

With you

...alian
...ment on the Protection Response, Monitoring and Report on Internal Displacements
... by Local Actors in Zamboanga City and Sulu"
Quick Impact Project
WASH Facilities
Communal Latrines and Water Pump)
JULY 2021
...plemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with support from the Australian Government in partnership with the Integrated Resource Development for Transient (IRDT) through the collaboration of the City Government of Zamboanga and Barangay Mampang, Government Unit of Mampang, IDP and host community of Masepla TS.
...ect aims to promote community empowerment, help foster peaceful co-existence, and strengthen the resilience of the IDP population.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Masepla, Mampang

ATURAN HA PAG-USAL SIN LUNGGANG

- Dih manjarl mag lunggang in bata-bata ummol hangon bahin sa babo.
- Subay mag labang-dyabang in kamay- maasani ha pag juga sin lunggang amon- di kagap-panayaman sin mga kabataan.
- Dih manjarl mag bugal kaput agad na in mangpa pas shampoo, sabon, toothpaste, iban unu unu na pas hikamamin sin kasaman sin lunggang.
- Patapitapun in pag-ayud sin lunggang kasapaya di kumang in mga panayo.
- Kiyapag-ayayaman sin kaban, ha bisp- bisp bay mag dihi inha pas mag-ayud in kagap-ayud amon maasul bang amon kagap-ayud aganahan dayawan.

What's Inside

IN THE FRONTLINES OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

From the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan to the climate emergency in Bangladesh, you have stood by the most vulnerable and ensured that critical aid is delivered when it was needed the most.

STAYING AND DELIVERING FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE IN MINDANAO

Your kindness has delivered sustainable solutions in the middle of a pandemic, helping the most vulnerable forcibly displaced families rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.

MODERN-DAY HEROES IN ACTION

Learn what inspired a group of young Korean students, a community leader, and a humanitarian to make a difference and help the most vulnerable families in Mindanao.



Thanks to your kindness, UNHCR Philippines recently provided farming machinery to support the livelihood of the community in Brgy. Upper Pangancalan, Pigcawayan, Special Geographic Area (BARMM). This is one of the Quick Impact Projects implemented by UNHCR in Mindanao this year, and is made possible with your generosity, the support of the Australian Government and the partnership with Community and Family Services International (CFSI) and the BARMM Government. Projects like these promote confidence, self-reliance and improve the overall protection situation of the most vulnerable families. © UNHCR/Jonathan Porras

Dear valued donor,

The call to stay and deliver for the most vulnerable has never been more resonant than it has been in the past months. The hurdles were heightened as we survived another quarter of lockdown while we saw other parts of the world suffer devastating losses and difficult realities. **In these tragedies, we are deeply grateful that you have remained resolute in your commitment to help them in their time of greatest need.**

In this newsletter, we share updates on how your support has made it possible for UNHCR to respond to new and recurring emergencies, here in the Philippines and in other parts of the world.

You and many other concerned Filipinos have heeded the call for solidarity, thinking of various ways to spread awareness and raise additional monetary support. While our movements are restricted, we saw creative ways of helping from fitness communities, youth groups, and small enterprises – all mobilising support for displaced Afghan nationals, for Rohingya refugees, and for the internally displaced in Mindanao.

With the typhoon season and the ongoing pandemic bringing health and safety risks to the forcibly displaced communities in the Philippines,

your support has also delivered proactive and sustainable solutions that will help them meet these challenges head-on. Thanks to you, we have been able to implement quick impact projects for the most vulnerable in Mindanao – protecting livelihoods, ensuring access to water and sanitation, and empowering local communities to prepare for and respond to disasters.

Your steadfastness in these difficult times have inspired your fellow donors, the communities you support, and humanitarians on the frontlines to act and ensure that we are leaving no one behind.

Together, let us face the last quarter of this year with courage and solidarity.

When the stakes are too high, we can only stay and deliver with you by our side.

**Maraming salamat,
Your UNHCR Philippines family**

Responding to the Afghanistan crisis with *bayanihan*

The crisis in Afghanistan has unfolded far quicker than anyone predicted. The total number of people internally displaced this year has soared to **600,000** – and half of the population are in need of humanitarian assistance.

As soon as the crisis broke out, **with your rapid response to the call for donations**, emergency programs provided critical protection and life-saving aid to internally displaced families.

