



OXFAM IN THE PHILIPPINES

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



OXFAM

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



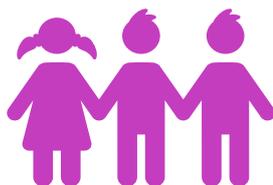
88
BARANGAYS
were engaged in the digital financial inclusion platform through the IAFFORD Project.



1,593 **FOOD AND KIDDIE PACKS**
containing rice and other items were distributed to around 7,600 individuals living in the hard-to-reach areas of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.



552
CARE CHAMPIONS
committed to raise awareness on issues of gender equality and unpaid care work. More than 16,100 women, men, girls, and boys participated in family dialogues and community activities focusing on unpaid care work in Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.



4,765
DISPLACED CHILDREN
joined play therapy sessions with light feeding support organized by UnYPhil-Women conducted in six evacuation centers near Marawi City.



27,399
RECIPIENTS OF PREPAID CARDS

were registered in the digital financial inclusion platform through the IAFFORD Project.



2,587
DISPLACED FAMILIES

benefited from increased access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities provided by the Humanitarian Response Consortium (HRC) at the height of the Marawi siege, or from June to October 2017.



603
INDIVIDUALS

or 490 women, 47 men, and 66 young people from 41 communities in Central Mindanao created organic backyards and communal gardens to produce nutritious food for their families.



1,825
IDP FAMILIES FROM MARAWI

from 19 evacuation centers and home-based sites received kits containing kitchen essentials – which included plates, spoon and fork sets, insulated water jugs, and cooking pots – through the HRC.



128,633
INDIVIDUALS

or 21,167 families affected by the Marawi crisis have received timely and appropriate aid through the Marawi response partnership.



10
IDP RADIO PATROLLERS

were trained to participate in the S'Bang Ka Marawi (Rise, Marawi!) Radio Station to expand information gathering and dissemination to areas with large numbers of IDPs through the partnership of Oxfam and IDEALS Inc.



76
MOBILE LEGAL MISSIONS

provided access to legal advice and secured identification documents for 12,000 displaced individuals across 41 municipalities in areas affected by the Marawi siege.



12,147
WOMEN & GIRLS

benefited from repair of water systems and use of time labor saving equipment, such as water containers, motorcycles with side cars, gas stoves, solar panels, and rain harvesters, among others.



More of our work can be viewed on our website:
<https://philippines.oxfam.org/>

DEAR FRIENDS,

Allow me to start on a personal note: 2017 was especially significant to me because I came full circle in Oxfam. It was the year I returned as Country Director, a post I had left almost two decades ago. I could not have imagined that I would be this happy to be back! It felt like coming home, for that is what Oxfam has been to me, if home is that special place where one's values and beliefs about oneself and the world are shaped. Working in Oxfam, over the years, has strengthened my belief in justice, and the power of people to imagine and create a better world.

Yes, for sure, much has changed in Oxfam. To start with, in 2017, Oxfam's office in the Philippines – until then, a branch office of Oxfam Great Britain – transitioned into Oxfam in the Philippines. This change signifies that our presence in this country is one on behalf of the entire Oxfam confederation, which is comprised of 20 affiliates across the globe.

It was also in 2017 when Oxfam in the Philippines launched its strategic partnership model which affirms the belief that development can only be genuinely and sustainably achieved through deep and robust partnerships with a diverse array of development actors. Such an affirmation goes beyond the desire to be more effective and impactful. It also has profound implications on the organizational culture and behaviours we wish to manifest – that of listening, humility, and accountability.

These were certainly put to the test in 2017, when Oxfam was widely rebuked for its handling of sexual exploitation and abuse cases. This was a challenge that shook us to our core; but made us even more resolute in our zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse, and, more fundamentally, to put gender at the heart of our work and our ways of working.

We have certainly tried to do this during the year – whether it was in highlighting the gender-differentiated needs in our humanitarian response to the Marawi conflict; championing the recognition and eventual redistribution of the unpaid care and domestic work borne disproportionately by women; ensuring that women are able to realize their reproductive health rights through better access to information and services; raising awareness about how early, forced marriages deprive girl children of the opportunity to fulfil their potentials; supporting women farmers in sustainable agriculture practices as part of their effort to address the changing climate, and many more.

While much may have changed in Oxfam, initiatives like those I mention above show that we have remained steadfast in our vision: a just world without poverty; a world in which people can influence decisions that affect their lives, enjoy their rights, and assume their responsibilities; a world in which everyone is valued and treated equally.

The journey of the past year would not have been possible without our partners and supporters. We thank each and every one of you, and look forward to another year of working together with even more resoluteness and courage.



Maria Rosario 'Lot' Felizco
Country Director, Oxfam in the Philippines

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ABOUT THE COVER: Husband and wife, Romulo and Pastora Samson, do laundry together at a local river and public laundry site in Barangay Santo Nino, Quinapondan, Eastern Samar. Access to water is a challenge in the fishing community. The river is their main source of water and requires several trips for water collection and laundry. Romulo and Pastora share laundry and household tasks, especially when Romulo is not fishing out at sea. (Photo: Aurelie Marrier d'Unienville/Oxfam)



OUR 2018 ANNUAL REPORT IS ONLINE

Oxfam in the Philippines is grateful for your partnership. To review the progress you helped us make last year in the fight against poverty and injustice, please find a digital copy of this annual report here: <https://philippines.oxfam.org/>

FOCUS ON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Three years ago, we affirmed our strategic priorities under three strategic goals: Economic Justice, Conflict Transformation and Rights in Crisis. These goals reflect our understanding of the many forms of poverty, a belief in how to effectively fight the conditions that make poverty thrive, and to bring about transformative change on the ground.

The work pursued under these goals was driven by our global vision to increase our impact, relevance, and ability to influence the spheres in which we work in. We remain fuelled by our desire to be more accountable, as well as efficient, and to earn our legitimacy in joining our voices with those of people living in poverty.

To work towards this vision, we embraced a theory of change that targeted the transformation of power relations. This theory of change highlights the transformational potential of shifting power dynamics between powerful actors and poor and marginalized communities, with the overarching aim of co-creating a new set of relationships that feeds progressive change.

So we began to increase our partner-based engagements. Steering away from direct implementation, we began to purposively cultivate collaboration, openness, transparency, horizontal learning, and mutually-beneficial working relations with national and local organizations, and the public and private sectors. These partner-based actions gave us the opportunity to cover more areas and, as a consequence, we were able to reach more communities, families, and individuals with life-saving support.

Areas that were otherwise difficult to penetrate, such as those affected by situations of conflict and fragility, can be accessed through and with local partners. We have learned that partner-based actions are effective even within socio-political and cultural contexts that make development and humanitarian work difficult.

Looking back, we can truly say that our theory of change has been validated, but not without learning important and hard-earned lessons along the way.

In particular, there is a constant need to ensure the quality of partnerships, and to value mutually-agreed accountabilities and standards.

With this and much more to learn, we began to articulate the partner-based approach into the **Strategic Partnership Model (SPM)**. The SPM provides a framework for working in partnerships, and continues to be enriched as it journeys forward. First applied formally in partner-based emergency response actions during the conflict in Marawi City in May 2017, the SPM has strongly defined Oxfam's way of partnering with both new and longtime partners in government and non-government organizations.

