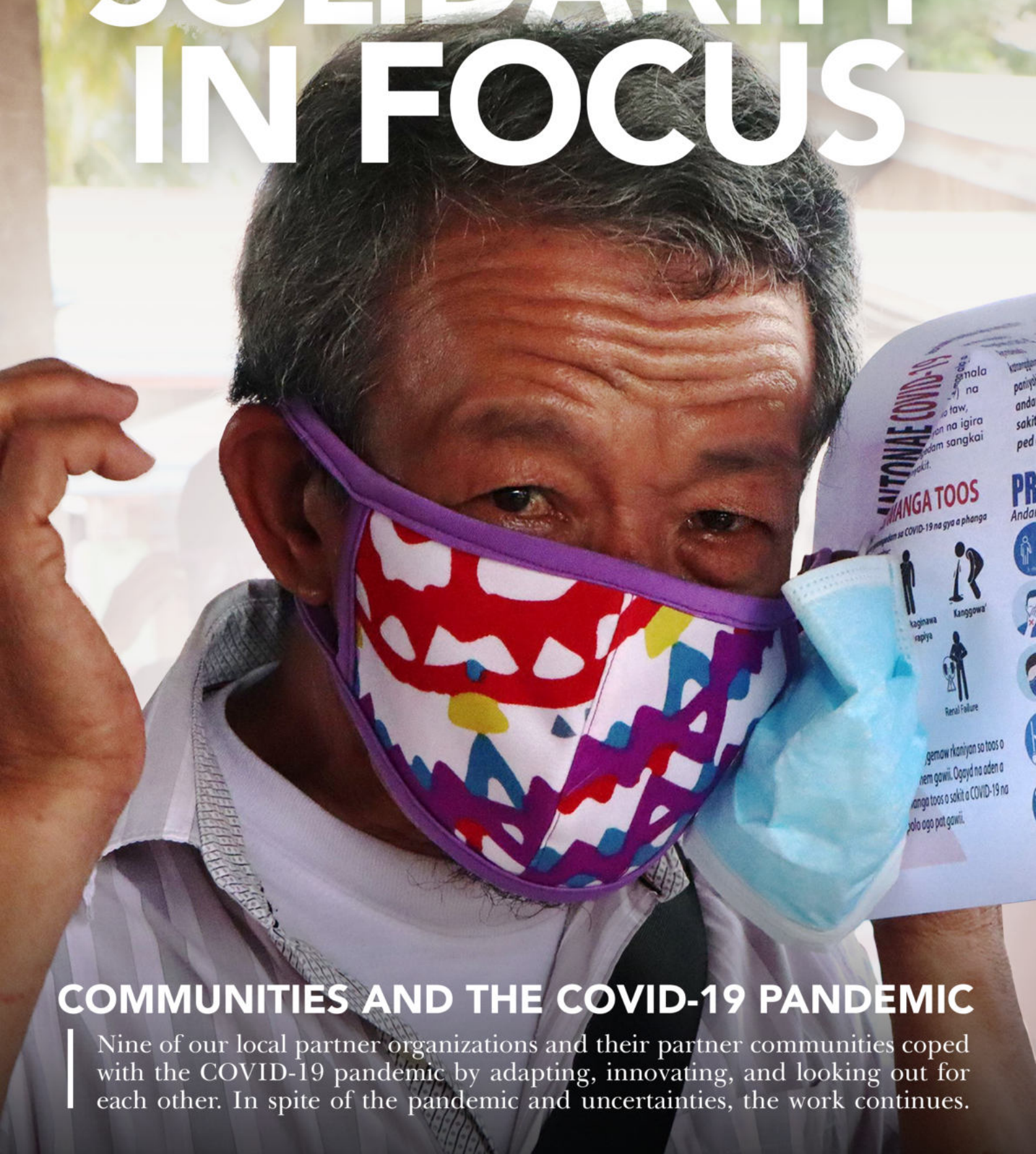


SOLIDARITY IN FOCUS



COMMUNITIES AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Nine of our local partner organizations and their partner communities coped with the COVID-19 pandemic by adapting, innovating, and looking out for each other. In spite of the pandemic and uncertainties, the work continues.



International

REGIONAL OFFICE SOUTHEAST ASIA

ISSUE 01 • 2021

EDITORIAL

AWO International's responsibility to support people's social structures through strengthening their self-help and advocacy capacity was and will continue to be the core of our work.

Ensuring safe migration and preventing human trafficking amidst the evident consequences of the changing climate, an unprecedented pandemic and the increasing influence of false information on the societal discourse need the firm and collaborative action of the concerned institutions, organizations and offices. AWO International Southeast Asia has produced a magazine for the first time to showcase our work and inform stakeholders and partners on what is behind the summarized presentations and tables we usually work with when we share information.