The Philippine government, as it has done on numerous occasions in the past, has been quick to express its openness to receive asylum seekers from Afghanistan. **UNHCR remains committed to supporting the Philippine government as it leads the country's whole-of-society response to this humanitarian crisis.**

In the same manner, Filipinos have also been quick to think of creative ways to raise awareness and monetary support – from hosting livestreams in e-commerce sites and sharing social media posts to setting up benefit fundraisers and sending messages of solidarity. **Together, Filipino donors have been able to raise more than PHP 800,000 to support UNHCR's emergency operations in Afghanistan.**



#LazadaForGood

UNHCR and its partners are able to access all provinces in Afghanistan, and we will continue to provide assistance for as long as we have safe access to the populations in need. The ongoing violence and insecurity in Afghanistan must not weaken our resolve to deliver urgent humanitarian assistance and stand by the Afghan people.



Protecting Rohingya refugees from climate hazards & COVID-19

As Bangladesh faces the harsh monsoon season on top of the COVID-19 pandemic, trained Rohingya refugee volunteers work tirelessly with Bangladeshi workers from the surrounding community in Cox's Bazar District to deliver emergency response in the camps.



Refugees form an integral part of the community as first responders during emergency situations. With COVID-19 still very much a threat, trained community health workers also continue to facilitate information dissemination on health protocols and practices to prevent infection and recognize symptoms.

Following the direction of the Bangladeshi government to start the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations and include Rohingya refugees, community health workers have been working to ensure that as many older refugees as possible take up the offer of a vaccine.

Over 34,000 refugees aged 55 and above have now received their first jab. Among them was Nur Islam, 59. **"In my lifetime of more than 50 years in Myanmar, I never received any vaccines,"** he said. **"After coming to Bangladesh, we got our first vaccines. We are six members in the family, among whom only I could be vaccinated so far."**

While the health crisis is slowly being addressed, Rohingya refugees still face the impacts of climate change in their communities. As time passes, the needs of the Rohingya refugees living in 34 camps continue to grow, and their only lifeline for now is humanitarian assistance. Thank you for helping UNHCR protect the most vulnerable.



Staying and Delivering for the Most Vulnerable: EIGHT YEARS AFTER THE ZAMBOANGA SIEGE

When she was just ten years old, Mikaela Jumala and her family were forced to flee for safety when armed conflict between state and non-state forces erupted in Zamboanga City. Their coastal barangay of Sta. Barbara was among those affected by the conflict, which lasted from 9 to 28 September 2013, and displaced approximately 119,714 individuals (23,794 families).

Eight years after the conflict, Mikaela and her family remain in Masepla Transitory Site. She is now a Grade 9 student and an active member of the community, serving as the vice-chairman of the barangay youth committee.

As a youth leader, she shared her sentiments about the challenges they face. In the time of COVID-19, their situation was worsened by loss of livelihood, posing challenges to some of the families in accessing limited resources in the area. With sanitation being a top concern, Mikaela mentioned that the lack of access to facilities has created risks to their health and safety. Not every house has a toilet, and this makes the surroundings unhygienic. Health care facilities are also difficult to access.



For Mikaela and 130 families living in Masepla transitory site, the communal latrines and water pump that you helped build now gives them reliable access to water and enables them to practice proper sanitation and hygiene. This is critical especially today, when COVID-19 remains a threat. © UNHCR/Jonathan Porras



Aside from providing access to water and sanitation during the pandemic, this project also aims to promote community empowerment, foster peaceful co-existence, and strengthen the resilience of the forcibly displaced. © UNHCR/Corazon Lagamayo

How your support protected the most vulnerable during COVID-19

With the help of donors like you, support from the Australian Government, in partnership with the Integrated Resource Development for Tri-People (IRDT), and in collaboration with the City Government of Zamboanga, UNHCR Philippines recently built communal latrines and a water pump for the residents of Masepla Transitory Site. This water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH) facility will benefit Mikaela and 130 families in maintaining good health and sanitation practices, especially during this critical time.

“This will affect the health of every family who is staying here,” said City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) Chief Ma. Socorro Rojas during the handover, who also highlighted that multi-sectoral collaboration is critical in implementing a project like this.

Evelyn Lakibul, the president of the Project Management Committee for this particular quick impact project (QIP), also expressed her gratitude, saying,

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Masaya kami dahil merong naipagkaloob dito ang UNHCR at mga partner na mga latrines. Dati rati nahihirapan ang mga tao dito. Bilang lider, dapat lagi ko silang paalalahanin na lagi nilang sundin kung ano mang ikabubuti dito para maging long-lasting ito. Maraming maraming salamat.



