution has never stopped modernising:

- Infrastructure: in August 2023, the inauguration of *Building II* marked a turning point in the expansion of its capacity.



SaCC Building II

- Looking ahead: in 2024, SaCC took a strategic decision by opening the Midwifery programme. This initiative meets a priority local health need and illustrates the college's will to diversify into health professions.

Programmes and enrolment

With around 3,800 students from Salay and the surrounding municipalities, SaCC has established itself as a regional hub.

The academic offer comprises four bachelor's degrees, designed to meet the needs of the local market precisely:

- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration: 1,696 students.
- Bachelor of Science in Livelihood Education (technical and vocational teaching): 1,276 students.
- Bachelor of Early Childhood Education: 671 students.
- Bachelor of Science in Midwifery: 133 students.

Needs assessment: an approach based on listening

Obtaining the COPC certification in 2026 crowned a project carried with determination by the SaCC teams; the task now is to consolidate this young certified programme for the long term. Our role is not to steer their academic or technical choices, but to listen to their needs and bring the resources required to achieve their vision.

In January 2026, several visits to the college were organised so that we could immerse ourselves in the reality of the students and teaching staff. These exchanges were designed above all to gather the priorities set by the SaCC management and the dean of the Midwifery programme, who have field expertise and knowledge of CHED requirements.

At the end of this active listening phase, we defined together a list of priority equipment. Our commitment is to support the long-term equipping of the college's facilities by responding precisely to the requests made by the college.

This project complements the investments already made with public funds. We act as a supporting partner, respectful of the college's autonomy and governance, to facilitate a success the institution has already demonstrated by obtaining its certification on its own.

How we mobilise and support

To make this support concrete in 2026, our association has set up two distinct mobilisation channels. This structure lets us turn solidarity into tangible resources, directly aligned with the needs expressed by the college, thus guaranteeing targeted, secure support that respects its priorities.

Equipment fund

This fund is fed by our fundraising campaigns run on various funding platforms.

To ensure that every contribution is directly turned into a teaching resource, we have opted for direct and transparent management:

- Direct payment to providers: we settle invoices with the selected suppliers (local or international) and cover the necessary logistics costs.



- Transparency and follow-up: for each donation, we undertake to provide a complete file including the purchase receipt and photo documentation of the equipment installed and in use at the college in Salay.

Donation of equipment and second-hand material

We organise the collection of equipment that precisely meets the technical standards defined by the SaCC teaching team.

- New equipment: we favour new items for medical consumables and high-precision diagnostic tools, thus guaranteeing immediate reliability for students.
- Second-hand equipment: in a sustainable approach, we gratefully welcome used equipment in excellent working condition.
- Secure logistics: we handle the entire process, from initial sorting and technical checks to secure transport to the Salay campus.

List of priority needs

The list below sets out the equipment defined with the SaCC management and the dean of the Midwifery programme, to maintain compliance with CHED requirements and national public-health standards. For each item, the planned support channel and the estimated budget are indicated.

Quantity	Equipment	Description and teaching objective	Type of support	Estimated budget
5	Articulated hospital beds	Replacement of the current wooden furniture with beds meeting medical standards. Essential for learning labour positions and for comfort of care.	Equipment fund (local purchase)	CHF 300 / unit
1	Birthing simulation mannequin	Fundamental teaching tool for practising obstetric manoeuvres and managing childbirth in realistic conditions.	Equipment fund or in-kind donation	CHF 1,600 / unit
2	IV training arm (venous access simulator)	High-fidelity simulation device for learning blood sampling and IV placement. Lets students acquire technical dexterity before working on patients.	Equipment fund or in-kind donation	CHF 1,400 / unit
1	Cervical dilation simulation set	Anatomical models for learning vaginal examination and accurately assessing labour during childbirth. Essential for training in clinical diagnosis.	Equipment fund or in-kind donation	CHF 1,000 / unit
10	Histology slide set	Collection of microscope preparations for the study of human tissues. Deepens biological understanding of the cellular structures related to reproductive health.	Equipment fund (local purchase)	CHF 100 / unit
1	Prepared biology slide box	Selection of biological preparations for microscopic study. Essential for teaching anatomy and pathology, allowing students to visualise real cellular structures.	Equipment fund (local purchase)	CHF 100 / unit
1	Prepared slide set (animal and plant biology)	Complete collection of microscopic specimens for the study of living organisms. Lets students master the basics of cytology and general biology, the foundations of their scientific curriculum.	Equipment fund (local purchase)	CHF 100 / unit
2	32-inch LED monitors	Display of interactive teaching materials, videos of clinical procedures and high-definition anatomical diagrams for better student immersion.	Equipment fund (local purchase)	CHF 250 / unit