With a collection of human interest stories, this magazine aims to provide an account of how our partner communities in the Philippines and Indonesia address human trafficking, promote safe migration, and actively participate in increasing their resilience against disasters. It envisions to inform and inspire readers – be they casual and curious readers, development practitioners, or concerned stakeholders, and bring these stories of change from the ground into their stream of consciousness.

This magazine was framed around specific themes. It dived into topics such as labor migration; migrant's rights and well-being; fisherfolk's collective empowerment; participatory emergency response operations; and building of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) capacities amidst the pandemic, conflict, and societal problems. With the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting the status quo and compelling everyone to adapt to a new normal, nations scramble to find solutions to the crisis. As with many of the development issues that countries experience, most were overshadowed and exacerbated by the imminent dangers and effects of COVID-19. The road to Safe Migration and Combating Human Trafficking for AWO International and its partners was already steep but has become even steeper. With humankind coming to terms with the new reality, our efforts towards a vision of a "just world wherein all people think and act in solidarity" remain steadfast and stronger than ever.

In light of the sweeping changes happening today, human trafficking and its interconnection with other issues like human rights, peace, the environment, and others spans the breadth and depth of involvement and experiences of a multitude of actors from the community to the international level. Thus, AWO International has ensured that this publication is based on facts and real stories from the partner communities that we support.

As the development and humanitarian arm of AWO e.V. in Germany, AWO International acknowledges the German welfare organization's continuing emphasis on supporting disadvantaged and marginalized groups. This was particularly relevant in 2018 during the massive magnitude 7.0 earthquake in Lombok, Indonesia; in 2020 during super Typhoon Goni (local name: Rolly) in Bicol, Philippines; and during the COVID-19 pandemic, wherein AWO International works with local partner organizations to provide assistance to people who have been displaced and affected, including locally stranded individuals.

As we start the year 2022, we hope that you would be inspired by the stories told in this magazine. These thought-provoking accounts are bound to spark discussions. Our commitment to the communities we serve continues.

Kerstin Grimm
REGIONAL DIRECTOR



On the Cover Photo: An elderly man swapping his disposable face mask with the reusable alternative he received from the COVID-19 Response Assistance of AWO International and ECOWEB in the Philippines. (Source: ECOWEB)

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Note: This magazine issue features projects and activities that were implemented in 2018 to 2020. Photos that are published here were taken during that period and some in 2021.

TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

AWO International was founded in 1998 as a professional association for development cooperation and humanitarian action within the framework of the German welfare organization “Arbeiterwohlfahrt” (AWO) or workers welfare. AWO International draws on the expertise and vast experience of AWO in Germany. In the past 100 years, AWO has been an integral part of the German welfare state. The head office is in Berlin, Germany and has operations in Central America, South Asia, East Africa, and here in Southeast Asia.

In close cooperation with local non-governmental organizations, AWO International is working to ensure that marginalized and disadvantaged groups in society can sustainably improve their living conditions. In the event of disasters and crisis situations, AWO International is engaged in humanitarian relief and reconstruction.

Fighting poverty and strengthening civil society

As part of its development cooperation projects, it aims to improve the social participation of disadvantaged groups such as children and adolescents, women, migrants, indigenous people, the elderly, and sick people. We support people to develop their own life perspectives and gain access to necessary resources and services. The aim is to strengthen the social structures or community-based organizations, in which people act at different levels so that they actively participate in political and social processes. In our work, we proceed from a human rights approach.

Humanitarian action

AWO International is involved in humanitarian relief and recovery. In cooperation with local partner organizations, we provide fast and effective help for the affected population. This includes measures such as the provision of food packs, hygiene kits, shelter repair as well as hygiene promotion. We promote recovery projects and are involved in disaster risk reduction. Our aim is to strengthen communities by measures of disaster preparedness and responding to the needs of people affected by disasters and crisis. AWO International is a member of Aktion Deutschland Hilft e.V., the alliance of German relief organizations, which join forces in the event of a catastrophe in order to provide assistance quickly and effectively.

OUR WORK IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

From 2018 to 2020, we focused on humanitarian aid, combating the trafficking of people and promoting safe migration. During this period, we carried out *8 development projects* and *3 humanitarian action projects*, worked with *11 partners*, and directly reached out to *41,198 people*.

Humanitarian Aid

COUNTRY	NGO PARTNER	PROJECT	DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
Indonesia	Yayasan SHEEP Indonesia (YSI)	Recovery and disaster risk reduction	3,819
	Perkumpulan Panca Karsa (PPK)	Emergency response	929
	PPK	Recovery	4,285
	Center for Emergency Aid, Rehabilitation and Development (CONCERN), Inc.	Emergency response	1,153
Philippines	Center for Emergency Aid and Rehabilitation (CONCERN)	Disaster risk reduction	1,852
	CONCERN	Emergency response and disaster risk reduction	7,347
	Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefit (ECOWEB), Inc.	Recovery and disaster risk reduction	2,587
	ECOWEB	Recovery and disaster risk reduction	6,101

