



*Securing a better world for
our children*



Unlad Kabayan Annual Report

September-December 2017 to January-September 2018

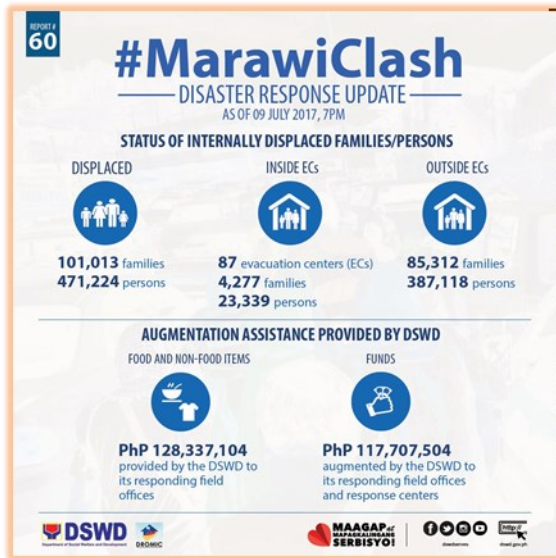
Issues of the period

Security, displacement, insecurity

In October 2017, the bombings ceased, the last ISIS-Maute fighters in Marawi have either escaped or lay dead in the debris of what once were homes and buildings. Government troops regained control of the city. Hostages were freed or were able earlier to escape while fighting was raging.



One year after the clash, some 320,000 people have returned home, 69,000 are still in evacuation centers or in the homes of relatives. They come from 27 villages of the main battle area or **Ground Zero** which covers 250 hectares. The area is littered with unexploded bombs, the clearing of which may take 2-3 years.



Many Maranao families are supported by overseas remittances, mostly from the Middle East, continue to be a significant source of income. According to government, the rehabilitation of Marawi may take at least five (5) years which includes re-construction of roads, bridges, government buildings and other infrastructure, building of more permanent housing for displaced population, new infrastructures such as ports and an airport, and economic reconstruction, estimated to cost P75 billion. About P1.8 billion in assistance for income opportunities has been spent for 1,700 families in evacuation centers and 11,100 families dispersed in 8 regions.



School kids in Bubong, Lanao del Sur receive packs of school supplies.

Natural disasters, economic & spatial dislocation

Tropical storms, floods and landslides that frequented the country during the period caused people to move, temporarily or permanently, within or outside the country. About 15 strong typhoons Economic dislocation due to damage and losses in assets, livelihood and other types of income sources was severe. Hardly had people recovered from a tropical storm when a new one is spotted to be on its way. This was painfully experienced by people in northern and central Luzon with TS Mashkut in September 2018.

Economic growth, exclusive prosperity

Technology, labor productivity, competitiveness

Summary of accomplishments

Mission: Promote social entrepreneurship and enterprise development by mobilizing marginalized groups and migrant workers to build sustainable local economy.

A total of 985 individuals, 50 families and 662 young women and girls were reached and served during the period. Evacuees or internally displaced persons (IDP) of the Marawi siege were the majority of the beneficiaries but the core beneficiaries are those into the social enterprises.

Reach of Programs and Services

Program/Areas	2016	2017-2018	Women & girls
Davao City	32	83	76
Davao Oriental	67	38	30
Lanao del Norte	143	112	110
Haiyan	77	--	--
Surigao	15	12	12
Metro Manila	8	3	3
CSI-CAP at Large	5	15	15
Migrant returnees/families	48	2	2
Marawi IDPs	200	720	514
Research/CLMP - Camiguin	65	--	--
TOTAL	660	985	762 77%

These social enterprises are envisaged to support children centers that care and teach young pre-school children so that their young mothers can work and earn.

The Lobby and campaign for a rights-based and gender-responsive migration governance at the national and global level had been more pronounced this period.

Unlad Kabayan focused its work on two major programs:

1. Social entrepreneurship & Enterprise development

Two social enterprises were started during the period. The production of mats and rugs in Davao and ginger tuber growing and candy making in Lanao allow women to work in their homes or in the communities where they live.



