



**FOR ALMOST
40 YEARS
ACROSS
NEARLY
50 COUNTRIES,
WE'VE LED THE
GLOBAL FIGHT
AGAINST HUNGER.**

May 2017 be a peaceful and prosperous year for every family in the world.

We are excited to continue working towards ending hunger in 2017 and forever grateful for the support of people like you! With your support to Action Against Hunger in 2016, nearly 85,000 people received lifesaving nutritional care, clean water, critical emergency supplies, tools to develop self-sufficiency. You helped us save lives and build sustainable futures. But there's a lot more work to be done in 2017 and beyond. We're on the frontlines every day providing effective, lifesaving assistance to families worldwide, and we wouldn't be able to do it without you. Give our 2017 programs a strong start. Thank you for your support, today and always.

Gov't Survey: 1 in 3 three children under 5 have stunted growth in the Philippines

MANILA - Despite the fast-growing economy in the Philippines, the national prevalence rates in chronic malnutrition remains one of the biggest challenges the country faces with an alarming 3.4 million stunted children or short for their age and over 300,000 children under 5 are wasted or underweight for their age, according to National Nutrition Survey results conducted in 2015.

The figures are expected to rise in 2030 without a strong political system, according to the "Socio-economy of Chronic Malnutrition in the Philippines: A preliminary key trends analysis by 2030" study released by the Inter-Agency Regional Analyst Network (RAN) of the Paris-based Institut de Relations Internationales et Strategiques (IRIS), stating further that poor health and nutrition services, poverty and inequality are causing 20% of death of children under the age of five.

This continues to be a critical child health problem, with Philippines ranking 9th among countries that has highest rate in stunting among children under 5, according to RAN study, which supports Action Against Hunger in its strategic action in fighting hunger and malnutrition in the Philippines. Based on Food and Nutrition Research Institute data from 2015, the Philippines stunting or chronic malnutrition rate among children under-5 was 33.4% nationwide, up from 30.3% in 2013, and 35.7% for children aged 0 to 2. The social effects of conflict and

chronic poverty resulted to 45.2% stunting rate in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao in 2015, which is the highest in the country. In highly disaster-prone regions, malnutrition increases in the aftermath of emergencies particularly in Eastern Visayas and Mimaropa regions with 41.7% and 40.9% stunting rates respectively. The RAN study also reiterated the World Health Organization's report that over 17 million children under age five with severely malnourished have at least 9 times increased risk for death.

Stunting has irreparable consequences for the child if left unsolved beyond 2 years of age. The physical and mental development during this critical period is irreversible after reaching age of 2. In the World Bank's study "Why Invest in Nutrition," it cites that a 1% loss

in adult height as a result of childhood stunting is linked with a 1.4 percent loss in economic productivity making them earn 20% less as adults. Stunting is associated with up to 3% GDP losses annually according to World Bank.

The RAN report cited the underlying causes of chronic malnutrition which strongly associated the high stunting rates in the Philippines. Digging deep, sanitation and hygiene, gender inequality, rise of teenage pregnancies and maternal education impact the incidence of stunting. Malnutrition and hunger is not only the outcome of the socio economic or infrastructural situation. It is deeply rooted in the political structure, environmental management or lack of it, too. Political weaknesses of the state such

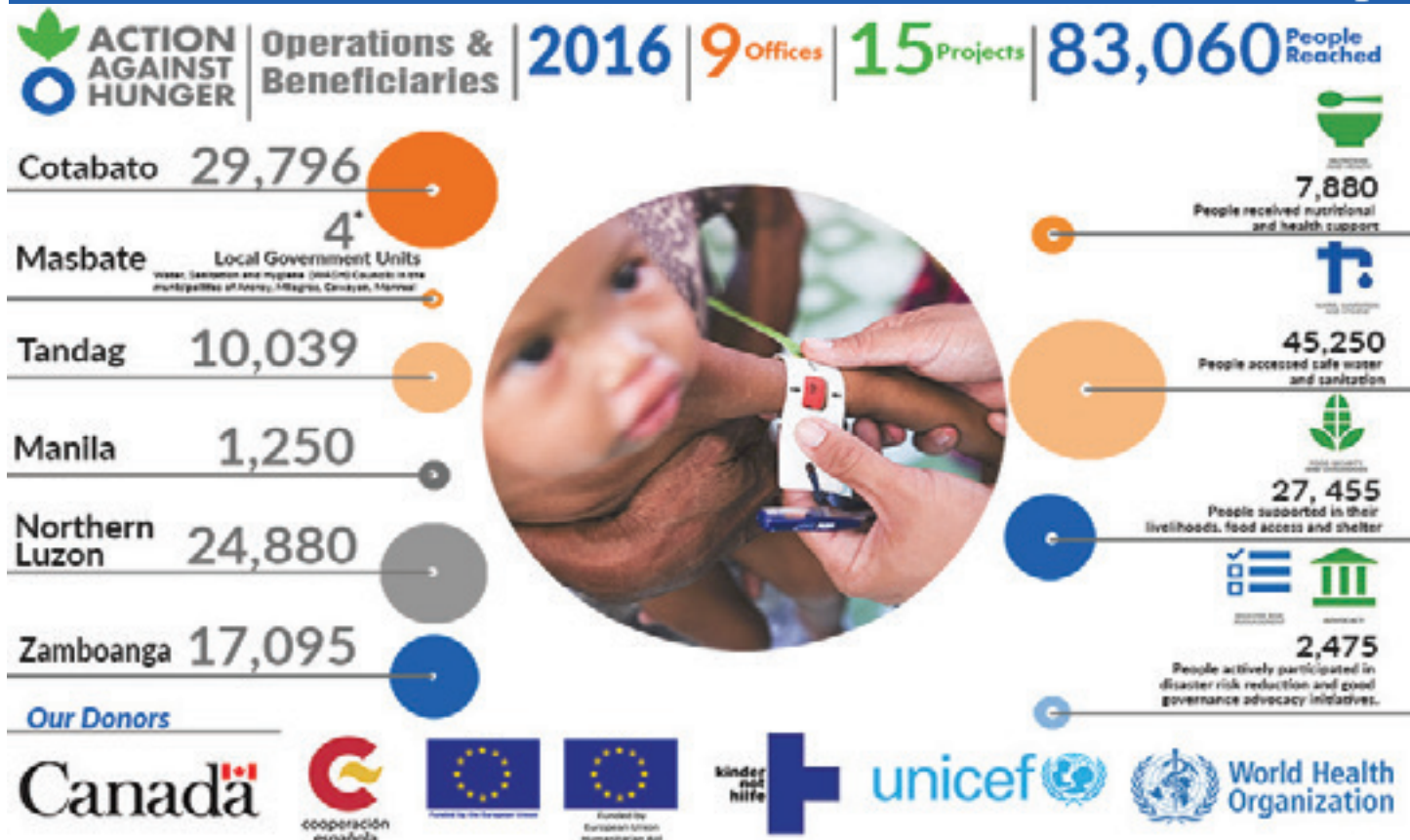
as the lack of implementation of the rules of law impede the social services to the poorer layers of the population. While policies exist on the national level, the implementation on the local level is impeded by lack of capacity, structural weaknesses and of political will.

According to a study of Lancet, a leading medical journal, stunting is most effectively prevented during the first 1,000 days in the life of a child, aptly called as a "window of opportunity" to prevent malnutrition starting from day 1 of the 9 months of pregnancy and until the child reaches his or her second birthday. Action Against Hunger supports the implementation of the

Prevalence of stunting among children, under-five years old (0-59 months) by region: Philippines, 2013 vs 2015



source: National Nutrition Council



economic conditions through different livelihood opportunities, and path taken by civil societies in Cotabato towards better governance. Clean water built close to households, sanitary toilets and hygiene education sessions are changing women, men, boys and girls for the better. Women and children no longer need to walk for hours to fetch water, more girls are at school and the entire communities feel safer, enjoy better health.

Momentous change has been achieved through our lobbying and campaigning. The voice of the Filipinos have been crucial in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals to end hunger and all forms of undernutrition through the global Generation Nutrition campaign. It's inspiring to see how the people even from the farthest communities respond to the call for coordinated response to issues on health and nutrition. This year, our friend Chef Roland "Lau" Laudico, who brings a passion and a commitment to ending hunger. He has dedicated himself to raising awareness in a unique way through our Restaurants Against Hunger campaign.

Thank you to all our supporters who have helped us respond to the needs of the people around the Philippines. Poor and vulnerable are always hardest hit by disasters. You're helping them recover by ensuring they have opportunities to work and provide for themselves and their families. We are so honored to be part of the work you do to make the country a better place for every Filipino, and look forward to an even more inspiring collaboration for another impactful 2017. Your commitment and passion is an inspiration. We wish you a very prosperous new year. Thank you. 🌱

Ready to Save Lives

For almost 40 years, across 50 countries, we have led the fight against hunger. We save the lives of children and their families. We are there them before and after disaster strikes. We enable people to provide for themselves, see their children grow up strong, and build prosperous communities.

We constantly search for more effective solutions, while sharing our knowledge and expertise with the world. We push for long-term change. We will never give up. Until the world is free from hunger.