30	Laptops	Equipping a dedicated computer room. Enables learning of computerised patient management.	In-kind donation (second-hand)	-
1	Multimedia projector	Central tool for lectures, allowing the projection of clinical presentations, procedure videos and interactive training materials for the whole class.	Equipment fund (local purchase) or in-kind donation	CHF 600 / unit
3	Mayo scissors and umbilical scissors	Precision surgical instruments for learning basic procedures (cord cutting, postnatal care).	Equipment fund (local purchase) or in-kind donation	CHF 30 / unit
2	Oxygen cylinders with regulators	Enables learning of oxygen administration, flow adjustment and management of neonatal or maternal respiratory distress.	Equipment fund (local purchase)	CHF 50 / unit
1	Reference library in obstetrics and neonatology	Reference works, nursing manuals and clinical protocol guides. Essential for theoretical research and exam preparation.	Equipment fund (local purchase) or in-kind donation	CHF 1'000.-

People and institutions involved

The strength of this initiative lies in the collaboration between civil society, academia and the local authorities of Salay.

Academic management (SaCC)

Vincent LL. Padilla

President of *Salay Community College*. He is the guarantor of the project's implementation within the institution.

Blandina O. Mahayag

Dean of the SaCC Midwifery programme. Responsible for the quality of teaching, she sets the teaching and equipment priorities for the programme's 133 students.

Institutional support

Jay Vincent N. Capistrano

Mayor of the Municipality of Salay. His commitment confirms the municipality's political support and the integration of this project into the local public-health strategy.

Coordination

Mae Hope Pante Tongon

Second-year student in the SaCC Midwifery programme and president of the SBO (*Student Body Organization*), the college's student representative body. She brings the students' perspective and bears witness to realities on the ground, ensuring the project meets real needs.

Simon Carron

President of the KABAW Association, living in Fully, in Valais (Switzerland), he coordinates the project, liaises between the partners and ensures the mobilisation of the resources needed to make the support a reality.

The KABAW Association

The KABAW Association - CHE-197.414.819 - is a Swiss non-profit association recognised as a public-benefit organisation, governed by Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code, originally created to carry and sustain this initiative.

Its name pays tribute to the *Kabaw* (the water buffalo in Bisaya, the language spoken in Mindanao), the national animal of the Philippines. A loyal and tireless partner, it symbolises the perseverance and energy with which local communities build their future.



Blandina O. Mahayag, dean of the programme, with Margrethe B. Capistrano, Simon and Mae Hope — January 2026.



The acronym KABAW carries a message of empowerment:

« **K**arunungan **A**t **B**agong Pag-Asa Para sa **W**alang Kaya »
(Knowledge and new hope for equal opportunities)

Our journey

January 2026 — First official visits to SaCC: meeting with the Salay Community College team, revealing an inspiring local momentum and the desire to contribute to it.



Welcoming the association at SaCC.

February 2026 — Creation of the KABAW Association: official signing of the statutes by the founding team.

March 2026 — Public-benefit status: the association is recognised as a public-benefit organisation, guaranteeing transparency and tax-deductible donations.

April 2026 — First impact: first donation of IT equipment to the college.

August 2026 — Certification obtained: Salay Community College secures its COPC for the Bachelor of Science in Midwifery, effective from the 2026-2027 academic year.

Ongoing — Fundraising campaign: launch of the campaign and collection of equipment.



First equipment donation to SaCC (April 2026).

What we have already achieved

Even before launching our campaign, we were keen to demonstrate our commitment through actions rather than promises.

In April 2026, the KABAW Association handed Salay Community College its first equipment donation: about ten laptops and about ten monitors, now used daily by the students and teachers of the Midwifery programme.



The computers donated by KABAW, in use by SaCC students.

This first delivery, modest but very real, validates our model end to end: identify a need with the college, gather the equipment, ship it to Salay, then hand it directly to the institution, where it is immediately used for training.

This first step proves it: every donation turns into equipment that is actually delivered and used. This is the momentum we want to amplify at the end of 2026.