This annual report, therefore, features some of the stories and insights gained from our partner-based experiences in the past year. Our work in digital financial inclusion, which features a robust partnership with the private sector, shows how development and humanitarian initiatives can be done on a bigger and more efficient scale. The Marawi Humanitarian Response reveals the critical role of partnerships with local context, and culture-aware groups, and leaders to reach more conflict-affected communities and internally-displaced populations. Our work on the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) provides insights on the value of supporting local women immersed in advocacy. Our efforts towards the recognition and redistribution of care work, paired with community-based initiatives, show us the different pathways to gender justice.

The stories that are shared in this report strengthen our conviction to work in strategic partnerships and our belief in its transformative potential.

OUR PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES

1 SHARED VISION AND VALUES

Partnerships between Oxfam and other organizations are built on a shared vision of a fair world, free of poverty and injustice, which implies solidarity beyond the implementation of specific programs and activities.

2 COMPLEMENTARITY OF PURPOSE AND VALUE ADDED

Oxfam works in partnership with a variety of actors in a diverse set of relationships. Across the partnership continuum, the emphasis will be placed on identifying the common goal to which we are working, whether in long- or short-term relationships, looking to build on the distinctive contribution of all actors, and ensuring that our combined efforts bring about change.

3 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Our partnerships will strive for mutual respect for institutional integrity and autonomy. We are aware that, in many of our partnerships, particularly in funding relationships, power imbalances exist that may undermine the principle of autonomy and independence. Oxfam will work to manage this tension through our partnering processes and accountability systems.

4 TRANSPARENCY AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Oxfam and partners have multiple accountabilities to a variety of stakeholders, including supporters and donors, and – most importantly – to those women and men living in poverty who are engaged in and benefitting from our programs. As part of the process of developing partnerships, we explicitly discuss how Oxfam is accountable to partners, and how we and our partners are accountable to the people and communities with and for whom we work.

5 CLARITY ON ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Partnerships are built on clear understanding and robust partnership agreements. For funding partnerships, all the elements of the partnering process and decision-making are discussed and agreed upon by partners. Oxfam understands that the credibility and trust required to sustain healthy partnerships comes from good communication, competence and reliability.

6 COMMITMENT TO JOINT LEARNING

Oxfam, as a learning organization, promotes continuous and systematic learning. In partnerships, this requires upfront agreement on how Oxfam and partners can learn from their joint work, and from each other, with the aim of incorporating learning, communications and knowledge-sharing into the relationship.



OXFAM'S LIFE-SAVING SUPPORT AMPLIFIED THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

The country's "**longest, biggest and bloodiest since World War II**"¹ was the tag given by journalists to the urban war that erupted in Marawi City, Lanao del Sur on the 23rd of May 2017. When the gun fight between the government troops and anti-government elements Maute Group and the Abu Sayyaf Group started, residents fled the city in droves, most of them bringing nothing but their family, and walking long hours to reach safer ground, where they would be given a place to sleep, even if it was on the cold floor. That same day, the Philippine President declared Martial Law in the whole of Mindanao. Checkpoints were set up along key roads and entry points into the neighboring major cities.

In five months of fighting, an estimated **115,880 families, or 527,704 individuals, left their homes.**² The internally displaced population (IDPs) from the **96 barangays of Marawi, the 20 other municipalities of Lanao del Sur and two municipalities in Lanao del Norte**³ sought refuge in evacuation centers and host homes located mostly in the other municipalities of Lanao del Norte, Iligan City, and Cagayan de Oro City. In the country's history of armed conflicts, this has been the greatest number of internal displacements seen over a short period of time.

Prior to the fighting, the Philippine Government estimates have placed the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) as the poorest,⁴ **with one of two persons identified as poor in 2015.**⁵ **Lanao del Sur was the poorest province in the country, with seven of ten families**⁶ **living in poverty in 2015.** The long-drawn internal armed conflicts in Mindanao aggravate the situation. Displaced from their communities, cut-off from their sources of income, and without savings to fall back on, the IDPs faced a humanitarian crisis.

Oxfam and partners were quick to respond. Six partners, namely, the Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation Incorporated (AMDF), Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), Humanitarian Response Consortium (HRC), Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS Inc.), People's Disaster Risk Reduction Network (PDRRN) and United Youth of the Philippines – Women (UnYPhil-Women), began providing support on Water, Sanitation and, Hygiene (WaSH), Gender and Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs), and Cash and Humanitarian Advocacy, through funding support from Oxfam's Catastrophe Fund, Start Fund, Oxfam Canada, DFAT Australia, UNDP, and VISA.

The conflict in Marawi eventually escalated into aerial bombings destroying 95 percent of the structures in the four square kilometers that constituted the main battleground.⁷ **Within this area, more than 3,000 structures were completely leveled, and more than 900 heavily damaged. Of the 30⁸ barangays of Marawi within the battle ground, seven barangays suffered the most, with almost 100 percent of their buildings and homes completely destroyed.**

As most of the families who fled had no savings and did not have the time to bring clothes, beddings or cooking utensils with them, living in evacuation centers and host homes was extremely difficult. Those whose sources of income were crushed along with the explosions and bombings had no savings to cover for their losses.

As the months of waiting for an end to the fighting dragged on, **humanitarian actors working with the government continued to provide urgent life-support assistance such as food, hygiene kits, water and sanitation items and facilities, latrines and washing areas, solar lights and other basic necessities.**





When the fighting was declared by the Philippine government to have ended on the 23rd of October 2017, or five months since it began, **Typhoon Vinta struck Mindanao on the 22nd of December 2017**. The typhoon caused landslides and floods, and damaged crops and livelihoods. More than 184,000 families, or 871,757 individuals, in Mindanao were affected,⁹ including the families already displaced by the conflict in Marawi.

Given the context and the level of humanitarian need in Marawi, Lanao del Sur and other affected areas, we have found that **Oxfam's Strategic Partnership Model** were both effective and appropriate. This is because local partners' reputation and experience in reaching their constituent communities also boosted the confidence of communities in accessing humanitarian assistance. Communities familiar with local field staff also readily accepted information and guidelines that came with the support.

Oxfam implemented partner-based emergency response activities in 48 municipalities and cities in Lanao Del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao and Misamis Oriental from May 2017 to March 2018. Within ten months of implementation, Oxfam and partners reached a total of 21,167 families or 128,633 individuals (61,687 male and 66,946 female), or 24.38 percent of the estimated total displaced individuals.

“Even though Marawi was devastated, we still want to go back home. We want to start a new life, even though nothing was left of our belongings. I am worried about the future of Marawi; the future of my children. If this crisis gets worse, it is our children who will suffer most.”

- Faridah Alango, evacuee from Marinaot, Marawi City

¹ Amnesty urges independent probe into atrocities, bombings in battle for Philippines Marawi city, 17 November 2017, retrieved on 15 April 2017 from URL: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-philippines-militants-report/amnesty-urges-independent-probe-into-atrocities-bombings-in-battle-for-philippines-marawi-city-idUSKBN1DHD0M2>

² Department of Social Welfare and Development Situation Report Number 18, released on 21 July 2017, retrieved on 26 February 2018, URL: <http://dromic.dswd.gov.ph/response-cluster-sitrep-on-marawi-siege>

³ Lanao del Sur: Balindong (Watu), Bayang, Binidayan, Buadiposo-Buntong, Bubong, Butig, Calanogas, Ditsaan-Ramain, Ganassi, Kapai, Lumba-Bayabao (Maguing), Lumbatan, Madamba, Madalum, Marantao, Masiu, Mulondo, Poona Bayabao (Gatal, Saguaran, and Tugaya); and, from two municipalities of Lanao del Norte: Kolambungan and Sultan Naga Dimaporo / Karomatan

⁴ Poverty Statistics in ARMM, published in January 2017, retrieved on 23 April 2017 from URL: <http://rsoarimm.psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/ARMM%20Poverty%20Statistics.pdf>

⁵ A person needs on average Php 1,797 to meet basic food and non-food needs each month.