When disaster or conflict strikes, Action Against Hunger responds immediately. With extensive experience and expertise, Action Against Hunger is an organization with determined and deeply committed staff who are putting themselves in the shoes of thousands of vulnerable families and communities in its mission to achieve a world without hunger.

Human rights are always at the core of our work. We focus on accountability, not just in terms of the money we spend, but to the communities themselves: women, men, boys and girls, the elderly, persons with disabilities and the vulnerable. "It's their lives we're dealing with, so we listen carefully and respond to their needs," says Javad Amoozegar, country director for Action Against Hunger Philippines.

Action Against provides long-term technical support across health, nutrition, food security and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene and disaster risk management sectors. However, the programs long term benefits would be hard to sustain without community participation and support from all actors to end all forms undernutrition. "We are encouraging the Philippines stakeholders to give greater focus on nutrition within development programs through good governance and decisive actions to end one of the major inequalities of all times: being deprived access to better nutrition," says Amoozegar.

Action Against Hunger seeks the involvement of everyone to become strong voices calling for increased partnerships for coordinated response against hunger and undernutrition. 🌱

Photo by VJ Villafraña for Action Against Hunger

Action Against Hunger Urges Government Agencies to Double Efforts on Pressing Development Issues Facing Philippines Today

Every year, the Philippines commemorates National Nutrition Month and National Disaster Consciousness Month in August under the auspices of Department of Health National Nutrition Council and the National Risk Reduction and Management Council Office of Civil Defense respectively.

On this occasion, Action Against Hunger joins the nation in making sure individuals, communities, and all citizens of our nation have the same opportunities to be healthy and safe from external shocks through resilience and nutrition security approaches.

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, ranking 3rd among countries most prone to calamities, according to the 2015 World Risk Index report. While the level of child malnutrition in the Philippines is declining due to significant nutrition initiatives, malnutrition remains an important public health concern among children aged 0-5. In the 2016 Global Nutrition Report, the Philippines tops the countries in Southeast Asian region with the prevalence of wasted children (underweight) at 7.9% and critical levels of stunting (short for their age) at 30.3%.

Following a disaster, the poor, marginalized and disadvantaged groups, particularly the women and young children, are the most vulnerable social groups to the impacts of hazard events including climate change. Action Against Hunger Philippines believes that it is crucial to build the resilience of the Filipino people, by supporting initiatives that ensure food security and livelihoods through programs, which aim to increase people's resilience to food crises and prevent undernutrition during and after emergency interventions. Action Against Hunger Philippines' nutrition and health interventions contribute to reducing the vulnerability to climate related hazards. Children with good food, health and nutritional status are better equipped to face climate-related hazards compared to undernourished children.

Action Against Hunger Philippines implements programs in increasing the resiliency of the vulnerable communities in different parts of the country, providing life-saving interventions to the poorest communities through risk reduction (emergency preparedness and response planning); support adaptation strategies (resilient



Photo by Action Against Hunger Philippines

livelihoods approach); mitigation (social protection mechanism; cash transfer and promoting micro-insurances); and boost community and household capacities through water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs; capacity-building; disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation planning and advocacy.

The increasing impact and threats of climate change and natural disasters calls for concerted efforts now. The expected increase in natural hazards related to climate change will further amplify the vulnerabilities of millions of Filipinos, especially the most vulnerable groups. Action Against Hunger Philippines calls on concerned government agencies to prioritize a multiple-track approach:

- Address the drivers of climate change through climate change mitigation and adaptation in order to minimize the extent of future negative and potentially disastrous impacts induced by

climate change.

- Scale-up coverage of and increase access to interventions to treat and prevent malnutrition adopting a multi-sectoral approach.
- Mainstream climate sensitive nutrition initiatives and nutrition objectives into national and local Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Plans.
- Secure dedicated funds from both the local government unit development fund and local DRRM fund to ensure institutionalization of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions to effectively address wasting and stunting among Filipino children.

Action Against Hunger Philippines remains committed to the promotion of participation, ownership, and capacity building of local and national structures to transform short-term actions into lasting. 🌱

FOCUS ON GENDER

Working for Men, Women, Boys and Girls

Every year millions of people are affected by disasters or conflict. Unfortunately, interventions are often rushed and do not take into account how differently women, men, girls and boys are affected. In the Philippines, women and girls make up over half of the 100 million population. Their contribution to nation building has been immense, but inequalities clearly remain between the fulfillment of their needs and the services and protection offered them by the government.

In order to address inequality issues, Action Against Hunger highlights in its Gender Policy and Toolkit published in 2013 the importance to address the different needs, roles and priorities of women, men, boys and girls.

"That's why campaigning for gender equality is such a vital part of our work fighting hunger



and undernutrition. Since the publication of the Gender Policy and Toolkit, Action Against Hunger works hard to give women in its areas of intervention a greater voice in their communities," said Suresh Murugesu, Action Against Hunger Technical Coordinator.

The Gender Policy follows a twin-track

approach to gender equality based on the two elements:

- 1) Mainstream gender across all activities and projects, from planning to implementation and evaluation
- 2) Targeted action responding to the disadvantages or special needs of a vulnerable group.

The toolkit supports the implementation of the policy through practical guides enabling Action Against Hunger staff to integrate gender equality in their day to day work. It gives tips and tools to perform gender analysis; collect, use and report sex and age disaggregated data and include gender sensitive commitment in the monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The policy represents a commitment at the organization level towards gender equality throughout the project cycle and Action Against Hunger policies, programs, projects and researches.

"We provide programs addressing the needs of most vulnerable women and girls. Our vision is for the women in the Philippines to take active stance in community development and nation building, and live in a healthy and progressive environment where good governance and human rights are enjoyed by all," said Murugesu. 🌱



Focus on Humanitarian Response

Preventing humanitarian crises, addressing vulnerability and reinforcing longer term population resilience to crises

Three Years after the Siege: Displaced Families in Zamboanga Journey towards Recovery

ZAMBOANGA CITY -For couple Guimal and Julma Jawhali, recovery from a major disaster is possible through diligence. The couple lost their house and livelihood from the siege in September 2013. But that didn't stop them from getting back their feet. To recover, they rolled up their sleeves and started working together for the future of their growing family.



Photos by Rosa May Maitem for Action Against Hunger

In photos, livelihoods for displaced families in Zamboanga are in the form of self-employment and informal microenterprises such as vending and trading. Currently, over a hundred IDP partner-beneficiaries received training on container gardening to supplement the food basket and generate extra income that can contribute to household's food security.

"You just have to move forward, even if you fail many times. Three years after the siege, we have proven that hard days don't last, resilient people do," says the 42-year-old mother who is due to give birth to her eighth child. "Dealing with the challenges after the siege, we are now better prepared for anything that might happen, but I pray that won't happen again," adds Guimal, 43.

Back to fish vending in early 2016, the Jawhalis' have put up PHP 8,000 as start-up capital in rebuilding their old livelihood—purchasing the needed tools for the trade and retailing various seafood harvest while the remaining PHP 100 was placed for the family's protection through micro-insurance. "On a daily basis, when the catch is good, we earn around PHP 500. From our earnings, about a hundred is put directly to our savings in preparation for the future," explains Julma. "There's no harm in trying again. "This is what we know best, now we're bouncing back. We now have cash for life essentials—our children attending school and the family now enjoys healthy and nutritious food", Guimal shares.

Action Against Hunger Philippines and partners continue to provide a range of essential support to complement government's efforts

for the remaining displaced people living in transitory sites. In 2016, the organization has empowered 545 families or 2,725 people in building food security and resilient livelihoods through recovery assistance.

Action Against Hunger's food security and livelihoods projects for vulnerable families, like the Jawhalis', undertaken with the support of European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), foster entrepreneurial spirits and teach sound financial habits, while connecting the displaced families to social protection opportunities. At the height of the emergency crisis in Zamboanga, the organization supported the displaced families through access to safe water, improved nutrition and health, hygiene and sanitation practices with financial assistance of United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF).

In 2015, Action Against Hunger Philippines launched a customized cash transfer program in Zamboanga benefiting 7,328 people. In 2016, the cash-based intervention provided support to over 2,725 people staying at different transitory sites, among

them are households with pregnant and lactating mother, single-headed households, households with malnourished children, or with disabled and senior citizens and those with chronic illnesses. The organization has also been conscious on the program's impacts on men and women by assessing the effect of cash transfer intervention on gender power relations. Women were encouraged to lead income generating activities to meet their basic needs.

In September 2013, fighting between a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) affected and forcibly displaced an estimated 118,800 people in Zamboanga City. The conflict destroyed homes, infrastructures, water systems, the facilities needed for safe drinking and sanitation, and thousands lost their livelihoods. Three years after the siege, over 14,000 IDPs in Zamboanga are still staying in temporary shelters.