Budget

This budget translates into figures the priorities defined with the management of Salay Community College. For 2026, it amounts to CHF 13,390, entirely devoted to acquiring the priority teaching equipment and shipping it to the college in Salay. As the association's committee is entirely voluntary, no staff costs weigh on this amount: every franc raised turns directly into tangible resources for the programme's 133 students.

100% to the project: all donations are allocated to equipment and its logistics. The association's committee works exclusively on a voluntary basis — no salaries or administrative fees are deducted — and the financial management is reviewed every year by an independent auditor.

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Donations and bequests	13'390.-	Purchase of equipment	
		5 Articulated hospital beds	300.- 1'500.-
		1 Birthing simulation mannequin	1'600.- 1'600.-
		2 IV training arm (venous access simulator)	1'400.- 2'800.-
		1 Cervical dilation simulation set	1'000.- 1'000.-
		10 Histology slide set	100.- 1'000.-
		1 Prepared biology slide box	100.- 100.-
		1 Prepared slide set (animal and plant biology)	100.- 100.-
		2 32-inch LED monitors	250.- 500.-
		1 Multimedia projector	600.- 600.-
		3 Mayo scissors and umbilical scissors	30.- 90.-
		2 Oxygen cylinders with regulators	50.- 100.-
		1 Reference library in obstetrics and neonatology	1'000.- 1'000.-
		Transfer and customs fees	1'500.-
		Logistics	1'500.-
CHF	13'390.-	CHF	13'390.-

Looking ahead: investing in teacher training

The greatest challenge facing *SaCC* is not only material, it is human. To guarantee excellent training over the long term, the school must be able to rely on highly qualified teachers. Yet in the region it is currently very difficult to recruit professionals holding the advanced degrees (Master's) required by academic standards.

Our ambition is to remove this obstacle by creating a scholarship programme to support the most motivated graduates towards a Master's degree. This project is a real bridge: it allows talented students to reach an academic level that would otherwise be hard for them to access.

Supporting the project

Every contribution, whatever its size, turns directly into teaching equipment. True to our principle of direct management, we pay the suppliers ourselves and send you the receipts together with photo documentation of the installed equipment. As the KABAW Association is a recognised public-benefit organisation (CHE-197.414.819), your donations are tax-deductible in Switzerland.

Make a financial donation

- By bank transfer:

KABAW Association
Rue de la Colombière 45
1926 Fully, Switzerland

CH55 8080 8001 3187 7745 5
IID (bank clearing no.): 80808
SWIFT/BIC: RAIFCH22



- Online:

At <https://kabaw.ch> ("Donate" button)

We favour bank transfer: with no transaction fees, 100% of your donation goes to the project.

Make an in-kind donation

Do you have medical or IT equipment in good condition? We handle sorting, checking and transport to Salay.