⁶ A family of five needs on average Php 8,985 to meet basic food and non-food needs each month.

⁷ Marawi Crisis Aftermath, Schadow I Expeditions; published on 17 November 2017, retrieved on 15 April 2018 from URL: <http://www.sIexpeditions.com/2017/11/223-marawi-battle-structures.html>

⁸ The most affected barangays are Banggolo Poblacion, Bubong Lilod Madaya, Daguduban, Dansalan, Datu Naga, Datu Sa Dansalan, Kapantara, Lilod Madaya, Lumbac Madaya, Marinaut East and West, Moncado Colony and Kadingitan, Norhaya Village, Raya Madaya I and II, Sabala Manao (including barangay proper), Sangcay Dansalan, South Madaya, Tuca and Wawalayan Marinaut.

Datu Sa Dansalan, Sangcay Dansalan, Dansalan, Datu Naga, Norhaya Village, Raya Madaya, Sabala Manao suffered the most in the war as almost 100% of the structures in those barangays were completely wiped out.

⁹ National Risk Reduction and Management Council, Typhoon Vinta Situation Report Number 26; released on 18 February 2018, retrieved on 26 February 2018, URL: http://ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/article/3264/SitRep_No_26_re_Preparedness_Measures_and_Effects_of_Typhoon_VINTA_as_of_11FEB2018_0800H.pdf

MARAWI **CONFLICT RESPONSE**

OUR STORIES FROM MARAWI

CULTIVATING PARTNERSHIPS IN EMERGENCIES



Marawi City, capital of Lanao del Sur

Two days after the siege began, the partners were on their way to Iligan City to conduct an initial assessment and coordinate with the government and communities to get an overview of the ongoing displacement. With it came the distribution of life-saving aid, such as potable water, hygiene kits, and kitchen utensils. Psychological support was also mobilized to help severely distressed evacuees seeking counseling.

The Marawi Response partnership has enabled reaching more than 1,680 families in its first month of service among the 19 evacuation centers set-up across Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

Here is a glimpse of our experiences in the field. These are our stories.

Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS), Inc. ▼

AN IDEAL MISSION

Leaving in panic, most of those displaced by the fighting in Marawi were not able to bring their legal documents and identification. Without legal identification, a displaced individual will have limited mobility, particularly while Martial Law in Mindanao is still in effect. With limitations on travel, access to work opportunities and assistance were reduced.

In response, the Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services, Inc. (IDEALS), in partnership with the Regional Human Rights Commission (RHRC), Oxfam and other civil society organizations, conducted a series of legal missions in areas where many IDPs were located.

Within the first two weeks of their missions, IDEALS found that from the 1,745 IDPs assisted, 55 percent were not able to bring any identification card with them.

According to IDEALS, these missions are especially important as there were incidents where some of those without legal identification were detained for hours until proof was produced. Some relief assistance providers also required identification cards from evacuees. Now that IDPs are beginning to return to Marawi City, identification documents will be required in accessing claims and benefits from government agencies.

Although legal identity is a basic human right, a study showed that more than 30 percent of ARMM's population are not registered. The study cited geographical isolation, poverty among families and limited accessibility of government offices as the main reasons for non-registration.

Almost a year since the crisis in Marawi began, IDEALS has already served more than 10,000 IDPs with temporary IDP identification card, birth certificate, marriage certificate and voter certification.



Evacuees from Marawi City participate in a peaceful protest in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, where most Maranaos sought refuge at the height of the siege. (Photo: S'Bang Ka Marawi Team/ IDEALS Inc.)



Children from Saguiaran evacuation center participate in play therapy as part of debriefing sessions with UnYPHil-Women (Photo: Angela Casauay/ Oxfam)

United Youth of the Philippines - Women (UnYPHil) ▲

CARING FOR THE CARERS

“We help them process why the conflict happened. We help them release any pent-up emotions. The sessions are meant to alleviate anger. This way, we open the road towards healing,” Ms. Noraida Abo, Executive Director of the United Youth of the Philippines-Women (UnYPHil-Women), says.

Noraida was not referring to the evacuees. After the people fled, most of the evacuation centers were managed by volunteers, who were also displaced by the conflict.

UnYPHil-Women, one of Oxfam’s local NGO partners for the Marawi response, conducted counselling sessions for the volunteers in the towns of Balo-i and Pantar in Lanao del Norte, as well as Saguiaran in Lanao del Sur.

“They told us: ‘Even if we are evacuees, we can still give.’ But they are overburdened. They are war survivors and yet they are still offering their services. So the tendency is for them to forget their own wellbeing,” says Noraida.

The sessions provide camp managers with templates they use to provide mental health or psychosocial services to people dealing with conflict trauma, especially those living in evacuation centers.

According to Noraida, the situation during the war in Marawi City was unique. It was the first time people living in an urban area were forced to flee their homes. Unlike rural areas in the nearby province of Maguindanao and the island province of Basilan where people have been suffering from protracted clashes due to intermittent armed clashes over the decades, Marawi City had previously been spared from big scale armed clashes and mass evacuations. It even used to host evacuees from nearby municipalities. When the conflict erupted, people were caught by surprise; they had to leave immediately, saving only the relatives who were with them at the time the guns began firing.

Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation ▼

FAMILY MATTERS

In August, the Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, Inc. (AMDF), in partnership with Oxfam and other local groups, began the Family Conversations among families displaced by the fighting in Marawi City. Gathering 20 families at a time each week, family members— women, men, boys and girls— huddle for mutual support and talk about their experiences. The Family Conversations for Marawi families lasted until March 2018.

During the conversations, families displaced by the war in Marawi had a safe space to discuss mental, and even sexual and reproductive health status. Getting more information on ways for recovery, the families are also given time to share ideas and their hopes for the future of Marawi.

The women take an active role in facilitating sessions during Family Conversations, while children have their own sessions with play, art coloring and story-telling.

The Family Conversations provided a supportive space to talk about experiences and ideas for recovery, including reproductive health concerns. In this photo, an AMDF facilitator discusses the importance of shared care work between husband and wife.



A community facilitator from AMDF conducts a debriefing session with women from Saguiaran evacuation center as part of the project Family Conversation. (Photo: Genevive Estacaan/ Oxfam)



Humanitarian Response Consortium (HRC) ▼

AHMED AND HIS SOLAR LAMP

When asked about his homework and what he reads, Ahmed* says he likes Mathematics, Science and Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (Human Values Education).

In their dwelling in the Tent City, an evacuation center in Pantar, Lanao del Norte, Zaldy, Ahmed's father, said he cries silently every night because Ahmed talks about his Math and Science textbooks under the soft beam of the lamp. Ahmed's family received the solar lamp from the Humanitarian Response Consortium (HRC), a group of local NGOs which specializes in rapid emergency response.