Action Against Hunger has since advocated durable solutions to address the plight of internally displaced people from evacuation centers until their transfer to permanent housing, emphasizing the need to focus on the wellbeing of the most vulnerable. "The children under five, pregnant

and lactating women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, single female-headed households, persons with chronic illnesses, and those without permanent source of food and income are the most vulnerable in this situation and their specific needs can be overlooked," Javad Amoozegar, Action Against Hunger Country Director for Philippines reiterates. In its range of support to the IDPs in Zamboanga, Action Against Hunger worked closely with Integrated Resource Development for Tri-People (IRDT), the city government of Zamboanga, the Philippines Health Insurance (PhilHealth), JABU-JABU, Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development for the delivery of various educational social and economic services designed for displaced families.

Action Against Hunger Philippines programs in Zamboanga undertaken with the support of Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and United Nations Children's Funds (UNICEF). 🌱

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Early Childhood Care and Development Intervention Package for the First 1000 Days, an important project of the government starting 2016 to tackle stunting by focusing on maternal and young child health and nutrition, early child education and basic social services. The report also cites the country's strong system of government-led responses, including a wide range of nutrition-focused intervention. Policies, such as the Philippines Plan for Action Nutrition (PPAN 2011-2016) are in line with the best international

practices. In particular, the country adopted the First 1,000 Days approach, which focuses on pregnant and lactating women's health, care and feeding practices.

"Our call for the concerned government agencies is to commit and invest in nutrition as well as hold nutrition stakeholders accountable to meet targets to reduce child stunting and wasting, and strengthen and sustain the political will to address malnutrition as a crucial concern of development," says Javad Amoozegar, country director for Action Against Hunger Philippines.

Action Against Hunger works closely with the

Department of Health, through the National Nutrition Council (NNC) and government key players, civil society groups, the academe and private sectors to identify actions in addressing malnutrition, and scale up nutrition actions including promotion of breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding, management of acute malnutrition, and nutrition-sensitive interventions in agriculture, disaster risk reduction, among others. The NNC serves as the policy-making and coordinating body on nutrition and leads the formulation of the PPAN 2017-2022. 🌱



Helping Communities Recover from Typhoon Damages

Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija – Farmer Gerardo Graneta of Laur town is just one of more than a thousand farmers in Nueva Ecija who have deplored the army worm attack that have affected about 5,125 hectares of onion farms.



Photo by CARE Philippines

For couple Aurora and Gerardo, recovery from a major disaster is possible through hard work. They lost their livelihood when Typhoon Nona (Melor) destroyed their crops in December 2015. But that didn't stop them to get back on their feet. Through the financial assistance from European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO) over 1,500 affected families in Nueva Ecija including Aurora and Gerardo have already restored their livelihoods.

"The pest infestation that started in February 2016 is something we didn't expect. We thought we could get rid of the army worms but they spread quickly and affected our crops," Graneta shared. Hit by three consecutive strong typhoons Kabayan (Mujigae), Lando (Koppu) and Nona (Melor) in late 2015, cropland in Central Luzon suffered catastrophic damage.

More than 48,000 people were affected while the resulting damage to crops reached PHP 647.3 million (12.4 million Euro). The extensive and repeated damage to farmlands made rehabilitation of farms by small-scale farmers difficult and has limited their capacities to recover and produce food.

Following the onslaught of Typhoon Nona in December 2015, a widespread infestation of army worms (scientific name: Spodoptera litura Fabricius; locally known as harabas) across onion and vegetable farms in Nueva Ecija brought severe damage and dramatically decreased production.

According to the Provincial Agriculture Office of Nueva Ecija, 5,133 hectares of land (including vegetable farms) had been affected by army worms, and resulted to a total estimated damage in high-value crops amounting to PHP 2.1 billion (41.3 million Euro), while 4,899 farmers were affected in 16 municipalities.

In response to various agricultural hazards including the army worm infestation in Nueva Ecija, the consortium of international non-government organizations composed of Action Against Hunger, CARE and Save the Children funded by the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has organized series of capacity building activities for the affected farmers, including a forum on community-based modern agricultural management attended by the project-assisted communities, representatives from the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) of Laur and Gabaldon and the Provincial Agriculture Office, barangay representatives, and technical experts

to primarily identify best practices and solutions in addressing agricultural hazards and impact of natural disasters such as army worm infestation, black bugs, chicken flu that hamper the recovery of the farmers. "The forum have presented available agricultural technologies that can be adopted by the farmers and the MAO to improve production and protect livelihood assets. This is expected to help farmers become more resilient, and local authorities to prepare for future hazards just like pest infestation," said John Tamayo, ECHO Consortium Coordinator.

"Continuous loss of livelihoods makes it difficult for the farmers to recover and buy their basic needs. The enduring presence of risks become a challenge in sustaining recovery efforts. We're advocating for sustainable agriculture and food security. In order to achieve this, we are working to involve the farmers, government agencies, local government units, academic institutions and local NGOs to come up with sustainable and eco-friendly solutions," said Tamayo.

The Support to Food Security and Livelihood Recovery of Vulnerable Farmers and Farms Workers affected by Typhoon Melor (Nona) project is implemented by a consortium of international organizations composed of Action Against Hunger, CARE and Save the Children. The ECHO-supported consortium project implemented a recovery project that provided financial and technical assistance to 1,700 families in Laur and Gabaldon municipalities to start income generating activities such as vegetable and crop farming, livestock raising and retail. The beneficiaries also participated in the consortium's orientation on disaster risk reduction and sustainable agriculture to help them facilitate ideas for their livelihood plans. This is the second phase of the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)-funded recovery project for communities affected by Typhoon Koppu in Laur and Gabaldon in Nueva Ecija. 🌱

Supporting displaced families in Maguindanao

Mamasapano, Maguindanao – Over 4,000 people displaced by the conflict between the between government security forces and armed groups in Maguindanao province received assistance provided by Action Against Hunger Save the Children.

Funded by the European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO), the consortium partners reached 800 families living in evacuation centers in the municipalities of Mamasapano, Shariff Saydona Mustapha and Datu Salibo. Each family received food aid and livelihood tools such as farm tools and seeds.

"This is a big help for all the evacuees, especially those who have children under five, the pregnant and breastfeeding women and the elderly. Our fields are green with vegetables ensuring our nutritious food everyday," shared Guamilon Timpolok, 63, who cares for his four grandchildren. These days, Guamilon sells his vegetable produce and earns PHP900 in a week.

"There is clearly a need for international humanitarian donors to step up and be involved, Javad Amoozegar, said country director for Action Against Hunger, referring to it as a "forgotten crisis" a not much attention is given by the media to this crisis.

The partnership among Action Against Hunger and Save the Children has contributed to reaching the remaining displaced families, through provision of food assistance and additional livelihood opportunities. "We really hope that the IDPs could eventually go back to their homes and farms. But this not yet possible because of insecurity in their areas. The conflict provides a glaring fact about generational narratives of internal displacement. Families have lost count of the number of times they have evacuated due to the volatile situation in their communities," said Amoozegar. Action Against Hunger has since been advocating for more attention and resources to support the conflict-affected communities. 🌱



Photo by Rosa May Maitem for Action Against Hunger



Scaling Up Nutrition Through Advocacy

by Dyan Aimee Mabunga-Rodriguez, Advocacy Referent, Action Against Hunger

Two weeks ago, a government nutritionist sent me harrowing images of a child suffering from severe acute malnutrition in a rural area. This means that the child has very low weight for his height, characterized by wasting or skin-and-bones appearance. She ensured the child was brought for treatment to a government hospital six hours away in Davao City, which provides free treatment.

This hospital has adopted the concept of Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), which is recognized by UNICEF and World Health Organization as the only established, evidence-based intervention that successfully addresses the problem of acute malnutrition and saves children's lives.

The Philippine government has already set the guidelines on the management of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), the most severe form of undernutrition for children under 5 in November 2015, hence, treatment has become accessible to the population through all public hospitals or community health centers. The guidelines also share rich lessons from the implementation of the IMAM across the country.

Through persistent lobbying, nutrition advocates in the country have bolstered the institutionalization and integration of IMAM in the local health system, including public and certain private hospitals. For one, Davao City government has executed a policy to sustain IMAM integration, has allocated US\$ 142,000 for the initial phase of the program, and has also increased funding for nutrition programs and projects broadly. In moments like this, my conviction that nutrition advocacy is imperative gains more insight.

But despite successes such as these, in this day and age when knowledge and solutions to save lives abound, it is disturbing that the gnawing gaps between solutions and the people who need them most remain deeply-entrenched.

This is at heart of nutrition advocacy – bridging this gap through political discourse to save more lives. Nutrition advocacy must therefore focus on convincing legislators and decision-makers to invest in ensuring good nutrition in the first 1,000 days. This can be achieved through policies and programs to promote good nutrition for pregnant mothers and adolescent girls and improve the



Photo by VJ Villafraña for Action Against Hunger

following: breastfeeding practices (0-6 months), complementary feeding practices (7-24 months), protection against undernutrition and disease (6-24 months); and feeding of children who are sick and undernourished including those who have severe acute malnutrition. In this occasion, nutrition advocates from the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. (PLCPD) and UNICEF have organized a series of events at the Philippine Congress to raise awareness on proposed bills related to the First 1,000 days. The Philippine Coalition of Advocates for Nutrition Security (PhilCAN) – a coalition of 11 NGOs advocating for improved nutrition among vulnerable and marginalized populations – has expressed its solidarity to the legislators who have taken huge steps to propose these bills.

