



DIFFERENT FROM HOME. Temporary shelters from Action Against Hunger are put to accommodate residents who fled Marawi City due to the armed conflict between military and ISIL-affiliated Maute group.

237,000 PEOPLE STILL DISPLACED FROM MARAWI

By Dale Nelson Divinagracia

One year after the Siege of Marawi started on May 23, 2017, an estimated 237,000 people are still displaced. While an estimated 164,000 people have returned to the city, “ground zero” or the site where the intense fighting occurred still remains closed.

The displaced population, many of which are suffering from psychological stress, are hardly receiving support from the international community.

“We are talking about an intense unprecedented siege in the country that lasted five months that turned Marawi into a ghost town,” said Javad Amoozegar, former Country Director of Action Against Hunger Philippines, who led the emergency response projects when

the armed conflict started.

“Although the battle officially ended on October 23, 2017, seven months later the level of destruction made it impossible to return to ground zero and 237,000 displaced persons [an estimated 360,000 people initially left the city] still live in settlements or in host communities that can barely cover their basic needs: they depend on food aid and water purchased from private suppliers or supplied in tankers,” explained Benedetta Lettera, Desk Officer for Action Against Hunger Philippines.

“The delicate situation was further exacerbated when Tropical Storm Vinta made landfall in the areas where the evacuees were staying on December 22, affecting 175,000

people,” added Amoozegar.

Lettera also mentioned that many farmers or people with peri-urban orchards were displaced, losing their livelihoods and source of food. “The siege completely broke the market dynamics: Marawi was the main commercial center and supplier of goods to the river communities of Lake Lanao. The economic impact of the armed conflict was that it completely destroyed trade,” she explained.

Amoozegar warns of the risk of radicalization among the young people: “In the context of extreme poverty, they will find that joining jihadist groups to be an easy option. What happened in Marawi could resurface at any time or anywhere in the island of Mindanao.” ❖

TASK FORCE BANGON MARAWI AWARDS ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

By Dale Nelson Divinagracia

MARAWI CITY - Action Against Hunger Philippine Mission’s humanitarian efforts in response to the Marawi Siege was recognized during the closing ceremonies of Marawi Week of Peace, a week-long commemoration of heroism and unity during the conflict initiated on May 24, 2018 by Task Force Bangon Marawi, its member

line agencies, and local government units.

The Iligan Base Team, headed by Ivan Ledesma, received a plaque of appreciation from Retired Maj. Gen. Delfin Lorenzana, Secretary of National Defense, and Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr., AFP Chief of Staff.

Action Against Hunger was the only International Non-Government Organization to receive the Task Force Bangon Marawi award. ❖



Action Against Hunger Iligan Base Team



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.

2017 DONORS:



10 TUKLAS INNOVATIONS GET UNDERWAY IN MINDANAO

By Avegail Agata Escano

After a series of reviews done by the Tungo sa Kahandaan ng Pilipinas (TUKLAS) Innovation Lab, 40 out of 72 innovations were chosen for the final review. The final 40 and their ideas are now being supported as TUKLAS Innovators and Innovation Teams.

10 of these 40 innovations are now in the stage of developing its prototype in some Mindanao communities. These prototypes are: 1) DisP(ner) Bag, a weather-proof emergency bag that can be used for multiple purposes, such as a floater or tent; 2) Popularizing Indigenous Early Warning Systems, a system of documenting and popularizing indigenous knowledge on early warning for disaster risk reduction; 3) Bamboo River Embankment, a bamboo dike embankment to mitigate the impact of frequent flooding and soil erosion; 4) Matigam Kaw Iso: Mandaya Children's Active Participation, an innovation on encouraging participation of children from hazard-prone, indigenous people communities in disaster risk management through a child-to-child approach; 5) Formulating Innovative Resiliency