Bagobo tribal woman recalls their traditional weaving skills.



Kids queue up to wash hands before and after eating.

a. Coir weaving –

Woven mats and rugs from coir ropes provide Mandaya (Davao Oriental) and Bagobo (Davao City) tribal women a source of income. The weaving enterprise won the approbation of the District Office of the Department of Education (DepEd) as an innovative and practical income-generating activity for women. DepEd pursued a partnership between Unlad Kabayan and the J.V. Ferriols National High School. It provided, among others, weaving rooms for the women and slots for entrepreneurship training to senior high school students on condition that the enterprise will cater to the poorest students. Since it started, some 250 doormats have been sold. The women make PhP50.00 (US\$1.00 cost of labor) per doormat and average production of 4 doormats per woman per day.

The social enterprises are envisaged to support the children's centers where young children learn about their world around and beyond, basic health and hygiene, three Rs, etc. With majority of the children undernourished, a center provides supplemental meals. Rice were donated by the local government and NGOs while vegetables are grown by the mothers and kids in garden around the Center. There are 22 Mandaya kids in the Davao Oriental Children's Center. The Davao City children's center is still under construction and hopefully operational by November.

b. Ginger enterprise

Young mothers of the Higaonon tribe are engaged in the ginger tuber and candy production. Through ancestral claim they were able to own substantial farmland but lack the capital, appropriate technology and market knowhow. Unlad Kabayan tapped Agriculture Department of Iligan City government, its long-standing partner, to provide farming technology and monitoring of tuber production. Access to social services, e.g. day-care, formal school, health and medical is very limited because of distance from the city center and absence of regular, affordable transport.

Inspired by weavers experience, the Higaonon proposed to replicate the social enterprise-learning center model. There are a similar arrangement is proposed by the Higaonon women in Rogongon in Iligan City who are trained in growing ginger and making candies. The number of children five (5) years old and below is unusually high due to tradition of early marriage. As soon girls reach puberty they are eligible for marriage. The country has the highest incidence of teen-age pregnancy.

Will kids prefer this texture of ginger candy?



These mothers are themselves just children.



2. Education & training

a. World Economic Forum ASEAN (WEF ASEAN)

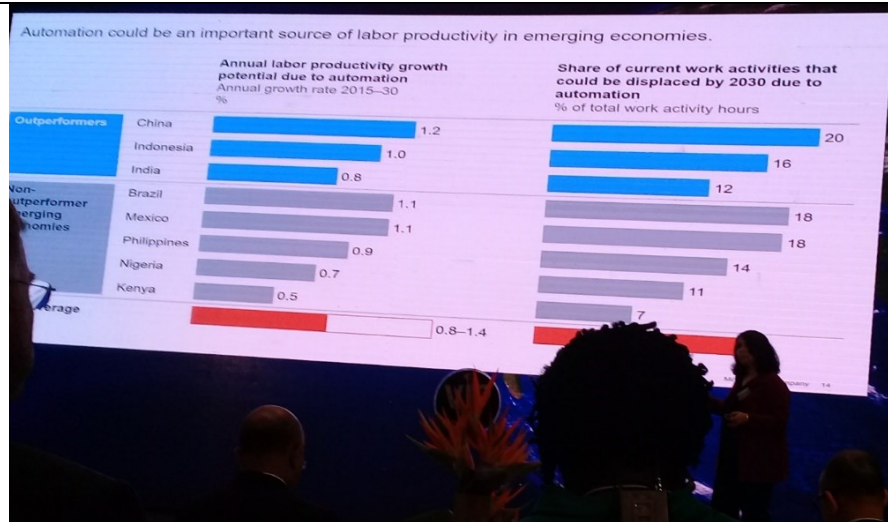
World Economic Forum brought together more than 1,000 business, governments and social/young entrepreneurs in Hanoi on September 11-13 to discuss the issues and find solutions to the challenges posed by the Fourth Industrial Revolution – “ASEAN 4.0 for all”. At the core of it is a digital economy.