PhilCAN intends to promote exclusive breast

feeding through the First 1,000 Days Program in every village to augment the provisions in existing breastfeeding laws reinforcing the value of continuous, practical, and effective education for caregivers on the proper nutrition of their children.

Another exciting proposed Senate bill is the "Malnutrition-Free Act." PhilCAN proposes that preferential treatment must be provided for the poorest

and most vulnerable Filipinos, many of who live in isolated and disadvantaged areas. Data on malnutrition found in local government plans should be regularly collected and analyzed to serve as a basis for the prioritization of national government programs and projects. Nutrition surveillance should identify those who need additional help to overcome undernutrition.

PhilCAN emphasizes the need of mothers to be given support while exclusively breastfeeding their children, including longer maternity leaves. Thus, the support to the call on the immediate passage of the bills on extending maternity leaves for pregnant and lactating mothers. PhilCAN proposes that maternity leave periods be responsive to the needs of lactating mothers but at the same time sensitive to the economic implications. PhilCAN believes the bill must mention provisions to ensure women will not be discriminated against, especially on hiring, because of their required maternity leave period. In addition, it supports the provision on non-diminution of benefits for mothers and appeals to the authors to include in their agenda provisions that would cater the needs of our mothers who are in the informal sectors. This would include post-partum follow ups, nutrition counselling among others. Since fathers play a vital role in the care of their children especially in the first 6 months, PhilCAN suggests that fathers will have extended paternity leave.

Aristotle wrote, "The law is reason free from passion." Policies on the first 1,000 days are significant and require every fibre of passion, intent, and debate because the first 1,000 days of the Filipino child's—and each and every child's-life are priceless. 🌱



Photo by Rosa May Maltem for Action Against Hunger

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with UNICEF and Action Against Hunger, we have set our eyes on other municipalities with ZOD potentials, and many of them embrace the goals of CLTS," said Rabaya.

"It's a huge achievement for us

to reach ZOD in the municipalities of President Roxas and Arakan, barangays have been declared open defecation free. May these serve as an example for other municipalities, provinces and other regions. Going forward, UNICEF and Action Against

Hunger will look at how we can continue to support provincial and regional level to take the lessons from ZOD municipalities so we can improve access to sanitation throughout the entire province and sustain this important change," said Maule.

With their collaborative efforts in empowering local communities ensuring access to sanitation for all Filipino, Action Against Hunger, UNICEF and partner local governments are getting the message out that toilets save lives. 🌱



FOCUS ON

GENERATION NUTRITION

Action Against Hunger Philippines Thanks Filipinos for Signing the Generation Nutrition Petition, for being part of history

Dear Generation Nutrition supporter,

Inspired by the belief that we have the power to stop children dying from malnutrition, the Generation Nutrition campaign was launched over a year ago.

Since then, Generation Nutrition has grown to become a force, a global campaign fuelled by individuals like you: supporters and campaigners from all over the world who refuse to keep silent over the scandal of children's lives lost or damaged due to malnutrition, including its most life-threatening form, acute malnutrition.

Our campaign has been a vital part of the influencing work carried out by civil society on Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This goal aims to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". The (SDGs) contain a target for reducing globally the number of children affected by acute malnutrition or 'wasting' (Target 2.2). This is what we have been campaigning for since April 2014; we have therefore achieved our campaign objective!

You are one of the 93,000 people who, by signing our petition, increased the pressure on governments to put the fight against acute malnutrition at the heart of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the Philippines, 6,000 people signed the petition, as well as the campaign having been launched at the national and sub-national levels. The national campaign launch witnessed the signing of the first Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition policy in the entire nation, Executive Order No. 26, by the City Government of Davao.

Last week, at the United Nations in New York, governments have adopted the SDGs. World leaders have made a commitment to end all forms of malnutrition and hunger by 2030. This includes a target to nearly halve the number of children who suffer from acute malnutrition in the next ten years. This is a great victory, so please take a moment to celebrate our success and share the good news on Twitter.

But, our work is not finished yet. Governments are currently deciding on indicators to help measure progress towards the SDGs. Generation Nutrition will continue to campaign and engage with governments to make sure that the acute malnutrition target in the SDGs is properly measured, and that all the commitments made today are delivered on.

Read Generation Nutrition's www.generation-nutrition.org new blog for our thoughts on what needs to happen next, and stay up to date with the campaign on our website, Twitter and Facebook.

Thank you for signing the petition and for being part of our movement. We are closer than ever to being the generation to end child deaths from malnutrition.

We can be the generation to stop children dying of hunger.

Dyan Aimee Rodriguez

Campaign Lead, Generation Nutrition Philippines



Photo by Action Against Hunger

FOCUS ON

PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

CSOs adopt, teach IP community livelihood programs

Antipas, Cotabato - Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will eat a lifetime.

This was the mantra that prompted members of civil society organizations in this farming town in south central Philippines to embark on a mission of helping a community of mostly impoverished members of an indigenous tribe find ways on how to make a living.

Over a dozen members of the municipality of Antipas civil society network (MACSON) trooped to the IP-dominated community of Sumin in Malangag village here to bring goodies and a ray of hope for the scores of families last July 29, 2016. The outreach program conducted by Macson was the group's first foray into helping the community after it had gotten itself aid and assistance from the government and non-government organizations. "It's not just our way of sharing blessings to others. It's our way of practicing what governance is about," said Rosalinda Catriz, Macson president.

A combined group from civil society organizations (CSOs) and government service functionaries trucked to the upland village to give various services to some 56 households there, according to Catriz.

The outreach program that lasted for two days saw Macson members cooking and handing nutritious meals to residents, particularly sickly and frail-looking children. "We have chosen this area because residents here belong to the municipality's poorest," said Macson vice president Tiny Tamayo. Tamayo and other woman-members, in collaboration with ladies from the Catholic Women's League (CWL) have spearheaded the program, bringing huge cooking pots and pans for cooking vegetables.

During the activity, some woman-beneficiaries also helped in preparing nutritious and delicious food, particularly for the children. Although the community, owing to its remoteness and economic situation of its residents, has been receiving aid from the local government, still this was not enough, according to residents. Tamayo said her federation, which is composed of more than 30 groups, seeks to provide not only a temporary solution to poverty in the target community.

"We want to teach them find a living, not just eat for a meal," Tamayo said. Macson, according to Tamayo, has been one of the most active civil society groups in Mindanao

in terms of "living what it believed in." Many of its officers and members in allied organizations have participated in or benefitted from various assistance by local and foreign donors. The Antipas CSO network had also participated in Action Against Hunger Philippines' training on Empowered Participative Governance (EPG), according to Rosalinda Catriz, Macson president. Tamayo said they would also launch an EGP-like program for the community.

She said Macson will organize the community to empower residents to stand on their feet and carve their own future when Macson is no longer around. "Empowering them can help them become stronger," Tamayo said. "They would be self-reliant. That's our ultimate aim." For housewife Pinky Capritso, she was lucky her community was chosen as beneficiary.

"It's not just for the pack of rice and goodies. We're thankful because some people, even if they're not from government have shown their kindness by helping us," Capritso, 32, a mother of four, said. She said she was looking forward to the pledge of livelihood assistance from Macson "so I can help my husband earn some money for the family." Capritso's husband is a farm hand in a rubber plantation in Antipas.

Tamayo said Macson members have also decided to formally launch their fund-raising drive so they could start implementing livelihood programs for Sumin already. By contributing small amounts to a common fund, the group was able to help other people who are in need, like those in Sumin. Tamayo said they wanted to put up a rice store and a rice-milling facility in the community, using the group's funds as seed money. She said farmer-members can also lend certain amounts in their small lending business, with interest earned to be given back to community coffers.

"We will be leaving you the facilities and capital with the hope that you would take care of them and make them grow," Tamayo told the community during a short program, which included the distribution of blue-colored jerrycans marked with Action Against Hunger so the community can have good containers to collect potable water.

The European Union-funded EPG-Progress Project has been in town since 2013 and has capacitated local government officials and civil societies on collaborative partnership and inclusive governance, and have assisted the local government in crafting its 6-year barangay development plan (BDP). 🌱



Restaurants Against Hunger: Dishes that Feed More



“Restaurants Against Hunger makes me realize that our craft goes beyond mere cooking, it also transforms into a stronger cause that enables us to have a chance to make someone’s future healthy.”

This holiday season, did you know that the simple act of ordering a dish can help alleviate malnutrition in the Philippines? From November 15 to 15 January 2017, international nongovernment organization Action Against Hunger together with partner restaurants and top chefs are bringing to life the Restaurants Against Hunger campaign. This campaign aims to save the lives of malnourished children in the Philippines through ‘solidarity dishes’ in participating restaurants. When ordered, proceeds from these dishes go to Action Against Hunger’s programs in alleviating extreme malnutrition working across the country.

and sustainable solutions to hunger. They ensure that the marginalized and most at risk have access to clean water, food, training and healthcare. They enable communities to be free from hunger. In the Philippines, Action Against Hunger has helped more than 500,000 people directly since 2000. Of the 500,000, more than 30,000 were helped with nutrition programs – particularly saving lives via the prevention, detection and treatment of malnutrition, in particular during and following disasters and conflicts. “Action Against Hunger continues to respond to these pressing issues and we want to reach more people to help and support us as we unlock children’s potential and possibly give them something to look forward to in the future,” says Javad Amoozegar, country director for Action Against Hunger Philippines.