reduction program and manual; 6) Disaster Resiliency Fund, a community - managed, savings program for disaster preparedness activities of coastal communities; 7) PINDOT (People's Initiative and Involvement in the Development of Technology), an offline mobile application for emergency reporting, and mapping of vulnerable families; 8) Promoting Cultural Innovation for Increased Resilience of Children, a facilitation of peace modules and cultural exchange to support the recovery of children affected by armed-conflict; 9) Growing Food, Saving Lives, use of urban gardening as an approach to community building and coping with post-disaster trauma among internally displaced persons from Marawi City; and 10) Early-Warning and Early Response Mechanisms for Armed-Conflict, a community-based mechanism to prevent and mitigate impact of armed-conflict and other human-induced disasters.

In Filipino, 'tuklas' means 'discover', thus the TUKLAS Innovation Lab aims to identify innovative ideas and entrepreneurs across the



One of the main causes of hunger is conflict. It displaces people not only from their homes, but from their livelihood as well – which eventually leads into food insecurity.

After the fighting started in Marawi, Action Against Hunger was one of the first organisations to respond, opening a field base in Iligan, as well as working with displaced families on the eastern side of Lake Lanao from our base in Cotabato. We are focused in providing assistance to improve access to water and sanitation among those families displaced by the conflict, as well as providing livelihood support. Many of the families we are currently assisting come from the most affected area during the conflict. Although the fighting finished some time ago, it will not be possible for many of them to return home for a long time.

I arrived as Country Director for the Philippine Mission in March 2018 and am new to the humanitarian needs of the country. Previously I was working in South Sudan, the situation of which was different. But in any case or context, Action Against Hunger will do whatever it takes to help the marginalized and most at risk.



country. Hosted by Plan International and in partnership with Action Against Hunger, CARE*, and the Citizens Disaster Response Centre (CDRC) which is a local civil society organization (CSO), TUKLAS has a collective experience of 174



MOVING UP TOWARDS RESILIENCY. Barangay representatives attend a training on financial literacy and community savings linked to disaster risk reduction.

MAGUINDANAO, NORTH COTABATO LEVEL UP IN ZOD

By Adrienne Cabalanan

COTABATO CITY – Seven municipalities in the provinces of Maguindanao and North Cotabato are declared as Zero Open Defecation (ZOD) in January 15, 2018.

The municipalities of Arakan, President Roxas, Paglat, South Upi, Upi, General Salipada K. Pendatun, and Datu Abdullah Sangki are declared as ZOD because 100% of the households in each of its barangays now have access to sanitary toilets, clean water and soap for hand washing. All of the barangays in each municipalities contributed to the total of 184 barangays in Maguindanao and North Cotabato earlier declared as open-defecation free.

"The ZOD declaration is one of the greatest achievements we've ever had. For us health workers, it is one of the greatest contributions we can offer to decrease communicable diseases, diarrhea cases and other environmental sanitation problems," said Rebecca Tenorio who serves as a nurse in the Rural Health Unit of South Upi, Maguindanao for 14 years.

The ZOD program is one of the flagship programs of the Department of Health that aims to declare the entire Philippines as ZOD in 2022. Action Against Hunger has been supporting the

implementation of the ZOD program since 2012 through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)-funded project called Scaling up Sustainable and Resilient Basic Sanitation, Safe Water, and Improved Hygiene Behaviour.

The project aims to deliver clean water and improve practices on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene to households, schools and day care centers that make use of the Community Led Total Sanitation, a participatory strategy that facilitates the community's desire to stop open defecation. The campaign has been gathering households and using "shock, shame, and disgust" to raise awareness on the negative effects of open defecation, especially among children, and create a demand for hygienic toilet facilities.

"Action Against Hunger and UNICEF gave us confidence in advocating our campaign with the knowledge and learning they imparted to us. Truly, we believe we can do it on our own way," added Tenorio.

As of writing, Action Against Hunger continues stop open defecation in more barangays within Maguindanao and North Cotabato to achieve 100% ZOD. ❖



MOVE UP HEADS TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

By Philipp Danao

QUEZON CITY – Resilience through Financial Freedom and Preparedness!