Ahmed, an incoming Grade 2 pupil, says he sees the solar lamp as his beacon of hope, and only worries that he no longer has his study table and reading materials. To read, Ahmed slumps on the wooden bed or sits on his small wooden stool.

Ahmed's family is one of the more than 14,000 households provided with basic living items that included the solar lamp, which is also one of the most requested items. The families also received pillows, blankets, pails, basins, dish drainers, kettles, cooking pots and plywood. They were also provided with water containers, personal hygiene items, sanitation supplies and bathing facilities. Months after the fighting in Marawi City stopped, Zaldy's family is still waiting for clearance to return and rebuild their home.

*Ahmed's full name and Zaldy's surname withheld



Ahmed walking to his temporary home inside the tent city in the municipality of Saguilaran, Lanao del Sur (Photo: Diana Mendoza/Oxfam)



Health promotion session in an evacuation center in Iligan City, Lanao del Norte (Photo: Genevive Estacaan/Oxfam)

Community Organizers Multiversity (COM)

COURAGE TO REACH OUT

Buldon, a municipality south of grand Lake Lanao, lies at the border of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur. It is right beside Butig, the birthplace of the Maute group, which has been linked to the ISIS group. When the conflict in Marawi escalated into a full-blown war, some families sought shelter in this town.

When unconfirmed media reports that armed ISIS men were eyed roaming the town prevented relief organizations from bringing in relief, Community Organizers -Multiversity (COM) came in to reach out to children and share moments of hope.

"Naniniwala daw sila sa kapayapaan at gagawin lahat para panatilihin ang kapayapaan sa kanilang lugar (Local residents believe in peace and will do all they can to maintain the peace in their land), " Abdullah Baltazar of COM shares. COM's visit also confirmed that the reports of the presence of ISIS were not true and were later clarified by the local government of Buldon.

A month after the Marawi siege erupted, COM launched the Humanitarian Emergency and Advocacy Response for the Displaced of Marawi Conflict or HEAR-Marawi. Through HEAR-Marawi, the COM was able to reach around 2,300 families, most of whom live in the hard-to-reach areas of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao.

COM's work in Central Mindanao has exposed them to the cycle of conflict and violence that families suffer. They know that pockets of conflict will continue to erupt if the roots of conflict are not addressed, thus a big part of their response was an advocacy to push for durable peace in Mindanao through the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL). Recognizing the key role and leadership of women in keeping their families together during instances of displacement, COM also conducted a research and a video documentation called *Bai sa Liyo* or *Women on the Move* which is a collection of women's lived stories during conflict and displacement. These evidences were used to lobby for the passage of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Bill.

BAI SA LIYO

WOMEN ON THE MOVE

"I panicked because my husband was there and we had many children," says Welma Mahari, teary-eyed, as she relates her situation when the Zamboanga Siege began on September 9, 2013. Her family fled from the site of fighting and transferred to an evacuation site. "We all get wet when it rains at the temporary shelters. We are exposed to the sun and the waves coming from the sea."

"Our house was burned [during the war]," cries Welma. She would like to go back but her family was told that they still cannot. "So I prayed to Allah to give me the courage," she sighs.

The Zamboanga Siege affected 109,000 persons, or more than 14,000 families. The fighting lasted for 20 days but the effects are still felt for the estimated 1,800 persons in Zamboanga City who are still living in transitory sites. And while the media covered mainly the fighting in Zamboanga City, the siege in some parts of Basilan, which also displaced families, was not much heard of in national news.



BAI SA LIYO

STORIES OF WOMEN ON THE MOVE

The story of Welma and the many other women of Bangsamoro articulate the difficult situations women face in times of war and calamity. The hopes they express direct us how we can move ahead with humanitarian support and development programs that address the specific needs of women living among the most vulnerable populations. Watch their testimonies here: <http://bit.ly/baisaliyo>



SURVIVING TWO STORMS URDUJA AND VINTA

Just days before 2017 drew to a close, central and southern Philippines were swamped by twin typhoons which, when combined, affected more than 1.9 million people. This includes at least 585,000 people displaced from their homes and livelihoods. As Tropical storm Kai-Tak, (locally known as Urduja) left the Philippines, tropical storm Tembin (locally known as Vinta) entered the territory. Severe flooding and landslides were recorded in the Visayas, while flooding occurred in a number of towns in northern Mindanao, where an ongoing crisis was happening in the aftermath of the Marawi siege.

A race against time: Typhoon Urduja

On December 16, Tropical Storm Urduja made its first landfall over San Policarpio, Eastern Samar province. As a result, two months' worth of rain fell within a 48-hour period, triggering severe flooding and landslides in Tacloban City, Leyte, Eastern Samar and Biliran. The typhoon took the same path as super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in November 2013, which tremendously impacted the communities which were still on their road to recovery.

From December 2017 to May 2018, Oxfam and its partner the Humanitarian Response Consortium (HRC) has worked together to deliver life-saving aid to Biliran Island which bore severe damages and losses to shelters and livelihoods. Overall, the response reached more than 9,000 individuals through various means such as giving access to safe water and provision of cash grants to support the survivors' food and other basic needs.

Lanao's double disaster: Typhoon Vinta

When residents of Marawi fled the armed conflict they never imagined they would face an even deadlier foe, Typhoon Vinta. One of the severely-hit areas was the municipality of Madalum where flooding and landslides occurred, killing 13 people and injuring 15 more. It also left millions worth of damages on houses and livelihoods.

Oxfam, together with the HRC, immediately deployed a response team for the survivors of Typhoon Vinta in Lanao del Sur. The HRC began distributing hygiene and water kits to those in the evacuation centers, as well

as profiling survivors, in order to augment the local government's lack of updated records, which were essential to relief distribution.

Overall, the emergency response was able to provide clean water and hygiene kits to around 2,000 families benefiting around 10,000 individuals. Aside from this, cash grants were provided to 642 pregnant women, lactating mothers, older persons, especially those who have lost their homes and are staying in evacuation centers and with poor host families. The response was implemented in eight affected barangays of Bacolod Kalawi and 13 of the 26 affected barangays of Madalum. These two municipalities were prioritized owing to their high pre-crisis levels of poverty and vulnerability. More stories about the response can be viewed here:

<http://bit.ly/TyphoonVinta>



A community consultation was held among survivors of Typhoon Urduja in Biliran, one of the hardest-hit areas of the storm in the Visayas, December 2017. Engagement is a key strategy to be able to understand the survivors' needs, as well as how they perceive their recovery. (Photo: Humanitarian Response Consortium)

ABOVE: Children from Madalum, Lanao del Sur, walk to school days after Typhoon Vinta hit northern Mindanao. (Photo: Humanitarian Response Consortium)



KAYA KO ITO

IAFFORD: A DIGITAL SOLUTION FOR INCLUSIVE FINANCE

Working with partners, Oxfam is helping low-income Filipinos benefit from the power of digital technology by maximizing the multiple services of financial institutions. Women and men, who are mostly farmers or fishers, can buy daily needs at the community store without the need for cash and deposit, as well as receive and send money from any accredited community remittance centers.

"I learned the value of savings eight years ago. My son who was very young at that time got very sick. We needed specific medicines for his cure but saving up for medical emergencies never crossed my mind," Marianita Magtarayo, a farmer in post-Haiyan Tacloban, recalls.