Some of the take-aways from the forum:

- On plastics – there will be more plastics in the ocean than fish. It is now slowly but surely getting into the food chain. An Indonesian chemist-expert described plastic in one word **Romance** - *You can't live with it-you can't live without it.* It is a toxic love story.

- Missed Opportunities – Diaspora Networks: a session that missed the opportunity of looking into and addressing drivers of human mobility and migration driving development.

Shift in the division of labor between humans and machines.



(Schwab Foundation) Social Entrepreneurs gather at a Private Conversation on “Innovation Under Stress”.

b. Win-win Strategies: Collaborating for Impact – Cross sector engagement workshop

A four-day training-workshop, September 3-6, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands proved to be a rich learning experience for any age. Most interesting is the topic on Change Management and Partnership Pitching.

Quotable lessons:

- Think with your hands, trust your hands. – When one uses hands, 80% of brain is activated.
- Partnership with private sector - Shared interest leads to Share Corporate Value.
- Operational terms – Respect , Transparency, Trust, Partnership, Collaboration



80% of brain with hands on lego.



How did the pitch go with Friesland Campina?

3. Advocacy and campaigns

a. National Provident Savings Program (NPSP)

An innovative approach to a more effective savings mobilization with the “Migrant Savings and Alternative Investments-MSAI” was developed and is being campaigned for. is the National Provident Savings Program. NPSP is an integrated savings mechanism that brings in existing savings-pension institutions, such as the Social Security System (SSS), Pag-ibig Provident Savings and Housing, and PhilHealth while value added windows that address particular situation and behavior of migrant workers.



Participants to the launching of NPSP in Silay City, Negros Occidental, December 2017.

NPSP is about:

- Establishing a national, government-mandated and guaranteed provident savings program responding to Filipino migrants’ needs.
- Consolidating, and creating synergies among existing provident savings and asset-building programs of government, financial institutions, private sector and cooperatives, and other providers;

- Generating provident savings, building migrants' assets;
- Preparing migrants for reintegration;
- Enabling them to be drivers in local development;
- Setting a system that captures, maintains and generates data on migrant savings, reintegration, contribution to local investments and development.

In December 2017, NPSP was formally launched by Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) and the Migrants Coordinating Group-Western Visayas (MCG-WV) and the network of 25 migrant organizations and NGOs.



Compact of Migrant Support NGOs as core of NPSP: L-R Unlad Kabayan, Mindanao Migrants, Kanlungan, Batis, Bannuar Ti La Union, Kaagapay, MCG-West Visayas.

A draft NPSP Bill has been submitted to potential sponsors in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. Migrant organizations and support groups are asking their respective congressmen/women to support the Bill.

On a campaign trail, Unlad Kabayan started to spread the core benefits of the NPSP among Filipino migrant workers on-site. On August 28-30, 2018, in the Netherlands, documented and undocumented migrants were encouraged to enroll in SSS, Pag-ibig and Philhealth. Officials at the Philippine Embassy in The Hague offered to co-sponsor an event for NPSP in 2019 under its Gender and Development program. ENRICH in Hong Kong committed to study the NPSP and its documents and promote it among its clientele.

b. Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)

The national and global campaign for a rights-based and gender-responsive GCM started at the 2017 Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), December, in Bangladesh.

The GCM Zero draft was introduced by Ambassador Foz of Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to civil society representatives and members of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA). Over-all, the document was well-appreciated. However, there was lengthy debate on the issue of it being non-binding to state parties.

Further study and proposals were made in a broader forum of “Philippine Multiple Stakeholders in Migration” organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).



Ambassador Foz & CSO representatives, Unlad Kabayan, MFA, CMA.



Workshop table of civil society representatives in a consultation by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Asia Regional Conference: “Enhancing Collective Advocacy, Action and Empowerment of Domestic Workers.