The Moving Urban Poor Communities towards Resilience Project (MOVE UP) holds its Training of Trainers on Financial Literacy and Community Savings Groups, Torre Venezia, Quezon City, March 6-9, 2018.

Attended by around 60 participants representing barangays from MOVE UP target cities Malabon, Quezon City, Valenzuela, Caloocan and Navotas, the training aims to boost the understanding and skills of target communities on financial planning, insurance and investments while linking it to disaster risk reduction and management.

As an outcome, a pool of trainers is formed to deliver financial literacy sessions and form community savings groups in barangays.

The training is one of the series of projects of MOVE UP which seeks to demonstrate systems and models of Alternative Temporary Shelter, resilient livelihoods and risk transfer modalities to improve the disaster risk reduction and management in MOVE UP target cities in Metro Manila.

Funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid under its Humanitarian Action Plan for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, MOVE UP is an urban disaster risk reduction project implemented by a consortium composed of Action Against Hunger Philippines, Plan International Philippines and CARE Nederland with its local partner, ACCORD Inc. ❖

SCALING UP SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT BASIC SANITATION, SAFE WATER, AND IMPROVED HYGIENE BEHAVIOUR [in numbers]



3 Covered provinces in the program: North Cotabato, Maguindanao and Masbate

738,566 Total population in focus

106

Masons trained for production of community-based sanitation facilities

730

Trained barangay health workers and health providers



180 Barangays declared as Zero Open Defecation

VOICES OF MARAWI

On May 23, 2017, conflict broke out in Marawi City between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and armed fighters from two ISIL-affiliated groups – Abu Sayyaf and the Maute.

This led to a 5-month siege that destroyed most of the city's central commercial district and forced 350,000 people to evacuate their homes. 5% of the evacuees stayed in evacuation centers while 95% choose to stay with relatives and friends in nearby communities. The host communities where the evacuees stayed were caught unprepared with the massive influx of people. Food, health, water, sanitation and other basic services for the displaced population were severely compromised.

Action Against Hunger personnel were on the ground two days after the conflict started to assess the situation and determine the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected population. Emergency Response projects in Food & Nutrition, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Food Security and Livelihoods, and Shelter started on June 1, 2017 and continues to this day.

These are the voices of the people who endured the Siege of Marawi through resilience and determination.

A MOTHER'S MILK

By Matet Norbe

Idalia Beruar, 33, nursed her 2-month old daughter Queenie while her husband Ibrahim fed their two boys in one of the makeshift living quarters at the gymnasium-turned-evacuation center in Barangay Sta. Elena, Iligan City. After all they had been through, she was glad that all four of them were alive and well.

She was four months pregnant when they fled the armed conflict in Marawi City. With one child on her husband's back and the other one on his arms, they took the route which passed through the forest because gunshots were heard from the highways. The road was rough with rocks and slippery with mud. The heat and the tedious hike soon made them thirsty. Having brought no water with them, they resorted to drinking from any water source they could find along the path.

After walking for six hours they found themselves in the municipality of Tagoloan, Lanao del Norte. It was there that their two-year-old son Delmar got sick.

"He was so pale and he kept on throwing up and had diarrhea. We stopped a car and asked the owner to take us to a hospital because I feared that our son might not last the journey," she said.

At the Iligan City hospital, the doctor who attended to Delmar saved him from severe dehydration. He was discharged a few days later and joined his family at the evacuation center where they found a space to live in. The experience made Idalia careful on what her children ate and drank.

Fortunately, their first month in the evacuation center fell on the celebration of the holy Ramadan. Cooked food and purified drinking water were donated by their fellow Muslims in the city.

After that month, they relied mainly on the relief goods from government agencies and other organizations responding to the crisis. The food donations, however, were mostly canned goods and instant noodles. Idalia was concerned that, with her being pregnant and her children still less than five years old, they were

not getting the right nutrition they needed.