Marianita started setting aside coins and a few bills, keeping them in an empty baby powder bottle. To her mind, this was a good move in the right direction. However, raising a family with increasing needs for her children's education and attending to the needs of their elderly demanded more than a bottle's savings. When the digital financing opportunity reached their community, Marianita immediately jumped in.

For its members, the value of the iAFFORD, which stands for Inclusive and Affordable Financial Facilities for Resilient and Developed Filipinos, lies in the savings that earn interest, quick access to emergency loan, chances to avail of opportunities for income-earning activities, and freedom from the fearful thought that a storm might blow or a flood might wash away all savings in "a blink of an eye."

The project was introduced in Marianita's community by the Metro Ormoc Community Multipurpose Cooperative Inc. (OCCI), iAFFORD's partner in Samar.

Marianita who used to keep her savings in empty baby powder bottles have opted for membership in the community self-help savings group and avail of the iAFFORD card. Today, she can walk the Money In and Money Out (MIMO) center in her village to access her savings, get remittance, pay bills or avail insurance without having to take expensive public transport to reach town.

"It is a community savings self-help group that is made efficient, safe and accessible, providing a one-stop shop for financial services such as savings, credit, social fund, payments and remittances," Nina Abogado, Oxfam's Digital Financial Inclusion program manager explains.

The iAFFORD Project aims to connect 50,000 poor Filipinos, 60% of which are women, to affordable digital financial services in Eastern Visayas and Mindanao

"It is like having a bank nearby but services are more attuned to our needs. We do not have to travel to the town center and spend money for transportation. This is something that is very useful especially when our own funds and sources of income are scarce."

Marianita, mother from Samar

within two years. It intends to empower families manage their finances, save money, and invest in micro-social and business insurance to protect their assets, livelihoods, and small businesses. Highly scalable, the entire card membership grew from 500 in a few barangays to 50,000 covering 100 barangays within a few months.

Aside from the individual cards, members have a group card to savings, loans and emergency welfare support for members who are most in need. Not less than sixty percent of cardholders are women.

Formerly an Oxfam-branded card, the iAFFORD has become a digital financial inclusion project lead by Oxfam, in partnership with PayMaya, Visa, and the Australian Government.



Marianita who used to keep her savings in empty baby powder bottles has opted for membership in the community self-help savings group, and to avail of the iAFFORD card. Today, she can walk to the MIMO center in her village to access her savings, get remittances, pay bills or avail of insurance without having to take expensive public transport into town. (Photo: EPS Team/Oxfam)

SHARING THE JOYS OF CARE WORK



Especially on sunny days, community leader Nestor Gadaingan brings the family's soiled clothes to the communal laundry area and washes them. Nestor returns home an hour later, carrying a tub of clothes to dry under the sun.

Nestor is the president of the Coalition of Yolanda Survivors in the Tacloban Resettlement Site, an organization with advocacies that include pushing for quality of living and security of tenure for Tacloban's resettled families.

An active leader, Nestor is a living statement to his peers and the younger male generation: carework is shared work. To Nestor and his colleagues who also share housework with the women in their home, doing the laundry benefits the organization's advocacy.

To them, when housework is shared, men are given the opportunity to understand the value of caring for the home and women are given more time to lead or support the advocacy work of the coalition and find paid work.

"The WE-Care Project makes the practical approach of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) interventions strategic to the attainment of gender equality," says Leah Payud, an Oxfam project manager. "The support begins with improving access to water and installing laundry areas for communities. Along with this practical assistance, families who benefit also get the opportunity to understand the benefits of when men and women share house work," she adds.

With support from Surf (Unilever), the WE-Care Project is premised on the lasting change that requires a shift in social norms so that carework is not seen as 'women's work' but as everyone's responsibility: If no one prepares the food or washes the laundry, will the husband or working male in the family be able to go to work prepared for the long day ahead? If the wife or woman is capable of finding paid work, do we still expect her to also do the major house chores, including the laundry? Gender equality is not just about women finding paid work outside of the home. It is also about men and boys sharing both the joys and hard work to create happy families whose needs are sufficiently provided for.

The shift in social norms leads to a redistribution of care tasks among women and men, and girls and boys. It creates new positive norms that encourage men to care for their families and children. Without this focus,

reducing hours spent on housework may result in women simply spending more hours on different types of unpaid care work, without changing their overall workloads. Norms that undervalue care should also be changed. Care work should be understood as being critical to social and economic development.

Recognizing the value of care work is founded on mutual respect. The traditional house chores of women are no longer taken for granted. Men learning the importance of care work in the daily survival of the family will eventually break down the multiple burdens that women disproportionately endure.



Nestor Gadaingan stands in the Guadalupe Resettlement Site, Tacloban City, where families were relocated after typhoon Haiyan. He participated in the Rapid Care Assessment and has been selected as a 'WE-Care Champion' by the local project team. House work, such as laundering clothes and cleaning, are shared tasks between Nestor and his wife. (Photo: Aurelie Marrier d'Unienville / Oxfam)

"THE NEXT GENERATION WILL BE MORE EQUAL AND WILL SHOW THAT MEN CAN DO CARE WORK."

- Nestor Gadaingan, Care Champion

A BIG CHANGE IN OUR HOUSEHOLD

Randy Duran and his wife Maria Socorro regularly do the laundry outside their home in Tubabao Island in Guian, Eastern Samar, Philippines. After attending the WE-Care Rapid Care Assessment organized by Oxfam and its partner SIKAT, Maria and Randy started sharing household chores, especially when Randy is not fishing out at sea.

According to Maria, “After I learned more about unpaid care work through Oxfam and SIKAT, there has been a big change in our household. I explained to my husband that care work is also his responsibility, like taking care of the kids, cooking for the family, and fetching water. Now there is a new division of labor between us. I have more time to rest, regularly join our community’s self-help group, and can actively participate in SIKAT’s microlending initiative. There is more time for me to think about other ways to earn money for our growing family.”

CAREWORK IS TEAMWORK

WE-Care is a three-year initiative to build evidence on unpaid care, innovate on interventions, and influence policy and practice to address care as part women’s empowerment. It aims to address the heavy and unequal responsibilities for housework and care that women face in the Philippines. The excessive responsibility is considered a “glass wall,” or an invisible barrier, that limits women’s time, mobility, and ambitions to participate in economic, political, and social activities. These effects are most pronounced among families and women living in poverty.

(Photo: Aurelie Marrier d’Unienville / Oxfam)



TAPPING THE VOICES OF YOUTH TO CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

“I really want to be a teacher, that’s why when our student council adviser requested me to speak in front of the Parent-Teacher Association meeting about the effects of early marriage. I was both worried and excited. Worried that the parents might misunderstand me and excited because I get to say what I feel and think about the issue.”

- Mia, 18 years old; outgoing grade seven student of Dimaukom National High School, Datu Saudi Ampatuan

Mia is one of the 70 student leaders trained and mentored by UnYPhil-Women as change agents and youth influencers. These student leaders have actively participated in the project for various reasons. For Aya, 18 years old and outgoing SSG officer from the municipality of Mamasapano, she wanted to help her 15-year old friend who had to stop school and attend to her husband and baby. Aya also wants to understand child marriage better, hoping to learn from the lessons of others and using this to influence fellow students.

