

Join CARE in the Philippines

April 19-25, 2026

Join Dr. Deepmala Mahla, CARE's Chief Humanitarian Officer, on an exclusive journey to the Philippines to see how communities innovate and adapt in one of the world's most hazard-prone regions. Amid recurring climate crises, Filipino communities demonstrate extraordinary strength and ingenuity. Together, we will explore locally led programs that prepare for and respond to disasters, champion women-led recovery, and build a more secure future.

Learn from community leaders and local partners and witness the profound impact of their life-changing work. You will walk alongside people at the heart of this transformation: women's cooperatives driving recovery, indigenous elders sharing ancestral wisdom, and youth leaders envisioning peace. By engaging with these communities, you will gain a deeper understanding of what it takes to create lasting change.

Itinerary

Saturday, April 18 – Manila

Arrive at Ninoy Aquino International Airport and transfer to the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Rest and settle in before the week ahead.

Sunday, April 19 – Manila

Begin your journey with an engaging orientation session from the CARE Philippines team, including a security briefing and program overview. Enjoy lunch together, followed by a guided walking tour of historic Manila. The day concludes with a welcome dinner.

Monday, April 20 – Manila

After breakfast, visit the flood-prone community of Malabon City to learn how urban neighborhoods prepare for and respond to disasters. In the evening, share dinner with local community leaders.

Tuesday, April 21 – Manila / Agusan del Norte

Fly to Agusan del Norte. That afternoon, you'll be introduced to CARE's humanitarian and peacebuilding initiatives, including the BRIDGE Project, which empowers women, youth, and civil society to become agents of peace in conflict-affected communities. Dinner with local partners follows.

Wednesday, April 22 – Agusan del Norte

Begin the day with a traditional welcome by indigenous elders. Visit a local school to meet students and see peacebuilding education in action. After lunch, explore how communities are navigating ancestral land rights and transitions from conflict to peace.



Thursday, April 23 – Agusan del Norte / Palawan

Travel to El Nido, Palawan, a place of extraordinary natural beauty. Take a short boat ride into a nearby lagoon and enjoy the stunning landscape. In the evening, gather for a scenic beachfront dinner.

Friday, April 24 – Palawan

Engage with local farmers and fishers to learn how they are restoring livelihoods after devastating typhoons. Participate in planting, fishing, or post-harvest activities, and share a traditional Boodle Lunch with the community. After rest break, close the journey with a special farewell dinner and reflections with the CARE Philippines team.

Saturday, April 25 – Palawan / Manila

Breakfast and transfer back to Manila for onward departures to the United States.

Trip Host



Dr. Deepmala Mahla is a seasoned humanitarian and development leader with over 25 years of experience. Dr. Mahla currently serves as CARE's Chief Humanitarian Officer, leading global humanitarian response efforts that reached 21.85 million people across 53 countries last year. Prior to that, she served as Country Director in Iraq and South Sudan with Mercy Corps and in Uganda with Marie Stopes International. She has also held senior leadership positions in Yemen, the UK, Indonesia, and India while working with Oxfam GB, CARE, International Center for Research on Women, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, and UNICEF.

Dr. Mahla has spent two decades designing and implementing humanitarian and development programs in some of the most complex and fragile environments from the Middle East to Africa to Asia. She is a strong humanitarian voice, actively advocating for vulnerable communities and the protection of aid workers. Her leadership in program strategy and execution has been central to CARE's global impact. In addition to her first degree in History, Economics and Philosophy, Dr. Mahla holds an MA in Anthropology and PhD in reproductive health of women in rural Rajasthan.

Accommodations

- Manila: [Makati Shangri-La](#)
- Palawan: [Seda Lio](#)

Pricing

- Price per person: \$10,000

Please Note: Pricing does not include personal travel expenses, including international flights, insurance, or additional hotel services.