Hoping to raise more funds for ending hunger in the Philippines, Action Against Hunger is following the footsteps of its global counterparts by launching the Restaurants Against Hunger this 2016. Tracing back its roots from World Food Day in France back in 1998, Restaurants Against Hunger was also launched in UK, US, Canada, and Spain. The campaign is also currently running in Italy, Germany, Peru, Colombia and Bolivia. Joining the roster of multi-awarded chefs from around the globe, including the world’s star chef John Roca,

the Philippines own Chef Roland Laudico is a proud ambassador for the worthy cause.

“Restaurants Against Hunger makes me realize that our craft goes beyond mere cooking, it also transforms into a stronger cause that enables us to have a chance to make someone’s future healthy,” Chef Roland Laudico stresses.

Currently, over 100 establishments, including branches, have signed up to be a part of the campaign – and Action Against

Hunger hopes that more restaurants sign up before December 15. “It’s high time that we address this issue together and put up an advocacy that really encourages people to help fight malnutrition in their own ways— a simple act of ordering a dish can make a big difference,” says Amoozegar.

In March 2016, Action Against Hunger released a report on the Socio-economy of Chronic Malnutrition in the Philippines. The Philippines, a lower-middle income country, is among the fastest-growing economies in Southeast Asia. However, sustained economic development has not manifested in a significant reduction of high stunting

prevalence: 33.4% of children under-5 years old nationwide in 2015. This means that 1 in 3 Filipino children below five years old is too short for their age. Failure to achieve optimum child growth and development is attributed to several factors including poverty.

“High national stunting prevalence rates in the Philippines, along with very modest progress in stunting reduction over time, makes stunting one of the biggest challenges the country faces as it economically develops. Stunted growth is not only about what we can see with our eyes but it also about poor intellectual development. Stunting is more than just a health issue as it has an impact on adult productivity and Philippines’ future. As stunting is a big challenge, it calls for a big effort among all Filipinos. Each one can make a meaningful contribution,” says Amoozegar.

This campaign is about channeling the Filipino passion for food into life-saving impact against hunger and child malnutrition. Co-sponsored by Mc Cormick, Holiday Inn Makati and Campaigns and Grey, dine in these participating restaurants, order their solidarity dishes, and give children a healthier future: Corazon, Crisostomo,

Elias, Felix, Florabel, Johnny Chow, Market on 5th Ave., Mr. Franks, Sisa’s Secret, Museum Café, Chelsea Grand Café, Simple Lang, Stella, Rocket Room, Kabila, Saboten, Terraz, Chef Lau’s Pugon Roasters, Guevarra’s, OK Café, The Old Spaghetti House, The Shrimp Shack, Potts Point Café, Grilla Bar & Grill, Mexicali, El Chupacabra, El Hijo de Cabra, El Cabrito, Crying Tiger, Corner Tree Café, and Terry’s Bistro. Together, let’s make every dish truly count.



For more information about the campaign, log on to Action Against Hunger Philippines official facebook page @actionagainsthungerph. For updates, follow the campaign in Facebook @ ActionAgainstHungerPH, Twitter @ EndHungerPH, Instagram@EndHungerPH.

To help spread the word on the campaign, use the hashtag #EndHungerPH and #RestaurantAgainstHungerPH. Check the website www.restaurantsagainsthungerph.org for more details.



This holiday season, did you know that the simple act of ordering a dish can help alleviate malnutrition in the Philippines? Launched on 15 November 2016, running until 15 January 2017, international non government organization Action Against Hunger Philippines together with partner restaurants and selected ambassadors Chef Roland and Jackie Laudico are bringing to life the Restaurants Against Hunger Ph campaign. Visit our website <http://www.restaurantsagainsthungerphillippines.org/> for more details.



The nutrition they receive during pregnancy to two years old has a positive influence on brain development, healthy growth, and a strong immune system – not just for now, but for the rest of their lives. Help prevent malnutrition by choosing the ‘dishes that feed more’.



These dishes feed more. Dine out to help stop childhood hunger. Choose these selections from our partner restaurants’ menu while helping feed undernourished children.

Share a photo of your meal to raise awareness and help put an end to malnutrition caused by hunger in our country. Use the hashtags to spread awareness: #EndHungerPH #RestaurantsAgainstHungerPH





FOCUS ON



Philippines: Saving lives through a community-led approach to ending open defecation

MIDSAYAP, COTABATO – “Your neighbor’s poo is served. It’s time to eat,” said nurse Tony Rose Gayda of the Midsayap municipal health office to a group of community members in the village of Malamote, Midsayap. Speechless and shock etched on their faces, children and their parents gave her a stern look as she puts rice on the ground next to a mass of human feces taken from behind a mango tree, meters away from a house. Flies then swarmed in, swooping between the rice and the poop.



Photo by Rosa May Maltem for Action Against Hunger

Different kinds of toilets are built, ranging from indigenous materials or locally available resources - such as bamboos, gallons and cans-without external support to water sealed ones. The main goal is to achieve a clean, healthy, dignified, and child-friendly environment.

Sickened to his stomach, Mary Entes, 41, exclaims: “Yuck! I’m aghast learning how our food can be contaminated with germs as a result of open defecation.”

A little over a minute, a dog steps into the feces and then everybody shooed him aside. “This is what happens every day,” said Gayda. “Open defecation kills. Unless we work together as a people, it won’t stop.”

The gathering becomes animated as villagers start talking with each other, giving reaction to the disgusting sight they just have seen.

As a community facilitator, Toni Rose leads a “triggering session”-a core activity in the implementation of the community-led total sanitation (CLTS) to put a stop to the longtime but unhealthy habit of open defecation. Such sessions intend to stir communal sense of disgust and shame as community members realize the ill-effects of emptying bowels in the open.

Children soon begin pleading with their parents to have their own toilet, or run the risk of eating their neighbors’ excrement. Each session attempts to spur each family to build its own latrine, or share with others if a family could not build its own yet. School grounds are also not spared from defecation. “Teachers have asked the parents for monetary support in constructing clean toilet facilities and hand washing stations for school children,” said Toni Rose.

Carefully planned to provoke immediate shame and disgust, people are made to quickly see the risks of open defecation and realize they could be feasting on feces-tainted food. Toni Rose works with villagers to spot and map problem areas, measure the size of human excreta produced and their health care costs resulting from diarrhea and other food-borne diseases. They then draw up plans to stop open defecation and improve health and sanitation conditions in the community.

The goal for every barangay (village) is to be declared zero open defecation (ZOD) or open defecation-free. This means each family must have access to a covered toilet, must have water and soap for handwashing. Families are encouraged to build their toilets using locally-accessible materials, so even poor households can have their own latrines.

With funding from United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Action Against Hunger and the local governments are supporting training of new facilitators likes Toni Rose to organize behavioral change information session in Cotabato, Maguindanao and Masbate to educate children and their families about the dangers and impact of open defecation. UNICEF and its partners are confident they can continue extending the reach of the CLTS program in other parts of the country. Since the year 2012 until the current cooperative agreement with UNICEF, Action Against Hunger have supported 201, 456 people with improved sanitation facilities, access to safe water and hygiene behavior change.

“Action Against Hunger and UNICEF have been working in Cotabato to address the gap in sanitation. The role we have been playing is in support to national and local governments’ zero open defecation program by providing training to the municipal and barangay level, building capacity of municipal and barangay health workers to implement hygiene promotion and triggering sessions down to the community level, and to develop action plans on how they are going to address the sanitation problem and looking at how we can provide support to where it’s needed for people to move up to the sanitation ladder. The first 1,000 days of a child’s life are critical because they are especially vulnerable to chronic consequences and intestinal diseases resulting from poor water and sanitation,” said Louise Maule, UNICEF Philippines Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) chief. “This program goes beyond

the construction of toilets. It boosts public health by reducing the threat of fecal infections,” said Maule.

Lack of access and awareness

“Two major reasons why many people practice open defecation -- either they live without access to toilets and limited access to water. They are unaware of the effects on their health, their children, families and the community,” according to Regina Paypa, program manager of Action Against Hunger.

While areas such as Arakan and President Roxas towns in Cotabato; Aroroy, Cawayan, Milagros, Monreal in Masbate, which are covered by UNICEF have already achieved ZOD status, about 7.4 million Filipinos still defecate in the open, considered one of the highest in Southeast Asia. In these UNICEF-covered areas where up to half in every ten people practice open-defecation sometimes near a source of water, diarrhea which is the second biggest killer of Filipino children under age 5, is common. According to the National Sewerage and Septage Management Program, at least 55 children under 5 die every day from diarrhea, pneumonia and other preventable diseases.