Contacts

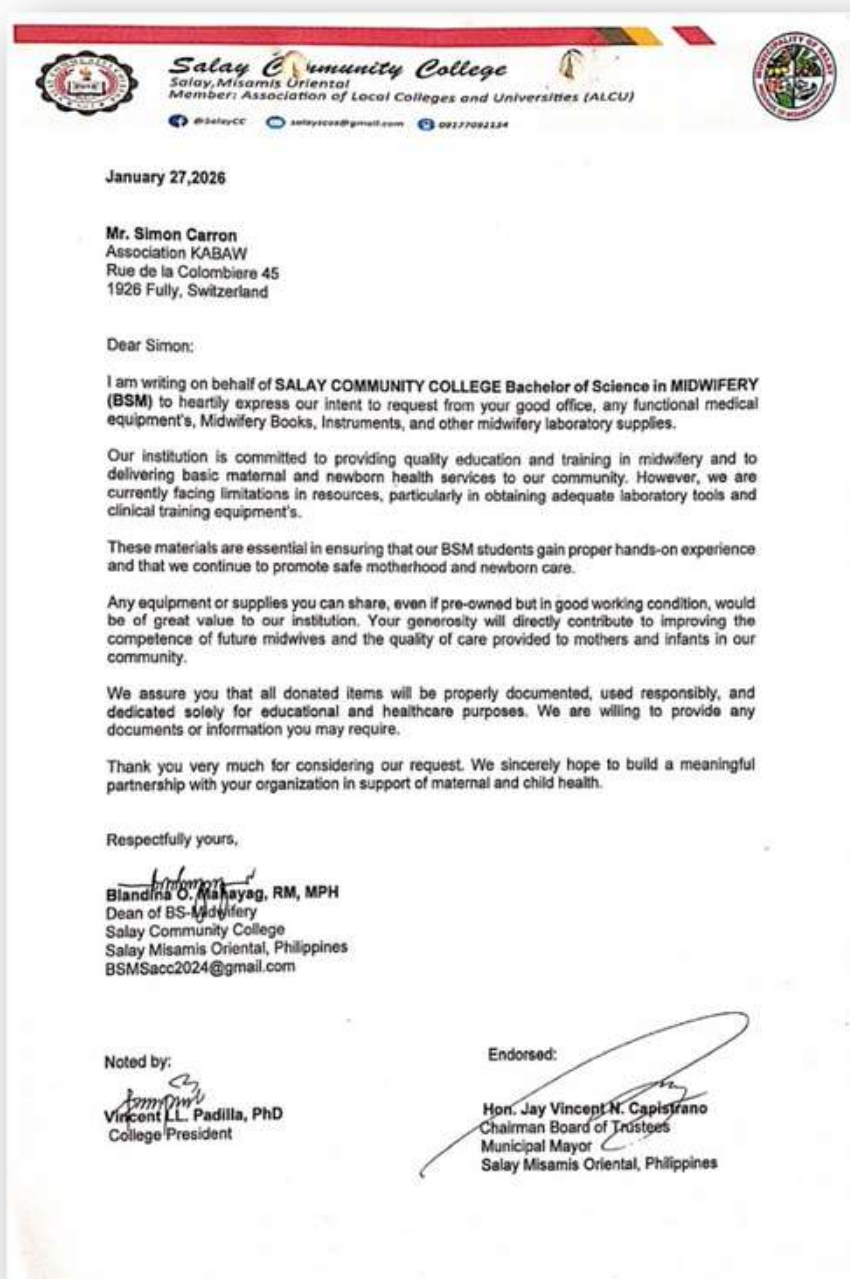
info@kabaw.ch

Simon Carron - President of the KABAW Association: +41 79 25 25 102

Appendices

Request for support

Following our exchanges in January 2026, the management of the Midwifery programme sent an official request for support to the KABAW Association, then in the process of being founded. Dated 27 January 2026, this letter is approved by the President of Salay Community College and endorsed by the Mayor of Salay. Reproduced below, it bears witness to the commitment of the academic and municipal authorities and forms the foundation of this project. A transcription appears on the next page.



Transcription

Transcription of the letter requesting support:

*Mr Simon Carron
KABAW Association
Rue de la Colombière 45
1926 Fully, Switzerland*

Dear Simon,

I am writing on behalf of the Bachelor of Science in Midwifery (BSM) programme of Salay Community College to warmly express our intention to request from your organisation any functional medical equipment, midwifery books, instruments and other laboratory supplies intended for the training of midwives.

Our institution is committed to providing quality education and training in midwifery practice, as well as basic maternal and newborn health services to our community. However, we currently face limited resources, particularly for the acquisition of adequate laboratory tools and clinical training equipment.

These materials are essential to ensure that our BSM students gain genuine hands-on experience, and so that we can continue to promote safe motherhood and newborn care.

Any equipment or supplies you could share, even second-hand but in good working condition, would be of great value to our institution. Your generosity will directly contribute to improving the skills of future midwives and the quality of care provided to the mothers and infants of our community.

We assure you that all donated items will be duly documented, used responsibly and dedicated exclusively to educational and health purposes. We are willing to provide any documents or information you may request.

We sincerely thank you for your attention to our request and very much hope to build a fruitful partnership with your organisation in the service of maternal and child health.

Respectfully,

*Blandina O. Mahayag, RM, MPH
Dean, BS Midwifery programme
Salay Community College
Salay, Misamis Oriental, Philippines*

*Noted by:
Vincent LL. Padilla, PhD
College President*

*Endorsed by:
Hon. Jay Vincent N. Capistrano
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Municipal Mayor*



CHF 30 is a pair of surgical scissors. CHF 300, a compliant hospital bed. CHF 1,600, a birthing simulator for an entire class.

Whatever the amount, your donation turns directly into teaching equipment, with no intermediary. Scan the QR code and visit kabaw.ch: in two minutes, you equip the midwives of tomorrow.