EVELYN LAKIBUL
President of the Project Management Committee
Masepla Transitory Site



UNHCR continues to advocate for the inclusion of forcibly displaced families in the local vaccination program, and address the recurring protection issues with the provision of WASH facilities. Their safety and dignity remains high in UNHCR's priority eight years after the Zamboanga crisis. © UNHCR/Corazon Lagamayo

Staying and delivering

It has been eight years since she was forced to flee from home, and despite the daily challenges, Mikaela remains hopeful for the future. She takes her responsibility as a youth leader seriously, sharing that she hopes to influence the other young people in her community to do good and stay on the right path. When asked about her dreams for the future, she shares,

“

Gusto ko po maging nurse, gusto ko po makatulong sa pamilya ko, masuklian ko yung paghihirap nila at pagpapaaral nila sa akin. Tsaka gusto ko po makatulong sa ibang tao, sa kabataan.



MIKAELA JUMALA
Vice Chairman of the Barangay Youth Committee
Masepla Transitory Site

In the last eight years, much has been done to assist those displaced by the Zamboanga siege. With the help of donors and partners, UNHCR has conducted protection monitoring activities for those who are displaced, provided core relief items to complement the assistance of the city government and other humanitarian agencies, implemented quick impact projects like this WASH facility, conducted IDP profiling and consultation activities to ensure that no IDPs are left out of government support and interventions, and implemented capacity building initiatives to empower local partners and members of the community.

While most of those displaced from the conflict have already been able to return home, as of August 2021, approximately 3,600 individuals (720 families) remain displaced and are still waiting for the completion of the permanent housing units under the Zamboanga City Roadmap to Recovery and Rehabilitation (Z3R). Of the total, 58 families are living in transitory sites, while 662 families are in home-based settings.

While they await their resettlement to their new homes, UNHCR continues to advocate for their inclusion on the local vaccination program and address the recurring protection issues with the provision of WASH facilities. The safety and dignity remains high in UNHCR's priority eight years after the crisis.

3,600 individuals (720 families) remain displaced due to the Zamboanga siege

While they are in transitory sites, the health and safety of forcibly displaced families are at great risk and remain top priority. Among their protection needs include:



MODERN-DAY HEROES IN ACTION

Making a difference beyond borders

When Jin Lieyoung “Ashley” founded the Westfield International School Korean Organization (WISKO) in 2019, she wanted to inspire her fellow students and create lasting impact to help those who need it the most. Soon after, she inspired other students like herself – Lee Yeon Jae “Amy”, Kim Heejung “Eric”, An Sungmin “Hermes”, Kim Sarang, and Lee Dayoun – to establish the organization that it is today.

Ashley and her friends discovered UNHCR after working on several fundraising activities for other charities. She was moved by the work of UNHCR in helping refugees and other forcibly displaced individuals. Drawing from her personal experience, Ashley shares, “as a Korean who settled here in the Philippines, we may experience some disadvantages living in a foreign country. UNHCR is helping refugees, and even those who do not have their own nationality, displaced because of some circumstances beyond their control.” WISKO chose to help those who are forcibly displaced and hope to give them strength, especially in the difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the help of their friends and families, WISKO members organized a fundraising activity to raise awareness and monetary support for UNHCR. With health-care being the most critical during the pandemic, the team decided to create handmade soaps, work on marketing materials and videos, and sell the products not just in the Philippines but also in Korea. Using online platforms, a fundraising box in school, and the assistance of friends and families, they were able to raise PHP 20,000 for the most vulnerable forcibly displaced communities in Mindanao.

Amy shares, “it was very rewarding when I gathered members to make soap, mostly young students who wanted to volunteer. Family members and friends were excited to contribute, and it was a good platform to spread awareness on volunteering and creating a difference.” Hermes added, “kids and adults worked together. It’s great to donate during such a hard time. It’s amazing that, as a student, I can do such things.”



WISKO is motivated to continue more volunteering and fundraising activities for its members and expand the help they are extending to reach more people in need. Like Ashley and the rest of the WISKO students, you too can share your donor journey on what inspires you to support people forced to flee. Scan the QR code below.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS AND SHARE YOUR DONOR JOURNEY
unhcr.org/ph/donors-update

“

Kindness is getting connected to people by sharing. The act of kindness of WISKO may be very small, but as a student organization, we’re trying our best to show kindness by sharing what we have, what we can, even our time and efforts, to make a difference.