Globally, one in every three people or roughly 2.4 billion, are still without sanitation facilities. According to a report by UNICEF and the World Health Organization, close to a billion or some 946 million people still defecate in the open. Poor hygiene and sanitation practices are a major factor causing undernutrition in children by allowing the spread of diarrhea and other infectious diseases. Stunting or chronic undernutrition causes irreversible physical and cognitive damage, affecting 161 million children worldwide, including some 7.36 million Filipino children under 5.

Malnutrition has a direct link to poor hygiene and sanitation practices and facilities in Masbate, as results of a research by Action Against Hunger’s Nutrition Causal Analysis (NCA) show. Thus, the need to ramp up efforts to achieving ZOD Grade 1 (G1) at the target barangays and move them higher on the Sustainable Sanitation status (G2). In Barangay Sagcungan, President Roxas alone, which recently achieved the G2 status, recorded a total of 125 malnutrition cases among children under 5 from 2014 to 2015. Incidence has dropped to 32 malnutrition cases in 2016 when all 253 households have 100% improved sanitary toilets, adopted proper handwashing techniques with soap and water, and advances in solids waste management and garbage disposal.

“Money is not the primary problem,” shares another barangay leader Alex Garcia. “It is how we respond and behave. We need to be prepared ahead of time before a disaster strike. The latrines built in our homes are an example of our spirit of resiliency.” He also advocated backyard gardening as a source of food to battle malnutrition.

The municipalities of President Roxas and Arakan are the first towns declared as open defecation-free in Cotabato province. “We know



Photo by Rosa May Maltem for Action Against Hunger

Children and their families participating in “triggering session” are disgusted to hear how their food and water can be tainted as a result of open-defecation. Over 7 million Filipinos still don’t have a toilet. #WeCantWait to end open-defecation.

that the practice of open defecation poses great health risks to children and their families. In zero open defecation-declared barangays there are fewer cases of diarrhea among children. The use of toilets have resulted in comfort, security, and protection particularly for women and children as well as dignity for the whole community,” said Paypa. The people in Brgy.Tulungatung in Zamboanga also reported a feat of ZOD following the approval of the city health authorities in 2015. “This is the first ZOD-declared barangay in Zamboanga. Families finally have realized the need to have their own toilet,” says village chair Esther Del Rosario.

The “Community Led Total Sanitation” is an approach supported by the Department of Health and UNICEF Philippines with the aim of ending open defecation and improve health and well-being of people around the community.

“This is our way to combat malnutrition and contribute to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals,” Paypa said. She said that with safe and accessible water and sanitation facilities and good personal, food and home hygiene, human contact with pathogens is minimized and the opportunity for mosquitoes and flies to spread disease decline. This has a huge knock-on benefit for child nutrition. There are also many indirect benefits of improved water, sanitation and hygiene for nutrition. For example, the time savings for women and children which come about when they no longer have to travel long distance to collect water or the possible lower cost of water resulting from a piped water supply, which can free up money for other critical household purchases.

“This has proved the most efficient way to stop diarrhea,” Paypa added, reiterating the core message of Generation Nutrition, a global campaign which Action Against Hunger leads that urge governments globally to invest properly in better

water, sanitation and hygiene, and by working towards a fuller integration of wash, health and nutrition programs.

Lives transformed

A mother in Malamote village said her family has been transformed following a triggering session. “Finally I found the reason why my children had diarrhea all the time,” shares 26-year old Joan Toston. Her family earns Php 200 (roughly 4 US dollars) a day from farm labor, the mother of three and her husband decided to put aside a week’s wage to buy corrugated iron to build a toilet that they completed using scrounged indigenous materials-coconut tree fronds, scrap wood and cloth-using instructions given during the information session.

The toilet will serve the family and neighbors who have yet built theirs. “I am certain my children will not fall ill anymore and get good grades from school. I also make sure that my three children will always wash their hands with soap after using the toilet. Today, none of my neighbor defecate outside anymore, and if I see them do it, I tell them that this is not tolerable in my barangay,” said Joan.

After using toilets since August 2016, many villagers wish to own a flush toilet which is more sustainable than their initial hollow latrine. “I hope I can afford a flush toilet one day,” said Joan.

From triggering ‘disgust and shame’ CLTS session with Toni Rose and follow-up has led to glee in Malamote as the healthy barangay can now enjoy the aroma of fruit bearing trees instead of the smell of human feces. “It’s important to note that the CLTS approach is not about

providing grants because people make use of low-cost alternatives and their own means,” said Paypa.

Sustainable Toilet

Following ZOD achievement, a second phase (G2) encourages households to build more durable and sustainable sanitation facilities, with local government support available to reward the good sanitation behavior demonstrated in achieving open defecation-free status. The final phase is to move the community from sustainable sanitation, which

focuses on safe excreta disposal and handwashing with soap, to wider total sanitation status that includes solid and liquid waste management, safe management of animal excreta, and the protection and testing of water supplies.

After achieving Grade 1 status, many UNICEF and Action Against Hunger-supported communities like Gambodes in Arakan are encouraged and supported to reach Grade 2. Recently, all sanitation facilities in Gambodes barangay were made sustainable, meeting the minimum standards of a clean toilet and possess additional characteristics such as being designed against geohazards like typhoons, floods or earthquakes. Government buildings like day care centers, barangay halls and schools now also have sanitary toilets. The most ideal state in this phased approach is the Grade 3 level in which solid waste and septage management is widely implemented and sustained, according to the standards set by UNICEF.

Mayor Ramon Piang of South Upi, Maguindanao has championed this approach since seeing firsthand the immediate reaction of community residents when they were exposed to human feces collected from defecation sites as part of CLTS sessions. “Open defecation undermines dignity and makes the indigenous peoples, particularly women and children vulnerable to protection issues,” said Piang.

In a Health and Sanitation Summit held in Upi Maguindanao on 19 November, Mayor Ramon Piang has stepped up towards creating an open defecation-free barangays by 2017. “This means the practice of open defecation will be fully abandoned next year,” Piang said. To scale up and institutionalize the program in Upi, Piang lay down the LGU’s targets to address sanitation problem by 2017: 100 percent total sanitation of all households. The executive order spell out provisions that barangays have their own local sustainable sanitation plans and budgets in place under the Barangay Investment Plan, to be reflected in the Municipal Investment Plan, and all barangays have a solid waste and waste management plan in place. At the barangay level, ordinances have also been passed mandating the beautification, cleanliness, proper garbage disposal and construction of sanitary toilets in all households.

It inspired us to do the same in Upi, that is why we vow to achieve municipal-wide ZOD status in 2017. We are to strictly implement the program, this may be disturbing to some people, but they should understand that we are doing this for the betterment of the entire Upi people,” said Piang.

Government agencies like the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Education (DepEd) also pledged support: “We are one with Cotabato in the campaign to bring open defecation to zero. The provincial government of Maguindanao is also interested to implement the ZOD program in the municipalities. Maguindanao province is one of the poorest in terms of sanitation in the Philippines, we badly want to change this status by implementing rules strictly,” said Norodin Maisalat, sanitary inspector of Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) in Maguindanao.

Following the programs in Arakan and President Roxas, Dr. Eva Rabaya of the Cotabato Provincial Health Office has expressed her support to scale up the gains of the program in other municipalities. “We set out to achieve Grade 2 by replicating our successful experiences in Arakan and President Roxas, and Midsayap and Aleosan these days, and other municipalities in the province. We have learned so much from our partners, particularly the approach in enriching the involvement of the public to sanitation. Together

OUR WORK IN PICTURES

1/ From now on, we're going to look and sound a little different. We are still the same team of dedicated experts that takes decisive action against the causes and effects of hunger. The same team that enables people to provide for themselves, see their children grow up strong, and for communities to prosper. You are a vital part of this work. Thank you for your continued support as we transition to our new look and feel. **FOR FOOD. AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. FOR CLEAN WATER. AGAINST KILLER DISEASES. FOR CHILDREN THAT GROW UP STRONG. AGAINST LIVES CUT TOO SHORT. FOR CROPS THIS YEAR AND NEXT. AGAINST DROUGHT AND DISASTER. FOR CHANGING MINDS. AGAINST IGNORANCE AND INDIFFERENCE. FOR FREEDOM FROM HUNGER. FOR EVERYONE. FOR GOOD. FOR ACTION. AGAINST HUNGER**

2/ Vice President Leni Robredo graced the Memorandum of Agreement Signing of Moving Urban Poor Communities Towards Resilience (MOVE UP) Project, an urban disaster risk reduction project implemented by a consortium of international NGOs composed of Action Against Hunger Philippines, Plan International Philippines, CARE Philippines and Assistance and Cooperation for Community Resilience and Development (ACCORD). The project, with funding support from the European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO) under its Humanitarian Action Plan (HIP) for Southeast Asia and the Pacific program, aims to demonstrate systems and models of Alternative Temporary Shelter (ATS), and introduces resilient livelihoods and risk transfer modalities to improve the disaster risk reduction and management plans of major cities in Metro Manila. Within the period of February 2016 to August 2017, it is expected to help 30,000 people from 12 selected barangays in Malabon City, Quezon City, Philippines and Valenzuela City.