For Erika, she has been driven by her ambition to become a teacher and a chef. Attending the trainings provided by the project has led her to be aware that early marriage might constrain her to stop schooling. “Although we have some schoolmates who are continuing to go to school despite being married off early, I can imagine this to be very difficult. And sadly, you will soon realize that your studies is no longer your priority”.

Rustum is the 28-year old president of the student council in Dimaukom National High School. As an incoming college student, he shared that the promise of a better life by having a college education is his main reason for not believing in early marriage. “I tried applying for clerical and administrative jobs in the municipal hall right after Grade XII. I have my high school diploma and my national certification on Information Technology from government but I have been advised that they are only accepting college graduates. Life for me right now is difficult. Imagine if I have my own family to feed.” Rustum shared.

While their motivations might vary, they have a common commitment to pursue what they have already started.

As Aya summed up, “We have created a group chat for all student leaders who were trained by the project but have left high school. We promised our advisers that they can readily tap us as resource persons. We are also talking how we can continue our advocacy. More than ending child, early and forced marriage (CEFM), we have become good friends.”

With the aim of reducing violence against women and girls (VAWG) and preventing CEFM in the country, the Creating Spaces to take Action on Violence Against Women and Girls (Creating Spaces) project has been engaging key community actors to support and promote positive gender norms, supporting women and girls who have experienced violence and building knowledge and capacity of institutions and alliances towards influencing change.

Creating Spaces is a multi-country project supported by Global Affairs Canada through Oxfam Canada. In the Philippines, the project is implemented in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), particularly in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur where it works with two local women rights organizations – Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation (AMDF) and United Youth of the Philippines Women (UnYPhil-Women). The project also partners with two national NGOs – the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD).



From left to right: Aya, Mia, Erika, and Rustum (center) share their commitment to the project even after leaving their respective high schools to pursue college education (Photo: Cathy Gordo/Oxfam)

IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE REASSURED

"I receive vaccinations and vitamins whenever I am pregnant. I always get my check-up, and [the nurses] make sure to monitor my blood pressure. This was the case during the birth of my sixth baby. I have a lot of babies. This is my seventh.

I was at home when I felt pain and decided to immediately go to the health center. The midwife came and told me I was about to go into labor. I was surprised. I couldn't afford to have an operation. That's why I chose to have a natural delivery.

I had a quick labor. I was given a vaccine and then, right after, the baby was born. I was lucky! We can get help whenever the midwives are here. It seems as though they have no holidays! It's important to be reassured that I can get help and any assistance I need [at the rural health unit]."

Suraida Gani and newborn Noraida,
Saudi Ampatuan Rural Health Unit, Mindanao



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN MINDANAO

Since 2015, Oxfam and its partners have worked towards improving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services in the poorest communities of Mindanao Island, southern Philippines, through the Improving Availability of Reproductive Health Services in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Philippines (ARCHES) Project. Improved SRH services include one-on-one consultations with SRH nurses about the benefits of family planning, how and where to access reproductive health commodities, and ways to improve prenatal and postpartum care. The project also trains rural health workers so that they will be able to effectively deliver SRH services and counselling support to women. Further, the project provides rural health centers with medical equipment to promote improved quality of care in pregnancy and childbirth.

The ARCHES project is supported by the European Union, and is implemented in partnership with Philippine Business for Social Progress, Philippine Legislators Committee for Population and Development, Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation Inc, United Youth of the Philippines-Women, Tarbilang Foundation, and Pinay Kilos.

[Photo: Eleanor Farmer/ Oxfam]





FROM FARM TO WOMEN'S MARKET

Empowering Poor Women and Men in Building Resilient and Adaptive Communities in Mindanao (EMBRACE) aims to empower poor women, men and communities in Mindanao so that they will be more resilient from the unavoidable impacts of climate change and improve their well-being despite shocks, stresses and uncertainties. The project seeks to make local and national governments supportive and accountable for adaptation to come about and prosper. For the year, project activities are geared towards helping men and women farmers grow enough food to eat and earn an income.

Janita S. Panes, 55 years old, earns from selling vegetables while her husband earn from working in other farms. They do not earn enough to cover for the family's basic needs, including the daily school allowance of their two sons and two daughters.

After Janita participated in the activities organized through project EMBRACE, she became an active member of the Rangayen Vegetable Growers Association. The association is in charge of managing the local women's market, which is a component of the project.

Through the trainings, Janita and her husband learned to plant vegetables without the need for costly synthetic chemicals. With lower production costs and a space in the women's market, Janita began earning more.

Before, Janita earned Php 500 to 800 (7-11 GBP) each week. Since her shift to organic and acquisition of a space

in the Women's Market, she began earning Php1,500 (21 GBP) every week. "It is helping me support our family needs," Janita exclaims.

The project is implemented in partnership with local non-government organizations in Mindanao, namely: Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), Rural Development Institute in Sultan Kudarat (RDISK), and SIAD in Mindanao-Convergence for Asset Reform and Region Development (SIMCARRD) and in close collaboration with the Local Government Units (LGUs). The project covers 10 municipalities in the provinces of Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato and Maguindanao.

"IT IS HELPING ME SUPPORT OUR FAMILY NEEDS."

- Janita Panes, woman farmer



ABOVE: Janita is sells her vegetables through the Women's Market in Alamada. Behind her is the communal garden set up by the members of the Rangayen Vegetable Growers Association. (Photo: Joie Lajo)

BELOW: During the women's market, women farmers like Janita get to display their produce and interact with potential regular customers within the municipality. (Photos: EMBRACE Team/Oxfam)



Women from the Coastal Resource Management group conduct a mangrove assessment on Tubabao Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar, Philippines. The women do not earn an income from the mangrove rehabilitation project but do it to protect their community from typhoons and to ensure the local fish population have a place to lay their eggs. The community had a zero casualty rate during the 2013 typhoon Haiyan as a result of the protection created by surrounding mangroves. (Photo: Aurelie Marrier d'Unienville / Oxfam)

HELPING LOCAL COMMUNITIES ACCESS CLIMATE ADAPTATION FUNDS

Having worked with the local governments of Lanuza and del Carmen, Oxfam welcomes the release of P192 million worth of grants by the People’s Survival Fund (PSF) Board this year. The PSF is intended to support the climate adaptation action plans of local governments and provide long-term finance streams to communities to help build resilience to climate change impacts.

In 2010, Oxfam jointly campaigned with the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities and other NGOs to urge Congress to enact the PSF Law. Oxfam also provided technical support to LGUs, including Lanuza and del Carmen, in drafting project proposals that were submitted to the PSF Board. It was a breakthrough in opening a space for vulnerable LGUs to access direct funding from the Philippine government. It also strengthened local government’s recognition of civil society organizations as partners in development.

Del Carmen will use a sustainable institutional system through the Climate Field School to generate and build capacity for the application of locally-tailored climate information tools while Lanuza will adopt a ridge-to-reef approach to manage and protect its watersheds, cultivate mangroves along the riverine, and provide alternative livelihood.

The release of these funds will no doubt go a long way in improving the ability of communities and local institutions to build sustainable livelihood, develop their own innovative and climate-sensitive strategies, and enhance their capacities for disaster resilience.

