“Kalipay” in Visaya means happy and combined with play it becomes “Kalipay”. Our group did a project where we started with having recycling workshops with the kids and the adults living in the informal settlement. After that, the children were asked to draw their dream playground. Together with the children and the community we designed and built a playground. During the whole process the community was involved and we used participatory human-centred methods to develop our project.

With this small intervention we wanted to encourage the community to develop their public spaces and enhance the meaning of children in the planning process. Additionally, we planned workshops with the house-holders to create furniture and sports equipment out of recycled materials; that could give an income to the families.

The same day we finished the playground, the community started to paint the facades of their houses, since from that moment they decided to call themselves the happy community. Local entrepreneurs sponsored the paint for the playground project and want to give the community a chance to sell the products they make in their shop.

We believe that small things make a big difference. Watch the Kalipay video on https://youtu.be/t9PB639Pqk!