3/ Recent intense fighting between government security forces and armed group Abu Sayyaf Group displaced over 25,000 people in Basilan, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. With funds from the European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO) Action Against Hunger Philippines, through its partner Integrated Development for Tri-people (IRDIT) in coordination with the local government of Basilan, distributed food aid to 330 families in two barangays of Sumisip. Photos present rare glimpse of INGOs providing direct humanitarian assistance in Basilan.

4/ The Improving Resilience of Partners to Natural Disasters or I-RESPOND Project is a 2-year capacity building and technical assistance project of Action Against Hunger Philippines with the nongovernment partners of KNH (Kinder not Hilfe) whose goal is to strengthen the understanding and knowledge on the principles, concepts and integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into NGO policies and programming. Photos show series of technical sessions led by Action Against Hunger to a number of nongovernment partners on Participatory Hazard, Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (PCVA) and development of DRR measures with emphasis of safety and resilience of children and their families in communities.



5/ Participatory governance works! Action Against Hunger Philippines, in partnership with MinLand Foundation, and Department of the Interior and Local Government with leaders of local government and civil society, wrapped up a 2-day Good Governance summit conceived to show CSOs and LGUs' seriousness about staying engaged and sharing ideas on ways to alleviate poverty. A book entitled "We Inspire Each Other: A Compendium of Inspiring Stories of Local Governments and Civil Society Organizations on Good Governance," was launched on 13 October 2016, which depicts the stories on how government, civil society, and community leaders paved the way towards better governance, illustrating the thrusts of Empowered Participatory Progress Towards Progress or EPPG-

Progress project. Both the local governments and CSOs of Antipas, Arakan, Magpet, Matalam and President Roxas committed to poverty reduction through participatory governance.

6/ Action Against Hunger led the distribution of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and non-food item kits in Cagayan and Kalinga with funds from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID Philippines) and UNICEF Philippines. Lifesaving supplies provided to most vulnerable families affected by super typhoon Lawin (Haima) in Kalinga and Cagayan included hygiene kits, jerry cans, mattresses, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, including cooking sets. In any emergency



Photos by Action Against Hunger Philippines

situation, Action Against Hunger responds to the critical needs of the most vulnerable, including children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, single-headed households, and persons with chronic illnesses, addressing concerns related to health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene and food security and livelihoods. Meanwhile the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) supported the Typhoon Lawin-affected communities in Kalinga and Cagayan with multi-purpose cash-based assistance to respond to humanitarian needs. The ECHO ensures humanitarian aid reaches directly those with the greatest need in a timely manner through cash and voucher aid approach. Among its advantages are

benefits for local economies, empowerment of the beneficiaries, and dignity and decision power to people who can choose the items they would like to buy. The cash and voucher system has shown to help the morale of those in need and also prepares the ground for linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD) activities.

7/ Philippine INGO network (PINGON) convenor and Action Against Hunger Philippines country director Javad Amoozegar leads meeting of INGOs with National Disaster Risk Reduction Council Undersecretary Ricardo Jalad. The meeting was attended by the country representatives of ACTED, Action Against Hunger, ASSIST Asia, CARE Philippines, Caritas Espanola, Christian

Aid, Handicap International, International Medical Corps, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Manos Unidas, MSF, Oxfam, People in Need, Plan International, Relief International, Samaritan's Purse, Save the Children, World Vision. PINGON was formed mainly to serve as venue to more effectively coordinate the provision and delivery of humanitarian aid by international NGOs during times of major disasters and emergencies in the Philippines, ensuring that basic humanitarian principles are firmly upheld and minimum standards are consistently observed. The network is also intended to collectively advocate for appropriate actions on key humanitarian issues confronting the most vulnerable sectors in the country by the government, the United Nations system and other duty-bearers. Membership of PINGON has grown to nearly 50 international NGOs. PINGON is part of the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team.

8/ Albay offers lessons to local governments on disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation. Supporting DRR among vulnerable communities in Southern Philippines. Action Against Hunger Philippines is currently implementing the multi-year project called "Strengthen the Disaster Prevention and improve the efficiency of the response to Humanitarian crises in the Philippines" with funding from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). The project, in partnership with Save the Children, reinforces resilience initiatives by the local governments, communities and schools in the provinces of Compostela Valley and Surigao del Sur. The overall objective is to reduce losses of lives, infrastructure and social assets incurred as a result of disasters, strengthen the humanitarian response and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) systems in the Philippines particularly in Compostela Valley and Surigao del Sur.

9/ The Philippines INGO Network-led Action Against Hunger, United Nations OCHA Philippines, ARMM-Heart, and members of the Mindanao Humanitarian Team organized the World Humanitarian Day on 19 August 2016 honoring humanitarians all over the Philippines who have worked tirelessly and bravely to help the most vulnerable in the Philippines. In Cotabato City, a motorcade kicked off the celebrations, which included a photo exhibit illustrating humanitarian's motivation and sacrifice to ending human suffering, and sharing of humanitarian commitments to work holistically in crisis-affected areas.

10/ The Surigao del Sur displacement situation is defined as a forgotten crisis by the European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO). For nearly a year in displacement in Tandag Sports Complex, Action Against Hunger Philippines and partner Save the Children supported over 2,000 displaced families from San Miguel, San Agustin, Tago, Marhatag, Lianga municipalities with food, water and hygiene kits, and shelter supplies, with funds from the European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO). "We are here to fill gaps and ensure that all vulnerable children and their families get sufficient support during their displacement. They need food, education, shelter, health and nutrition counselling, household and sanitation items and so much more," according to Javad Amoozegar,

OUR WORK IN PICTURES

country director of Action Against Hunger Philippines. The project was also implemented in Maguindanao and Zamboanga City from April to October 2016.

11/ Action Against Hunger Philippines, UNICEF, in partnership with DOH held a Sanitation Learning Exchange (SANLEX) Summit in November 2016 in Sarangani province. It aims to address the present state of sanitation in the Philippines, specifically in rural areas. Action Against Hunger Philippines shared its experiences in achieving ZOD in Masbate, the first in the province of Masbate and the Bicol region. Participants from Masbate include advocates from Milagros, Cawayan, Monreal, & Aroroy, Provincial Wash Task Force of the Province of Masbate. Malungon shared experience on importance of ordinances and strict enforcement of their local policies in achieving ZOD and the strong support of the PLGU to the Sanitation advocacy. Currently 11 municipalities has achieved Zero Open Defecation (ZOD) status under its Zero Open Defecation program. These municipalities are: (1) Malungon, Sarangani; (2) Buenavista, Quezon Province; (3) President Roxas, North Cotabato; (4) Arakan, North Cotabato; (5) Agdangan, Quezon Province; (6) Monreal, Masbate; (7) Mercedes, Eastern Samar; (8) Mayorga, Leyte; (9) La Paz, Leyte; (10) Tunga, Leyte; and (11) Pastrana, Leyte. The ZODP aims to motivate areas practicing open defecation to adopt sanitation practices through community wide initiatives with the help of partners and the local government units. Sanitation problems and challenges continue to pervade the country. Some of these problems are open defecation, lack of appropriate sanitation facilities, and improper hygiene behaviors, which all have direct or indirect impact on health. "Among those impacts is the contamination of water sources

leading to incidence of water-borne diseases (diarrhea, cholera and typhoid fever), intestinal worm infection, and malnutrition," according to the Department of Health.

12/ In celebration of the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2016, Action Against Hunger organized a 3-day exhibition entitled "Zamboanga: Rebuilding Peace and Hope" featuring humanitarian assistance to vulnerable displaced persons staying in temporary shelters three years after the siege. The activity spoke of the courage and resilience of displaced people in developing sustainable livelihoods. The activity featured onsite weaving and display of indigenous crafts for sale made by beneficiaries who have been heavily affected by the siege, and photos and videos that illustrate the humanitarian work of Action Against Hunger since September 2013.

13/ Families receiving cash support through the program are able to boost resilience, livelihoods and access social services. Action Against Hunger Philippines strives for human dignity and initiates social protection of vulnerable disaster and conflict-affected families in Maguindanao and Zamboanga through innovative cash transfer program undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada. The displacements across southern Philippines have

adversely affected the development of communities and have forced populations away from their livelihoods. This has, in turn, caused people to be driven into or deeper into poverty. Describing the situation in Maguindanao, Zamboanga and Surigao del Sur as a "forgotten crisis", the Action Against Hunger Philippines expressed concern over the conditions of the displaced persons, saying there is not much attention being given by the media to this crisis, and clearly there is a need for international humanitarian donors to step up and be involved.

14/ Cees Witterbrood, head for Asia, Latin America, Caribbean, Pacific of European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO) interacts with women displaced from Maguindanao. Witterbrood visited Maguindanao's conflict-affected areas on 25 January 2016, and met with displaced families and children affected by the humanitarian crisis. In a community gathering in Datu Saydona Mustapha, Witterbrood emphasized the importance of preparedness and long-term commitment to support the vulnerable families suffering from years of conflict.