The Philippines is still considered one of the most vulnerable countries from the impacts of climate change. The People’s Survival Fund was created through the enactment of Republic Act 10174 as an annual fund to support local government units and accredited community organizations to implement climate change adaptation projects.

FINANCING CLIMATE RISKS: LOOKING AT INSURING CRITICAL FACILITIES

“Throughout my entire stay in Salcedo, it was only during Yolanda that we received aid from the national government,” shared Ms. Isabel B. Abella, the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator of Salcedo, a fifth-class municipality in the province of Eastern Samar, on her observation regarding assistance from the national government to far-flung areas in the country such as their municipality.

With the aim of reducing financial burden in disasters, the Municipal Local Government of Salcedo tried insuring two of their municipal buildings against flooding, upon learning that a neighboring municipality of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, received payout on insurance after Typhoon Yolanda.

Oxfam’s experience in responding to 14 emergencies in the last eight years reveals that the effort to bring communities back to the path of recovery becomes all the more difficult when local government suffered devastating losses. It is more difficult for local governments that belong to lower income class. Working with the University of the Philippines – Center for Local and Regional Governance, the Meso-scale Insurance for Disaster Readiness and Recovery or the MINDER Project sought to design a viable insurance program for lower income class municipalities by looking at insurance options for local critical facilities.

LOCAL INSURANCE AS RISK TRANSFER MECHANISM



With an average of 20 typhoons per year, the Philippines has been identified as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world. While there are larger attempts to reduce vulnerability brought about by climate-related disasters, the country remains to have one of lowest capacities to adapt to the impacts of climate change and lack the financial resources meant for rebuilding loss and damage caused by disasters. Learn how Climate Financing and Risk Transfer Mechanisms through Insurance will help protect the lives of local communities against the impacts of disasters, and enable farmers, fisherfolks and other vulnerable groups to recover faster. Watch to learn more: <http://bit.ly/MINDERProject>

"I still dream that we will have potable water on our island. We are used to this but we hope that we will not live like this in the future. My husband and I are old and we are not healthy all the time. It is up to the younger ones to act if they want water in their own homes."

Clarissa, mother and water vendor,
Hilantagaan Island, Visayas



WOMEN AND WATER

Over 10 million Filipinos still do not have access to safe water in urban and rural Philippines. The bulk of families without access to potable water mostly come from the poorest 40 percent of the population. These families usually source their water from unprotected wells, springs, rivers, ponds, lakes, rain water, tanker trucks, or peddlers. Oxfam and its partners are supporting women and marginalized communities in the Visayas region by strengthening the WASH value chain using market-based approaches. The aim is to increase access to pro-poor WASH products and services, and availability of pro-poor WASH solutions through establishing women-led WASH enterprises. The project seeks to influence the government to further develop and expand WASH subsidies for social safety-net recipients, and provide accreditation for low cost, high quality WASH product designs. The project similarly engages the private sector to create an enabling environment for consumers to engage with local governments and 'private sector change agents' through consumer-based social accountability groups.

(Photo: Genevive Estacaan/Oxfam)

SHIFTING THE CENTER THROUGH LOCALIZATION

FINANCIAL ENABLERS PROJECT

The Financial Enablers Project (FEP) believes that local organizations are in the best position to coordinate and deliver context-appropriate and sustainable responses during humanitarian emergencies. Unfortunately, constraints, such as lack of capacity and resources, hamper local actors from optimizing their contributions to humanitarian efforts. The FEP was conceived to bridge this gap through strategic investments in collaborative capacity-strengthening agendas. The FEP supported national consortia of NGOs and CSOs to enhance their response capacity through grants and partnership brokering support. The ultimate goal is that national organizations are able to lead humanitarian interventions.

LOCAL NGOs SEIZE THE CHANCE TO LEAD LIFE-SAVING WORK

At the heart of the FEP is the goal to provide national and local-led CSO consortia with autonomy and decision-making opportunities to develop their own solutions around humanitarian capacity development. “The consortium is based on the idea that committed communities do not need to wait for saviors,” shares Kelvin Vistan, the People-Based Humanitarian Action Consortium (PBHAC). “For example, during emergencies, communities can be strong responders themselves,” he continued.

The project also helps to consolidate and build upon the networks and partnerships that the consortia members have formed from previous experiences. April Maita Palo of Bohol Consortium on Humanitarian Assistance (BCHA) reflects, “Being part of the consortium means that we share our knowledge, our resources, our stories and our struggles.”

The FEP has forged partnerships with with seven existing and new consortia composed of 27 NGOs, three people’s organizations (PO) and one local government unit covering various regions of the country. The consortia are as follow:

- Alternative Planning Initiatives Association Incorporated (ALTERPLAN)
- Bohol Consortium on Humanitarian Action (BCHA)
- Consortium for Humanitarian Action and Protection (CHAP)
- Capacity Building for Humanitarian Initiatives in Capiz (CHIC)
- Humanitarian Response Consortium (HRC)
- MAGI, Mindanao Land, APILA, IDIS and Davao Medical School Foundation (MMAID) Consortium
- People-Based Humanitarian Action Consortium (PBHAC)



ABOVE: As part of their hands-on emergency training, students learned how to form a bucket line and quickly douse a fire. The activity is initiated by the Consortium for Humanitarian Action and Protection (CHAP) which supports disaster preparedness in schools in Camarines Norte, Bicol Region. (Photo by Elizabeth Stevens/Oxfam America)

BELOW: A WASH facilitator from the Humanitarian Response Consortium provides a quick briefing on personal hygiene and sanitation before the distribution of relief items in evacuation centers in Lanao del Norte, Mindanao, after the Marawi siege of May 2017. (Photo: Genevive Estacaan/Oxfam)

LOCAL NGOs LEAD, INGOs SUPPORT



How has the Financial Enablers Project supported local NGOs in the Philippines? Click to watch a summary of what the project has accomplished in the past year: <http://bit.ly/FEPWeAreLocal>

OUR COMMITMENT: WOMEN AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING THAT WE DO



In late 2017, a series of media articles revealed cases of sexual misconduct committed by Oxfam staff. Oxfam took this as a wake-up call. We recognize that serious efforts to reform our organizational culture and ways of working must be made to end attitudes that objectify women and girls. Moving forward, we will work harder to push for lasting changes within Oxfam and across the sector. This will enable us to continue delivering programs to communities who need them the most, and whom we have been working with for several decades in the Philippines.

We acknowledge that we must 'walk the talk'. Across the Oxfam confederation, we have actively sought to reform our safeguarding policies and procedures. Oxfam has released an Action Plan founded on a 'higher standard of recovery', that is based on listening to those women and girls who were abused by men holding positions of power. This plan enumerates the range of actions that we committed to undertake to build and strengthen a 'culture of zero tolerance' towards harassment, abuse or exploitation within Oxfam and across the sector.

These actions include the appointment of a high-level independent commission of women's rights leaders who shall have full powers to look at past and present cases, policies, practices, and culture. Oxfam will be guided by whatever recommendations the commission makes. We are also improving our internal policies and processes, including strengthening background checks for new employees, and rolling-out training on the prevention and management of cases of abuse. Aside from a joint code of conduct for all Oxfam staff and non-staff, we also have international and national safeguarding taskforces, and confidential whistleblowing hotlines.

Our objective is to bring about necessary changes in our policies, practice, and culture to stamp out exploitation, abuse and harassment from all parts of our organization, protecting those we work with, and ensuring justice for survivors of abuse.