"I suffered from urinary tract infection – maybe it was because of too much salt intake from the canned goods. My children also got thinner as the days went by," she shared.

Starting September 2017, Action Against Hunger, with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, bought food aid kits for families with pregnant women, lactating mothers and with children aged less than five years old. Idalia

remembered the sack of good quality rice, mung beans, dried fish, fruits and vegetables included among the many items in the food aid kit they received.

"I cooked the mung beans with the dried fish and moringa leaves. My children ate it well with the delicious rice they gave us," she shared.

She and other pregnant women and lactating mothers were also encouraged by Action Against Hunger personnel to attend a seminar on breastfeeding and infant and children care practices funded by Spanish Cooperation for International Development. Idalia was grateful that she had breastfed all her children because she found out in the seminar that breastmilk is the most nutritious food for babies. She and her co-participants were also taught to massage their breasts to produce more milk when the baby is suckling from them.

"I was amazed also that the mothers who trained us brought their babies to the seminar, breastfed them, bathe them and changed their diapers for all of us to see," Idalia said.

When she delivered her baby Princess on November 2, 2017, Idalia applied what she learned in the seminar. She made it a habit to hydrate with water and vegetable soup. She also maintained taking ferrous sulfate and Vitamin A to keep herself strong and healthy. Today, Princess is a healthy two-month-old, weighing six kilos and is always at her mother's side.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority were conducting skills training for livelihood at the evacuation center Idalia's family was situated. Even though she was taking care of two boys and a newborn, Idalia grabbed the opportunity to sign up for these courses for livelihood opportunities while they were indefinitely staying at the evacuation center. Having seen the mothers who trained them during the child-care seminar bringing their babies while working, she brought Princess along with her when she attended the training classes.

"At first, it was difficult because she's already heavy. But I wanted to nurse her any time she needed to." ❖

In photo: Idalia proudly introduces Queenie, her 2-month old baby.



KEEPING THE SCHOOL CLEAN

By Matet Norbe

Built in 1965 for the education of children of farming families from the remote areas of Pantao Ragat, Aloon Primary School's problems on water, sanitation and hygiene are as old as the school.

Norphia Ombawa, 33, graduated from the school and presently is a teacher there. She observed that her pupils were experiencing the same situation she had as an elementary student before. There were no water facilities in the campus because the water tank for rainwater storage was already rotting in rust with age. They were using plastic containers to catch water when it rains. During the dry season, they would have to fetch water from a spring six kilometers away.

"Our toilet which was made of wood collapsed a few years back so we didn't have one to use. Our pupils would go under the trees at the back of the school to urinate and sometimes to defecate," Norphia narrated.

With the line of trees just a few meters from their classroom, sometimes the smell of feces would go through their windows and distract their classes. She was worried that their exposure to germs would get them sick.

The local government responded to the water concern by connecting the school pipes to the water storage facility in the mosque across the street. But the lack of a toilet for the students to use was still a problem and open defecation continued.

This situation became more difficult when several families displaced due to the Marawi conflict took refuge in Pantao Ragat in May 2017. The number of pupils spiked up with children from the displaced population enrolling at the school. They went back to having less water, if none at all because the mosque's water tank was also shared with the refugees.

Action Against Hunger's mobile team was working in the area to answer the needs of the displaced population and got word of the school's concern. Funded by the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, the organization rehabilitated the water system in the area, ensuring a constant supply of water for the school, the residents and the influx of refugees. Action Against Hunger also constructed a two-door concrete toilet and a tap stand for handwashing, toothbrushing and drinking water in the school grounds.

An Action Against Hunger staff held a series of hygiene promotion sessions to the

students, teaching them the importance of proper sanitation and hygiene to avoid the spread of diseases. These sessions also trained them on the proper way to hand wash and brush their teeth. After these sessions, each student was given a hygiene kit that contained soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste and towels.

