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Humanitarian Aid



CARE



ACCORD

# EARTH

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS FOR RESILIENCE AND TRANSFORMATIVE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS

START DATE

DECEMBER 31, 2024

DURATION

24 MONTHS

The EARTH project is an innovative initiative tackling the negative environmental impacts from humanitarian interventions through the integration of environmental safeguarding and restoration strategies in the cities of Zamboanga and Malabon in the Philippines. This two-year community-led project aims to strengthen urban community resilience by embedding people-centered, multisectoral nature-based solutions, EARTH merges advocacy and implementation of strategies in mangrove reforestation, solid waste management, water conservation, and sustainable livelihoods - while reducing environmental risks and restoring the ecosystems.

### WHY EARTH PROJECT ?

Frequent extreme weather events, intensified by climate change, have worsened urban vulnerabilities and environmental degradation in the target areas. These events, requiring extensive and sustained humanitarian interventions, have significantly contributed to ecosystem deterioration.

Zamboanga City faces high levels of plastic leakage along its extensive coastline and the degradation of its mangrove ecosystems, while Malabon City struggles with clogged waterways. Improper solid waste management, urban flooding, and the deterioration of coastal ecosystems have further increased risks for vulnerable populations.

The EARTH project aims to address these interconnected challenges by combining advocacy with the implementation of innovative solutions, including mangrove reforestation, improved solid waste management, water conservation, and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

**This project, supported by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), is implemented by Action Against Hunger, CARE Philippines and ACCORD Inc.**

Together, we aim to restore ecosystems, mitigate environmental risks, and promote resilience among affected communities.

### WHAT TO EXPECT ?

- **Reduce environmental risks** and address ecosystem degradation caused by humanitarian crises.
- **Build community resilience** through sustainable, nature-based solutions.
- **Integrate environmental safeguarding** and restoration strategies into humanitarian responses.

#### BENEFICIARIES

**18,482** INDIVIDUALS  
TARGETED

#### INTERVENTION AREAS



##### MALABON CITY (METRO MANILA)

Targeting 3 hectares of urban flood-prone areas to mitigate risks and improve community resilience.

##### ZAMBOANGA CITY (REGION IX)

Focused 3 hectares on urban coastal areas prone to ecosystem degradation and environmental hazards.

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## OUR OBJECTIVES



### MANGROVE REFORESTATION

We aim to protect coastal areas and enhance biodiversity by establishing and managing mangrove nurseries and reforestation initiatives.



### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

We aim to reduce pollution and improve urban living conditions by implementing ecological solid waste management (SWM) strategies aligned with R.A. 9003 to reduce pollution and improve urban living conditions.



### SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

We will support urban gardening, compost production, and other green livelihood opportunities to empower vulnerable groups.



### COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND SENSITIZATION

We will mobilize and train local communities, including the formation of Community Savings Groups (CSG). These groups will serve as financial support structures and advocates for environmental sustainability.



### AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

The project will call for multi-stakeholders' meetings to address significant limitations in coordinating SWM strategies to restore ecosystems among various stakeholders.



## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



### ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

Action Against Hunger is a global humanitarian organization that takes decisive action against the causes and effects of hunger. For over 40 years, Action Against Hunger has been a leading organization dedicated to combating hunger worldwide. With a long track record of emergency, early recovery, and development work in the country for over two decades, our programs directly support the population, communities, and local government units affected by crises and development bottlenecks, ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities to lead more fulfilling lives.



### CARE

Founded in 1945 with the creation of the CARE Package®, CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. In 2024, CARE worked in 121 countries, reaching 53 million people through 1,450 projects. In the Philippines, CARE has been supporting the most vulnerable communities during times of crisis while also fostering community resilience and development since 1949.



### ACCORD

ACCORD Inc. is a Philippine-based NGO with a vision of creating a safe, inclusive, and resilient society free from poverty and inequity. Prioritizing the most vulnerable—children, women, older persons, and persons with the disabilities—ACCORD promotes community participation in all its initiatives. Through its work, ACCORD helps strengthen local capacities and resilience while assisting communities in adapting to emerging risks.



## OUR ACTIVITIES



### MANGROVE REFORESTATION

Our activities for mangrove reforestation will involve nursery management, seed collection, planting, and site maintenance to ensure long-term sustainability. To support these efforts, we will integrate rainwater harvesting systems into the nurseries, providing a reliable water source even during dry periods.

#### Seed Collection

Healthy seedlings from mature trees in similar climates will be collected, with a target of 15,000 indigenous mangrove propagules (5,000 per hectare).

#### Mangrove nurseries

We will cultivate mangrove seedlings until they are ready for transplantation into coastal target areas, ensuring the sites have rainwater harvesting facilities and are protected from strong waves, and are located near the seed source.

#### Planting/Replanting

The target is to plant 5,000 propagules per hectare.

#### Site Maintenance and Monitoring

As part of site maintenance, the Community Savings Groups will monitor the water levels if the mangrove nursery.



### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

This will involve establishing Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) to enhance waste segregation and recycling efforts, as well as promoting compost production at the community level to encourage sustainable waste practices.

#### Advocacy

The project will advocate for the renewal of ecological solid waste management plans and the organization of existing MRFs with treatment capabilities, while establishing new MRFs in barangays with limited or no waste processing equipment.

#### Recyclable waste

Recyclable waste will be collected and brought to existing or re-established MRFs at the community level.

#### Community Composting

Biodegradable waste will be used for compost production.



## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

We will promote sustainable livelihoods by supporting urban gardening, compost production, and other green livelihood opportunities to empower vulnerable groups. This will include initiatives like "Pinakbet" vegetable gardens, which will provide both nutritional and economic benefits, fostering food security and sustainable income sources for communities.

### Cash Program

The intended cash incentives to be given for construction of the mangrove nursery and rainwater harvesting facilities will be disbursed through the Community Savings Group members.

### Urban or containerized gardens

Both targeted cities have houses built close to each other with limited open spaces. Therefore, participating households will be supported in establishing container gardens near their homes, including assistance in selecting vegetables to plant and in fertilizing them.



## COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND SENSITIZATION

Community Savings Groups will be established as a mechanism to effectively manage activities in coordination with the Bureau of Agriculture, the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO). These groups will serve as financial structures and help coordinate and oversee the implementation of project initiatives.

### Community Savings Group

The project will facilitate the creation of CSGs composed of at least 60 'waste warriors' as members of the CSGs.

### Capacity building

We will conduct a series of capacity-building activities, including financial literacy, CSG formation and maintenance, mangrove nursery/reforestation management, waste management, and water conservation.

### Mobilization

Multiple waste clean-ups will be organized as part of the SWM efforts led by the CSGs to prepare the mangrove reforestation sites.



## AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

We will enhance coordination in SWM strategies by conducting multi-stakeholder meetings. These meetings will address key limitations in collaborating across various sectors, focusing on strategies to restore ecosystems and improve waste management practices among stakeholders.

### Community Assemblies

Assemblies will be held to discuss the status of solid waste management in the community as well as practices and challenges encountered.

### Advocacy

The project will engage with community members aside from reproducing and disseminating relevant behavior change communication materials.