Oxfam's Code of Conduct for Staff and Non-Staff

<https://www.oxfam.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/plans-reports-and-policies/code-of-conduct>

Oxfam's Immediate Action Plan on Sexual Misconduct:

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/immediate-response-actions-sexual-misconduct>

OUR PARTNERS

We believe that working through partners is the only way to fulfil our commitment of elevating the dialogue of eradicating poverty and reducing injustice. The following are key partners with whom Oxfam had active projects for the Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018.

AMDF	Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, Inc. is a Mindanao-based women's organization for social development committed to promote women's rights, good governance and peace building towards gender-fair, humane and sustainable communities.	PINK!	Pinay Kilos (Pink!), Inc. or Women Move is based in Zamboanga City which aims to empower women to achieve their full potential.
ASDSW	A Single Drop for Safe Water, Inc. works for demand and capacity creation for WaSH within poor and conflict-affected communities.	PKKK	Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan, Inc. is a coalition of women, small farmers, fishers, indigenous people, and formal and informal workers in the rural areas. First convened in 2003 during the 1st National Rural Women Congress, PKKK is credited with the strong advocacy at the legislature which eventually resulted in the passage of the Magna Carta for Women. Website: http://www.pkkk.org.ph
CDP	The Center for Disaster Preparedness is known in the Philippines and in the Asia-Pacific Region as one of the pioneers in the field of community-based disaster risk reduction and management (CBDRRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA). Website: https://www.cdp.org.ph	PLCPD	The Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. was established in September 1989 by a group of forward-looking legislators as a non-stock, non-profit, membership-type organization of legislators from the Senate and House of Representatives. Website: http://www.plcpd.org.ph
CLRG	Center for Local and Regional Governance (CLRG) is University of the Philippines (UP)'s research, training and consulting center for local governments. The Center is a constituent unit of the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) and subscribes to NCPAG's paradigm of the healthy mix of theory and practice (praxis). CLRG has engaged in several activities particularly on climate financing and disaster risk financing and insurance.	PRRM	The Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement was founded in 1952 and traces its roots to China where, in the early 1900s, the rural reconstruction movement was born, inspired and led by Dr. Y. C. James Yen "Yen Yangchu". A movement committed to the cause of the Filipino peasant, it began as a small group of prominent Filipinos led by Dean Conrado Benitez of the University of the Philippines. Website: http://www.prrm.org
CO MULTIVERSITY	Community Organizers (CO) – Multiversity was established in 1994 as Community Organizers Training, Research, and Advocacy Institute (CO-TRAIN). The organization continues to play a lead role in promoting community organizing as a tool for development and empowerment.	RCCRC-VIFARRD	Regional Climate Change Research and Development Center - Visayas State College of Agriculture (VISCA) Foundation for Agricultural and Rural Development, Inc.
CRS	Catholic Relief Services - Philippine Country Program conducts humanitarian work in the Philippines to answer the call for immediate help after disasters. Website: https://www.crs.org	RDISK INC.	Rural Development Institute of Sultan Kudarat Inc. is dedicated to promoting sustainable rural livelihood options and opportunities fused with women's rights and gender equality strategies. Areas with Oxfam support include Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat provinces
DRRNETPHILS	Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines is a national tertiary formation (umbrella) of Philippine civil society organizations, communities, practitioners and advocates adhering to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Website: https://web.facebook.com/pg/drrnetph	SIKAT	Sentro para sa Ikaunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya, Inc., translated as Center for the Development of Indigenous Science and Technology, was established in 1991 to enhance coastal community resiliency by implementing Community-based Coastal Resource Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Programs, and promoting good governance practices in the Philippines. Website: http://www.sikatphil.org
GZOPI	Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute is a community of peace supporters in the Philippines. It seeks a just resolution of the Bangsamoro and the Communist armed movements in the Philippines through political negotiations, dialogues and addressing the root causes of 'unpeace.' Website: http://gzopeace.org	SIM-CARRD	SIAD (Sustainable Integrated Area Development) Initiatives in Mindanao Convergence for Asset Reform and Regional Development, Inc. works for the building of empowered sustainable communities in Mindanao through capacity-building of local stakeholders. It focuses on community organizing for effective access to and control by the people over community assets and resources.
HRC	The Humanitarian Response Consortium was formed in 2010 by local organizations in the Philippines, with a mission to provide the highest quality service to populations affected by disasters.	TARBILANG	Tarbilang Foundation, Inc. is based in Tawi-Tawi province in the southernmost part of the Philippines. The foundation focuses on the needs of depressed communities and advocates gender equality, accountability and transparency in leadership and governance, human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and sustainable development.
CDP	The Center for Disaster Preparedness is known in the Philippines and in the Asia-Pacific Region as one of the pioneers in the field of community-based disaster risk reduction and management (CBDRRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA). Website: https://www.cdp.org.ph	UNYPHIL-WOMEN	United Youth of the Philippines-Women, Inc. is a non-stock and non-profit women youth organization duly registered to SEC in 2004. The primary goal of UnYPhil-Women is to provide assistance to women who are subjected to violence, sexual and physical abuses, trafficking and other forms of discrimination. Areas of operation with Oxfam support: Marawi City and Lanao del Sur
IDEALS	The Initiatives for Development and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services, Inc. aims to empower the marginalized sectors, and with them, work for a policy and legal environment oriented towards the realization of their rights and participation in governance. Website: http://ideals.org.ph	UPPAF-CLRG	UP Public Administration Research and Extension Service - Center for Local and Regional Governance has been at the forefront of research, consulting services and facilitated learning on local autonomy and devolution in the country since 1965. It collaborates with local and international institutions in promoting decentralization and publishing materials for the benefit of local government and regional units. Website: http://www.up-ncpag.org/centers/clrg.php
OCCCI	Metro Ormoc Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative is a leading cooperative in the Visayas. It is committed to forming strong and prosperous members and families; providing quality and diversified products and services; instilling God-centeredness and moral uprightness; and, promoting self-governance and responsible stewardship. Website: http://www.occci.coop	VISA	Visa Worldwide Ltd. is a global payments technology company working to enable consumers, businesses, banks and governments to use digital currency. It adheres to corporate responsibility by helping improve lives and economies around the world. From advancing financial inclusion to helping in times of crisis, their products, know-how and philanthropy contribute to positive change. Website: https://www.visa.com.ph
PAYMAYA	PayMaya Philippines, Inc. (formerly Smart eMoney, Inc.) is the pioneer in mobile money and payments, having established brands such as PayMaya, the first prepaid online payment app that enables the financially underserved to pay online without a credit card. Website: https://paymaya.com	WE ACT 1325	Women Engaged in Action on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is a network of women's groups and peace organizations that led the consultations towards the formulation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. Their current focus is on implementing the NAP.
PBSP	Philippine Business for Social Progress, Inc. is the largest corporate-led, non-profit social development foundation in the Philippines. PBSP is at the forefront in the fight against poverty through programs developed and implemented with the strategic commitment of more than 260 PBSP member-companies, and Corporate Social Responsibility partners. Website: http://www.pbsp.org.ph		
PDRRN	People's Disaster Risk Reduction Network, Inc. started as the Pampanga Disaster Response Network in 1991 before the Mt. Pinatubo eruption. It was formally registered at the SEC on April 1992.		



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