Norphia integrated the messages and techniques from these sessions in her classes and continued to remind them about the importance of maintaining cleanliness in the surroundings and themselves.

"They became conscious on their hygiene and the cleanliness of the school. Their parents also told me that they brought this practice at home," Norphia proudly shared. ❖



HYGIENE. Norphia explains to her students the importance of clean surroundings.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

By Matet Norbe

The village of Paling in Piagapo, Lanao del Sur was among one of the communities where hundreds of people displaced due to the Marawi Conflict sought refuge. Being one of the poorest

in the municipality, its local government headed by Barangay Chairman Dimalumping Matanog was caught unprepared to address the problems that came with hosting the displaced families.

"They needed help and it is in our culture as Maranaos to come together as a village to help them in their time of need," Chairman Matanog said.

However, their distance from the town center hindered the delivery of relief goods when they were badly needed. Evacuees who chose to stay with their relatives than in the evacuation centers felt left out from receiving aid. They soon became weak with hunger and sick with diarrhea.

"Our water here was contaminated and we already had problems with diarrhea amongst the residents, even before the arrival of the bakwits (evacuees). The nearest health center is 2 KM from here," he said.

Action Against Hunger Team assessed the situation and found out that the swell in population exacerbated a fragile sanitation infrastructure: the well where the community sourced its water needed to be rehabilitated; only a few households had their own toilets, and if they did, these were open pit latrines that could possibly contaminate the groundwater. The lack of toilets meant that a lot of people defecated in the open – a practice that would easily spread diseases.

With funding from the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Action Against Hunger launched a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project to address the concerns of the host community and the evacuees.

Action Against Hunger WASH Engineers launched the project by rehabilitating the community's exposed water source and covering it to stop contamination. The engineers trained the barangay officials proper maintenance of the water source to ensure the availability of clean water for the residents.

Paling is a rural barangay composed of sitios that are far from the village center...

Turn to page 6



SANITATION. The people of Paling, Piagapo help rehabilitate their community by conducting a clean-up drive.



DIFFERENTLY ABLED. Trained members of Bayabas Special Persons Organization (BASPO) are packing mushrooms which they cultured

VALUING PWD'S CAPACITIES IN MANAGING RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

By Vina Menez

Epitacio, 53 years old and a father of three, has been living with optimism despite his physical deformities. He is a polio survivor, a disease that attacks the nervous system leading to paralysis.

Despite his condition, Epitacio was determined to live like a normal person and strived hard to provide food and other basic needs to his family. He is an elected councilor of Barangay Baleta and the federation president of Bayabas Special Persons Organization (BASPO).

"My husband is a good provider because he accepts carpentry works, shoe repair and did hair cutting just to provide our needs. Even both of us are working, still it is difficult to catch up the needs of our children," says Morninggrace, wife of Epitacio.

As voice of persons-with-disabilities, he started the lobbying for an income generating project for BASPO years ago. He talked with government agencies and private organizations about the condition of his members and their hopes to have an extra source of income. But because of limited funds, his requests were denied.

Action Against Hunger introduced the concept of resilient livelihood under the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management - Climate Change Adaptation (DRRM-CCA) project funded by AECID. BASPO was chosen based on their identified needs, existing capacities, availability of managed projects and recommendations of the Local Chief Executive.

"It was our first time to be involved in discussion like this asking about our needs, views and opinions on our desired livelihood. We appreciate consultations and sharing like these as we realized that we are part of the community also, not as hopeless people but capable individuals that can contribute in any community undertakings," explains Rene Dumanhog, treasurer of BASPO.

After exploring various livelihood options suitable for persons-with-disabilities, a Community-based Mushroom Production was chosen and formally started last April 19, 2018. As pilot, 30 members and immediate family members of BASPO were trained on tissue culture, spawn making, substrate making, bagging, monitoring and harvesting.