Ashley



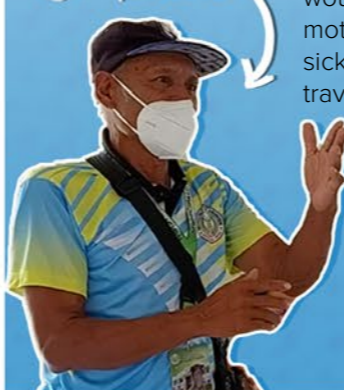
Empowering the most vulnerable communities to respond to climate hazards and emergencies

Reaching out to far-flung barangays for pre-emptive evacuations and emergency response has always been a challenge for Datu Genaro Angudo Sr., one of the community leaders and a member of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council in Asuncion, Davao del Norte.

The residents of Asuncion, who are mostly from the indigenous Dibabawon and Manguwangan tribes, have dealt with climate hazards that have damaged their crops and affected their livelihood for years. Armed conflict has also caused displacement and suffering among the most vulnerable.

The threats posed by conflict and climate change are only exacerbated by the remoteness of the area. Due to the distance and difficult terrain, the exchange of life-saving information and supplies between the municipal government and barangays used to take hours or even days. According to Datu Genaro, during health emergencies, the unavailability of transportation means they would sometimes have to manually carry patients through a hammock and walk all the way just to reach the hospital. In some cases, the patients don’t make it. Pregnant women would give birth along the way, putting mothers and their children at risk, while sick persons would endure the strenuous travel to health facilities.

Datu Genaro ANGUDO



“

This project has an enormous impact on our lives. Now that this facility is here, we can respond to emergencies immediately.

With your help, UNHCR Philippines, in partnership with ACCORD and the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management (MDRRM) Office of Asuncion, implemented a quick impact project to build a satellite office to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

In an area that is prone to conflict as well as typhoons, landslides, and flash floods, the ability to immediately respond to emergencies is essential in saving lives. This used to be difficult due to the distance to the municipal center and poor road conditions.

The construction of the DRRM satellite office was made possible through the combined resources of the local government and UNHCR donors. The local government also committed to provide an emergency vehicle with a stand-by driver, 8 emergency responders, and emergency supplies.

Located in Barangay Buan, which is 30 kilometers from the town center, the satellite office caters to at least four interior barangays in Asuncion. While the DRRM satellite office is not intended to fully function as a health unit, its emergency response capacities will be strengthened so that first aid, basic life support, and emergency transport of patients needing medical attention shall be provided to those who need it the most.



Delivering hope to the most vulnerable

PJ Tanghal has been serving as a driver for UNHCR Philippines’ field operations for 10 years now, and as a humanitarian, he traverses the roughest of the roads, the toughest of the weathers, and the steepest of the hills to safely bring people, goods, and services to the vulnerable communities in need of assistance.

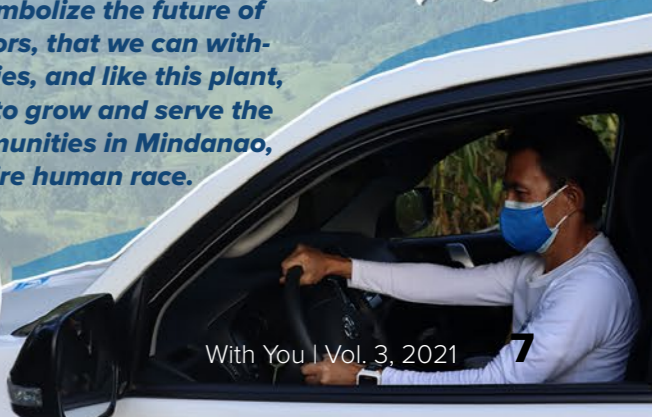
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May this plant symbolize the future of humanitarian actors, that we can withstand any adversities, and like this plant, may we continue to grow and serve the families and communities in Mindanao, and the entire human race.

Kuya PJ



On World Humanitarian Day, PJ joined UNHCR Philippines colleagues and other members of the Mindanao Humanitarian Country Team for a tree planting activity in Barangay Labungan, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao to call for collective action and address the climate crisis. © UNHCR/Jonathan Porres





Climate change is the defining crisis of our time and disaster displacement one of its most devastating consequences.

Refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and the stateless are on the frontlines of the climate emergency. Many are living in climate "hotspots", where they typically lack the resources to adapt to an increasingly hostile environment.

The domino effect of disaster upon disaster triggered by climate change battering already impoverished communities, leaves them no time to recover.

In the race against the climate crisis, we can't leave anyone behind.

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