What's Included

- In-country transportation
- Accommodations and meals
- Cultural visits & excursions
- Interpreter and English-speaking tour leader
- Gratuities
- Access to CARE Philippines leadership and on-the-ground experts
- Pre-departure learning materials, including suggested readings and travel information

PROGRAM VISIT HIGHLIGHTS



Farmer Field Business School: Building Resilient Fisheries

In Palawan, CARE is piloting training to help local fishers adapt to environmental change, make a sustainable living, and increase their income. This women-centered approach connects communities to markets, strengthens engagement with the local government, and promotes eco-friendly practices. During your visit, you'll see demonstration farms, join a village savings group meeting, and meet women leaders transforming agriculture and fisheries-based economies.

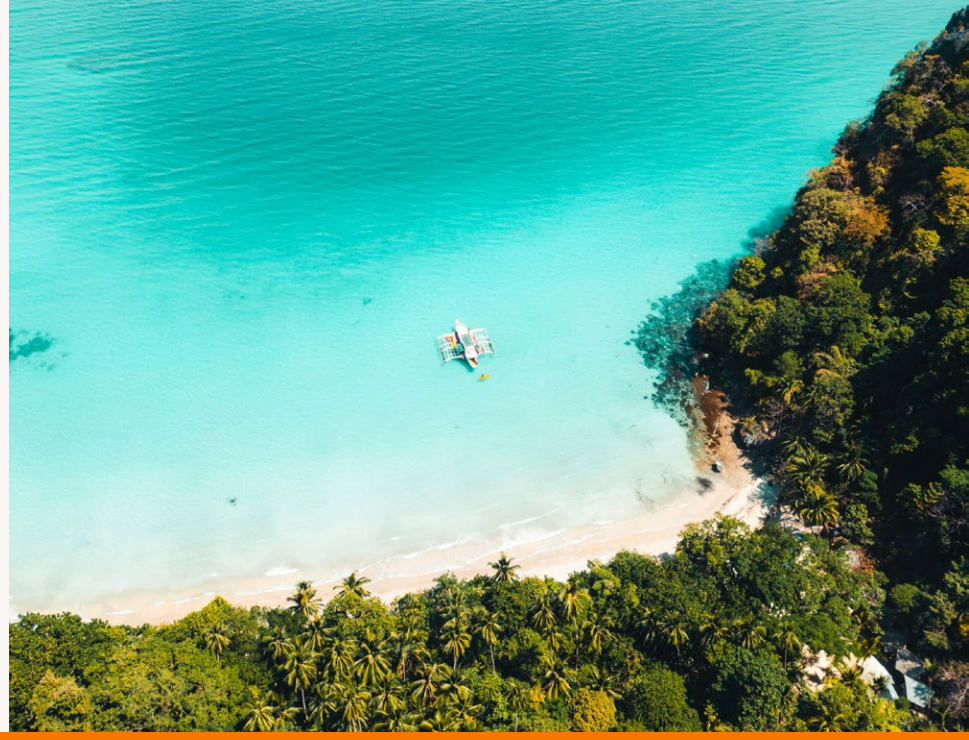


BRIDGE Project: Promoting a Culture of Peace in Mindanao

The BRIDGE Project works with Moro and Lumad communities in Mindanao to reduce the drivers of conflict and violence. By strengthening women's, youth, and civil society leadership, the project promotes inclusive peacebuilding, preserves cultural traditions, and integrates peace education into schools. On this journey, you'll meet local leaders, visit schools to see peace education in action, and learn how cultural traditions are sustaining peace.

El Nido, Palawan Highlight

Tucked away at the northern tip of Palawan, El Nido is a gateway to one of Southeast Asia's most breathtaking seascapes. Towering limestone cliffs rise from jade-green waters, hiding secret lagoons, white-sand beaches, and coral-rich islands. Once a destination for divers and backpackers, El Nido is now a vibrant yet laid-back hub for island exploration. From snorkeling in Bacuit Bay to sunset at Las Cabanas Beach, El Nido offers postcard-perfect views at every turn.



RESERVE YOUR SPOT

To reserve a space or learn more, please email travelwithcare@care.org. Space is limited to 8–10 participants. RSVP deadline is **Friday, January 30, 2026**.

**Please note this itinerary is subject to change.*