To date, an aggregate volume of 13 kilos have been harvested out of the 390 fruiting bags and gained about Php2,600.00. Members including Epitacio are appreciative of their efforts because they are beginning to savour the fruits of their labor. Initial profit was used for motorcycle maintenance that has been mobilized for rice straw gathering and other operational expenses like replenishment of fruiting bags.

To ensure resiliency during emergencies, a Community-Managed Savings and Credit Association (CoMSCA) was adopted to encourage the culture of savings among members. Part of the savings mechanism is to establish a social fund that will be pulled out in times of need aside from the individual savings.

Epitacio further says that "I am hopeful that this livelihood project will help us augment our income to and to increase our participation as vulnerable group in disaster risk reduction activities of the municipality."

Action Against Hunger is working closely with the Municipal Mayor's Office, Municipal Agriculture Office and Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office to expand the production facility particularly the construction of laboratory, incubation and sterilization areas. Trainings on financial management, product development and roll-out of savings mechanism are also pipelined to be implemented by month of May 2018 aside from marketing and product development activities. ❖

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

...with consultation with the barangay officials, the engineers identified 3 areas where a 2-door toilet facility with a water tap stand and its ownwater reservoir would be built. Having these WaSH facilities in several areas would make access more convenient for the community.

As their counterpart in the project, the barangay officials organized a group from the residents and the evacuees to provide labor. Guided by Action Against Hunger WaSH Engineers, the laborers finished construction on March 6, 2018.

One WaSH facility was built near the village's mosque. "The worshippers would use the water from the tap stands for their ablution," Chairman Matanog Said "We also have events here in the barangay and many people who attend could now use the toilets. Families whose house are nearby that don't have toilets could now use what we built. Even transients who passed by our roads could use the toilet or drink from our tap stand."

An important component of the project was promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices in the community. "There is this concept of Positive Deviance that aims for behavioral changes within the community," WASH Project head Samera Monib explains "We do this by identifying and recruiting individuals - mothers, fathers or any members of the community who has expressed understanding and commitment to change the WASH situation in their respective communities - and have them pass on their good practices to other families. They were actively participating in their community activities and were recommended by the Barangay Leaders and the Rural Health Unit. We call them Community Health Promoters and give them training on WASH participatory approach on hygiene promotion."

Junaidah Matanog, one of the twelve Community Health Promoters, was encouraged to volunteer because she saw how some of the children in the village became vulnerable to skin diseases, diarrhea and even dengue due to poor hygiene. "We try to promote these to our neighbors but in casual conversations only so that it doesn't come as offensive to them. Most of the volunteers are young mothers so it gets awkward for us to lecture older people," She said.

She and her fellow health promoters taught the children to make proper hygiene a habit. They coached the children on the proper way to wash their hands, brush their teeth, and cut their fingernails. They also instructed them to bathe regularly. In addition, the promoters also spearheaded clean-up drives involving the whole community to prevent mosquito production that could spread bacteria. ❖

RESTAURANTS AGAINST HUNGER

Dishes that Feed More

By Kristine Arellano

Chefs, restaurateurs, and foodies will once again get the chance to fight hunger this 2018 through Restaurants Against Hunger, a campaign that aims to create awareness and raise funds for projects fighting hunger in the Philippines.



Ambassador Chefs Jackie and Roland Laudico

The mechanics of the campaign is simple: from October 1 to December 1, participating restaurants offer dishes from their menu which are tagged as 'dishes that feed more.' Every time a customer orders a special dish, a portion of the profit goes to Action Against Hunger projects in various areas in the Philippines.

"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," stated Chef Roland "Lau" Laudico, the campaign's ambassador in the Philippines.

This international movement started during the World Food Day in France in 1998. Because of the success of the campaign, this was later launched in the United Kingdom, Canada, Spain and the United States. As of writing, 13 countries around the world, including Italy, France, Colombia, Bolivia, India, Germany, Guatemala and the Philippines, are implementing it.

