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EARTH ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS FOR RESILIENCE AND TRANSFORMATIVE HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS

START DATE DECEMBER 31, 2024

DURATION 24 MONTHS

The EARTH project is a pilot 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 strengthens 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.

BENEFICIARIES

18,482 INDIVIDUALS TARGETED

INTERVENTION AREAS



MALABON CITY (METRO MANILA)

Targeting on urban coastal areas prone to flooding, ecosystem degradation and environmental hazards.

ZAMBOANGA CITY (REGION IX)

Focusing on urban flood-prone resettlement communities resulting from the Zamboanga Siege 2013 to mitigate environmental risks and improve coastal resilience.

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, especially in resettlement communities resulting from the Zamboanga Siege in 2013. Meanwhile, Malabon City struggles with clogged waterways. In this two areas, improper solid waste management, urban flooding, and the deterioration of coastal ecosystems have further increased risks for vulnerable populations.

The EARTH project addresses 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, funded by the European Union Humanitarian Aid, is implemented by Action Against Hunger, CARE Philippines and ACCORD Inc. Together, we support in restoring ecosystems, mitigate environmental risks, and promote urban 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 urban community resilience and restoration strategies into humanitarian responses.



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OUR OBJECTIVES



MANGROVE REFORESTATION

Protect coastal areas and enhance biodiversity by establishing and managing mangrove nurseries and reforestation initiatives.



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Reduce pollution and improve urban living conditions by implementing ecological solid waste management (SWM) strategies to reduce pollution and improve urban living conditions, aligned with Republic Act 9003, also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. This law aims to reduce waste in the Philippines and mandates local governments to reduce waste by 25% through recycling, reusing, and reducing waste.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Support urban gardening, compost production, and other green livelihood opportunities to empower vulnerable groups.



COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND SENSITIZATION

Mobilize and train local communities, including the formation of Community Savings Groups (CSG). These groups serve as governance structures to support the coordination and technical strategies of the project and advocates for environmental sustainability.



AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

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

Seed Collection

We are collecting healthy seedlings from mature trees in similar climates, with a target of 15,000 indigenous mangrove propagules (5,000 per hectare).

Mangrove nurseries

Mangrove seedlings are cultivated 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

5,000 propagules per hectare are planted.

Site Maintenance and Monitoring

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



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) are established to enhance waste segregation and recycling efforts, as well as promoting compost production at the city level to encourage sustainable waste diversification.

Advocacy

We are advocating 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 is collected and brought to existing or re-established MRFs at the city level.

Community Composting

Biodegradable waste suitable for compost production will be utilized.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

To promote sustainable livelihoods, we are supporting urban gardening, compost production, and other green livelihood opportunities to empower vulnerable groups. This includes initiatives like vegetable gardens, which provide both nutritional and economic benefits, fostering food security and sustainable income sources for communities.

Cash Program

Intended cash incentives for construction of the mangrove nursery and disburse rainwater harvesting facilities are distributed 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, we are supporting participating households 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 are established as a mechanism to effectively manage activities in coordination with the City Agriculture Office, the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO). These groups serve as governance structures to support the coordination and technical strategies of the project.

Community Savings Group

The EARTH project is facilitating the creation of CSGs, which are composed of at least 60 “waste/eco warriors” as members per group.

Capacity building

We are conducting 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 are being organized as part of the SWM efforts led by the CSGs to prepare the mangrove reforestation sites.



AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

To improve community awareness, we are enhancing coordination in SWM strategies by conducting multi-stakeholder meetings. These meetings address key limitations in collaborating across various sectors, focusing on strategies to restore ecosystems and improve waste management practices among stakeholders.

Community Assemblies

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

Advocacy

Overall, EARTH Project is reproducing and disseminating information, education, and communication materials while actively engaging with community members to promote behavior change.