The conference organized by the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) and the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) was held in Manila on October 22-24, 2017. Some 50 domestic workers, support organizations and parliamentarians who came to the conference support the call of domestic workers in a statement; “Recognize Us and Listen to Us: Towards Achieving Decent Work for Domestic Workers”



“Campaign for Decent Work” complements the call for a rights-based and gender-responsive GCM.



Moderating a session with resource person, Max Tunon, ILO Specialist based in India.

Mr. Tunon emphasized the need to discern the progress made by GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries such as policy reforms, Jordan - recognition of women's work; more open spaces for civil society such participation in Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD).

Moreover, it must be recognized the changing and improving governance on migration. As an example, more involvement of the Labor Ministry compared to Ministry of Foreign Affairs in migration. There is more decentralization and initiatives by local authorities not just the national government.

He announced that ILO Centenary (100 years) will be in 2019. It will focus on "Women and Work" on issues such as "Women in the Care Industry"; Paid and unpaid work and more ratifications for ILO 189.

3. Forging and Renewing Partnerships

1. Kwangju Social Enterprise Foundation

A lively exchange between members of the Kwang-Ju Social Enterprise Foundation and Unlad Kabayan on a visit in Quezon City office on November 7, 2017.



A robust social enterprise community in Korea is because of a national law that mandates the government to support civil society organizations.

Some of the concerns of the Kwangju SE members were on environment, Persons With Disabilities (PWD), migrant workers human rights, support to students and children born in China whose parents live in North Korea.

2. Pathfinders – Hong Kong

Unlad Kabayan and Pathfinders renewed its partnership. A brief visit on September 14, 2018 was made to Pathfinders office in Hong Kong meeting with Medina Speers and Carmen Lam. Pathfinders is a community education and outreach that serve the needs of migrant unwed mothers. It partners with other organizations including relating with government agencies in home countries that complement its services upon return of the migrant woman to her country of origin.



People's Stories

Mother and Joy

Joy Elim was 4 years old when the Learning Center opened in April 2018. It was her first experience to be in a “school”. A quiet and timid child, Joy keeps to herself. It took longer than the others to make her smile, according to Teacher Femma. Joy was so pleased when she was handed her “school” ID.

Where other kids would rush to meet Teacher Femma and touch the bag of bread, Joy would just eye the bag with a hint of interest. Could it be that she is just shy or that she does not have enough of a child's natural curiosity and energy? She is neither. After a month, Joy showed all the interest and curiosity of a child. She comes to the Center early in the morning to brush her teeth. They have no toothpaste at home. She loves its minty smell. She is now well-groomed. Joy Elim is a fast learner.

Joy is the youngest of 3 children of Abegail, 31 years old and a weaver in DOCHSE coir plant. Her father is Marlito, 53 years old and a machinist in the plant.



Five years ago Abegail, a single mother then, came to DOCHSE to work to support her two sons. The boys would help her in drying fiber but their income was always not enough. She decided to live with Marlito, who promised to support her and her sons. After a year she became pregnant by Marlito and had a daughter, Joy. She stopped working to care for Joy. But as soon as Joy could walk, Abegail returned to work. She left the younger siblings to the care of the eldest son. They would play around the plant even in places that are unsafe.

“Life is not fair!” Abegail would always say. “Marlito and I work long and hard, and still we could not afford to have enough to eat. Our little hut is getting smaller as the kids are growing. We need to earn more for other important needs – education, for one. I would like to see my children getting education. I would like to have a life better than what we are able to offer. I never managed to finish elementary because I had to work and earn. I can hardly read much less write. Today I am busy working but still unable to provide for their needs.”

In December 2017, rug and mat weaving, was introduced to the families in the community– another income-generating activity for the women. Additionally, the project would also put up a Child Minding and Learning Center. The Center opened in April and Joy Elim was one of the 22 children in the list. And also one of the underweights. It took longer to convince Joy to stop eating junk food and to appreciate vegetables. She is now gaining weight and learning fast. But the question remains, “How far can the learning center provide opportunities to better the life of Joy Elim and the other children?”

-000-