"The campaign is now on its 3rd year in the Philippines," said Dale Nelson Divinagracia, Fundraising Manager for Action Against Hunger. "We initially launched it in 2016 coinciding with the burgeoning Manila food scene. Amidst the growth, we knew that chefs and restaurant owners were looking for ways to help stop hunger in the country. The campaign was the perfect avenue for them to extend their reach."

In 2017, a total of 103 restaurants joined the campaign and raised Php 683,737.00. The previous edition was supported by LTB Chef's Association and sponsored by McCormick Culinary Philippines. Collaborators were Zomato and Spin Manila, Inc.

"I'm on board for Restaurants Against Hunger, I hope that you will come on board too!" said Marla Moran, owner of Café Mediterranean and Wild Ginger. ❖

2016 AND 2017 PARTICIPANTS:



RACE AGAINST HUNGER KICKS OFF IN THE PHILIPPINES

By Khristine Arellano

The school year 2017-2018 was made a lot more exciting for students in the Philippines with the launch of the Race Against Hunger. Promoted by Action Against Hunger and present in 28 countries, the campaign aims to create awareness on the problem of malnutrition to young people and empower them to help families suffering from hunger.

The campaign has three key moments. First is the awareness-raising session where an Action Against Hunger staff goes to the school to discuss the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the Philippines. Second, the students look for sponsors who will be willing to pledge an amount for each lap they would finish during the race. Students will collect this after the race. Lastly, the school puts up a race where students run for as many laps as they can.

"An important part of the campaign is creating awareness among the young people about the problem of hunger," said Suresh Murugesu, Technical Coordinator of Action Against Hunger, "through them, they will spread our advocacy to their immediate family – parents, cousins, aunts, uncles, even friends. Such engagement will eventually lead to commitments from concerned citizens to support our projects in fighting hunger all throughout the Philippines."

Five schools in Manila initiated the Race Against Hunger in their campuses: Muntinlupa School for Child Development, Philippine Cultural College - Tondo, The King's School Manila, Philippine Cultural College - Caloocan, and the United Campus of Mahatma Gandhi and Australian International School.

For Elizabeth Carandang, Principal of MSCD, the race was a great opportunity for their faculty members and students to extend their help to other communities.

"We were excited because we are not only reaching the barangays near to us but we are reaching out to other barangays who need our help. The children are excited to learn that they can also help little children by just participating in this race," said Carandang. ❖



RUN FOR THE PHILIPPINES. Students from MG and Australian School run during the Race Against Hunger Campaign in January 2018. Photo courtesy of Mikey Lorin



Muntinlupa School for Child Development, Muntinlupa



Philippine Cultural College, Tondo



Philippine Cultural College - Annex, Caloocan



King's School, Parañaque

A RUNNER'S PROFILE

She is not your average runner.

That is the best way to describe **Katrina Candice "KC" Veran**, a Grade 5 student from Muntinlupa School for Child Development (MSCD) where the first Race Against Hunger in the Philippines was held in July 15, 2017.

KC is the 10-year old record holder for the highest amount a student was able to raise in sponsorship amounting to Php16,500.00 in pledges. Action Against Hunger interviewed her on how she did it.

What was your motivation in getting a lot of sponsors to pledge?

KC: The reason I was motivated was because I really wanted to help the children who were hungry, who did not have food and who have a lot of needs.

Who were your sponsors?

KC: My Lolo, my Titas, my cousins, and my Mommy & Daddy. I would tell them that by sponsoring me, they will be helping people who do not have food.

How many laps did you finish?

KC: 12 laps I think... No, it was 14 laps.

14 laps! Wow that is great! How did you feel after the race?

KC: This is the first time I've joined a charity event and I felt happy because I knew that I would be helping people in need.

We will be having other Race Against Hunger events in 2018. What tips can you offer other children in getting sponsors?

KC: Whenever a relative visits the house, I would immediately ask them to sponsor me on how many laps I can finish. Just go and find sponsors – **anybody can be a sponsor!**

❖