15/ After experiencing typhoon Nona, farmers in Nueva Ecija now maximize space and recycle old containers to grow vegetables. With the support from the European Commission - Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (ECHO), international NGOs CARE, Action Against Hunger Philippines and Save the Children Philippines work with the farmers to promote disaster resilience and food security.



Photos by Action Against Hunger Philippines

WE SAVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.

WE ARE THERE FOR THEM BEFORE AND AFTER DISASTER STRIKES.



WHO WE ARE

Action Against Hunger is a global humanitarian organization that takes decisive action against the causes and effects of hunger. We save the lives of malnourished children. We ensure families can access clean water, food, training and healthcare. We enable entire communities to be free from hunger. With headquarters in New York, London, Paris, Madrid, Toronto, Italy and Germany, the organization intervenes directly in nearly 50 countries on five different continents, and supports more than eight million people annually.

Our international strategic plan for 2016 to 2020 provides a framework for leadership and a road map for increasing our impact. It guides us and allows us to work with partners to develop and implement approaches and policies that will result in real, measurable reductions in human suffering from the ravages of hunger. It establishes our vision, our goals and the targets we aim to achieve.

The country strategy 2015-2020 is anchored on three (3) pillars: 1) implementing emergency and early recovery operations, and disaster risk management; 2)

Building resilience to climate change and improving social and economic conditions of vulnerable populations 3) scaling up (institutionalization) programs through capacity building, technical support and advocacy, aligned with Action Against Hunger's global vision and mission. The country-level strategy aims to improve access to basic services of less empowered and more vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons and returnees through its main sectors of expertise, namely access to permanent sources of water and to proper sanitation facilities; access to health and nutrition; promotion of livelihood activities to ensure food and nutritional security; disaster risk management, and advocacy on good governance. The organization's policies, strategies and programs, from governance to implementation, are designed with a nutrition lens, explicitly aimed at enhancing nutrition, and are justified in the light of their contribution to nutrition positive outcomes.

Action Against Hunger has a long track record of emergency, early recovery and development work in the Philippines, one of the organization's biggest areas

of intervention. Since 2000, the organization has provided humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected families in Central Mindanao and to the disaster-affected population across the country, including Metro Manila in the wake of Typhoon Ketsana (Ondoy), Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the islands of Samar, Leyte and Panay, the earthquake in Bohol and the siege in Zamboanga, and development projects in Masbate and various provinces in Mindanao, including Cotabato. The organization's projects directly support the displaced and affected population and the host communities, while advancing gender integration, so that all people - women, men, boys, and girls - have equal abilities and opportunities to lead more fulfilling lives.

Action Against Hunger supports the implementation of the country level strategy related to improving nutritional outcomes and building relationships with key stakeholders including within the national and local government institutions, the donor community, NGOs and the private sectors, in partnership with local and international NGOs, such as Oxfam, Handicap International, Save the Children International, Plan International, CARE Philippines, the Committee of German Doctors for Developing Countries, and government agencies, including the Department of Health, National Nutrition Council, University of the Philippines Research Center, further enriching its experience in managing projects jointly.

Action Against Hunger's projects in the Philippines have been funded by various private and institutional donors, such as United Nations agencies, the European Union and the European Commission, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, United States Agency for International Development, Government of Canada through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, and Kindernothilfe among others.

COMMENTARY

Position Paper on the Internally Displaced Persons Bill

by Dyan Aimee Rodriguez, Advocacy Referent, Action Against Hunger

A grandmother in the evacuation center counted from one to seven. In between our conversation, the sight of the scraps of tarpaulin as shelter, the bright blue jerry cans marked by repeated use, and the hovering feeling of weariness, she mentioned that she has experienced displacement seven times.

I am from Mindanao and Mindanao is home to beautiful moments, exquisite stories, and brave souls. There is, however, another face of Mindanao. The Mindanao that is home to one of the longest running conflicts in the world. This is the Mindanao that is home to conflict-induced internally displaced persons or IDPs.

Conflict-induced displacement is far more complex, challenging, and vicious than displacement induced by natural disasters. While an organized humanitarian response is more tangible during natural disasters, preventing and addressing conflict-induced displacement requires more than the confluence of development and humanitarian actors. On one hand, the different peace processes must be in place whilst both state and non-state armed groups must respect commitments. On the other hand, compounding the volatile security situation is the emerging threat of terrorism.

During natural disasters, those who are in the margins and literally living in the fringes of the communities are most susceptible to displacement.

The same is true for conflict induced-displacement. IDPs in Mindanao mostly come from poor and historically marginalized communities, residing in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. These are areas which lack or hold no access to the bare minimums - of basic service delivery and of

good governance. The concept of return, resettlement, or reintegration does not automatically mean that displacement has ended. The IDPs in Tandag, Surigao del Sur have returned to their places of origin after a year of finding abode in the Tandag Sports Complex. They have returned to untended agricultural-based livelihoods, dilapidated homes, and malfunctioning basic infrastructure. Some IDPs in a barangay returned to their residences co-opted by relatives who refused to leave without remuneration leading them to build their own camp and in spite of having returned, finding themselves displaced once more. These families were already living in poverty, displacement has exacerbated their situation, and in spite of having returned, they continue to have displacement-specific needs. The persistence of displacement-specific needs connotes that durables solutions have not been achieved and displacement, if left unaddressed, may become protracted.

The same context rings true for IDPs in Maguindanao province. I visited a barangay whose day-to-day operation thrives by sharing another barangay's health center. These are communities which even prior displacement, do not have the proximity to the benefits of barangays situated in the poblacion areas. Clearly, displacements affects the poorest and least empowered.

The IDPs in these areas largely depend on agricultural livelihoods. These are livelihoods rooted on residence, hence, greatly affected by frequent displacement. Some families have lost livestock and

have failed in their measly investments to farming. Internal displacement aggravates poverty and dovetails into a generation of inequality. This can be gleaned from periodic statistics showing that provinces with displaced communities have high rates of illiteracy, undernutrition, and poverty.

The current Congress has put in the pipeline the discussions on an IDP Bill. At the House of Representatives, Representative Harry Roque has filed IDP Bill House Bill No. 222 as well as Representatives Relampagos, Belmonte, Nograles, Villarín, and Tambunting while at the Senate, Senator Risa Hontiveros has filed Senate Bill No.1141.

The IDP bill may include provisions on local government preparedness, build on lessons learned from the field on early warning systems, and institutionalize coordination mechanisms with traditional leaders, articulate provisions related to resettlement and leverage on the Zamboanga displacement experience, among others.

For a country which is often beset with internal displacement, an IDP Bill is a policy whose time has come. The bill clarifies these rights of IDPs. It introduces a clear mechanism as well as introduces the different agency mandates to prevent and address displacement. There is also a provision which installs a "One-stop shop" for the needs of IDPs as well as provisions on compensation for those whose property has been destroyed, most importantly for those who lost family members. The IDP Bill protects IDPs from those who may violate their rights.

During natural disasters, those who are in the margins and literally living in the fringes of the communities are most susceptible to displacement.

Through the Years

- 2000: Action Against Hunger launched its first humanitarian intervention in the Philippines with lifesaving support to thousands of internally displaced people affected by the all-out-war in Central Mindanao.
- 2001: Launched a 5-year development assistance to vulnerable fishermen in Ilocos Sur.
- 2006: Provided support to the marginalized indigenous peoples of Surigao del Sur through food security and livelihoods project.
- 2008: Piloted a 2-year disaster management project in Typhoon Reming-affected communities in the Bicol region.
- 2009: Responded to the needs of Typhoon Ondoy-affected people in greater Manila, and started the integrated development program in Bicol region.
- 2010: Launched the integrated development project incorporating themes of gender and good governance to address the underlying causes of malnutrition among vulnerable families in Lanao del Sur and Cotabato province.
- 2011: Provided relief assistance to Typhoon Sendong-affected people in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City.
- 2012: Provided emergency assistance to Typhoon Pablo-affected communities in Surigao del Sur and Davao Oriental, and piloted a DRR project in Central Mindanao.
- 2013: Launched the 3-year good governance project in five municipalities of North Cotabato focusing on accountability and transparency of local governments and constructive engagements of civil society organizations in governance processes.

 Typhoon Yolanda made landfall on November 8 in Eastern Visayas and left thousands of casualties and damages. The global emergency pool responded within 78 hours bringing the much-needed critical assistance to survivors.

 Responded to the needs of people-affected by the 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Bohol and the siege in Zamboanga which put thousands of the populations to further vulnerability.
 Provided technical support in Davao City incorporating the integrated management of acute malnutrition in the local health systems.
- 2014: Launched the water, sanitation and hygiene project in Masbate to ensure that one of the most prominent underlying causes of undernutrition can be avoided in the province with high incidence of malnutrition.
- 2015: Started the multi-year project resiliency project in Typhoon Pablo-affected areas of Davao and Surigao.
- 2016: Piloted a resiliency project supporting the DRR management plans of major cities in Metro Manila, and launched emergency response in super typhoon Halma-affected areas in Kalinga and Cagayan.



AGAINST HUNGER



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