Development Cooperation

COUNTRY	NGO PARTNER	PROJECT	DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
Indonesia	ADBMI	Combating human trafficking	1,461
	PPK	Promoting safe migration	2,560
Indonesia, Malaysia	Institute for Education Development, Social, Religious, and Cultural Studies (INFEST)	Promoting safe migration	850
Philippines	Child Alert Mindanao (CAM)	Prevention of child trafficking and child prostitution	384
	Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA)	Promoting safe migration	1,039
	Mindanao Migrant Center for Empowering Actions (MMCEA)	Promoting safe migration	919
	OND Hesed Foundation	Combating human trafficking	3,952
	Talikala	Prevention of child trafficking and child prostitution	1,833

These efforts continue in 2021, with 10 ongoing development projects – three of which are new cooperation projects that started in October, and at least one planned humanitarian project.

At AWO, we support every person to successfully manage their individual everyday lives, to demand their rights and be treated fairly. This involves helping people help themselves through empowerment and giving encouragement, as our role is always to make it easier for disadvantaged persons to join or rejoin society, or to ensure that they can take part in everyday life with autonomy and dignity.



International

REGIONAL OFFICE SOUTHEAST ASIA

MILESTONES

AWO Germany began supporting projects in the Philippines:

Preventive and Curative Health Care for Industrial Workers, Workplace Safety, and Accident Prevention Programs, Strengthening of Workers' Organizations, with Healthdev Institute/HDI

1987-1996

Organizational Strengthening of Farmers' Organizations, Promotion of Agricultural Development by Increasing Production and Marketing, with PAKISAMA/PAK

1992-1998

Establishment of an Enterprise for the Processing of Food for Emergencies and Disaster Relief, Strengthening of Rural Cooperatives, Introduction of Environmentally Friendly Land Use Systems, with Nutrition and Livelihood Center Inc./NUT

1996-1998

AWO International Southeast Asia moved from **Indonesia** to **Manila, Philippines**.



1986

1998

2006

2016

2014
2017

AWO in Germany was founded on the initiative of **Marie Juchacz**. Since then, it has been committed to fighting for **justice, solidarity, and participation**.

"Je mehr gute Taten wir zusammenbringen, umso besser wird die Welt." / "The more good we do, the better the world will be".

- MARIE JUCHACZ, FOUNDER OF AWO

AWO International was officially established.

AWO International set up a regional office for Southeast Asia in **Yogyakarta** and began supporting projects in Indonesia and the Philippines.

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – Social Structure Fund (BMZ-SSF) Development Cooperation Program Cycle on the Protection of Women and Children / Empowerment of Women and Children was implemented.

A new program cycle on
Safe Migration and
Anti-Human Trafficking
starts for BMZ-SSF
Development
Cooperation projects.

AWO in Germany
celebrated **100 years** since
its establishment. It stands
as one of the **oldest
charities in Germany.**



100 YEARS
OF AWO:

SCAN ME ▶



AWO @ 100
MAGAZINE:

SCAN ME ▶



A recovery - DRR
project for the Lombok
earthquake-affected
communities, including
COVID-19 interventions,
was implemented.

AWO International
responded to Typhoon
Goni in Albay, Philippines.
A disaster response,
including DRR, project was
implemented.

AWO International
responded to the 7.0
magnitude earthquake
in Lombok, Indonesia.
Two (2) disaster
response projects and
one (1) recovery project
were implemented.

A disaster preparedness
project improving the
resilience of families in
flood-prone
communities in
Pampanga, Philippines,
was implemented.

A disaster preparedness
and livelihood resiliency
project for Typhoon
Vinta-affected
communities in Lanao
del Norte, Philippines,
was implemented

A recovery - disaster risk
reduction (DRR) project for
Typhoon Vinta affected
communities in Lanao del
Norte, Philippines, which
includes COVID-19
interventions, was
implemented.

The Regional Project on
Safe Migration and
Anti-Human Trafficking
continues for a 2nd phase
that will run until 2023

Tapping into Local Culture to Overcome Migrant Workers' Challenges

WRITTEN BY: WIDYA KUSWATUN HARWIN, ORGANIZING AND PUBLIC POLICY MANAGER, ADVOCACY FOR INDONESIAN MIGRANT WORKERS FOUNDATION



The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic did not spare East Lombok, Indonesia's largest contributor of migrant workers in the West Nusa Tenggara province. A lot of migrants from this area fall into the trap of unsafe migration, making them vulnerable to human rights violations. Adding to that, these migrants' families conditions continue to worsen. With restrictions and limitations imposed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, what can be done to ease their suffering?

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed the Indonesian government, like many nations around the world, to impose new orders, protocols and restrictions that significantly affected almost every aspect of daily life. It disrupted the activities and progress of the local economy and forced society to deal with the severe impacts. A sector especially affected by this was the migrant worker community.

Around 16,000 migrant workers from West Nusa Tenggara were repatriated during the COVID-19 pandemic from March to December 2020 – some due to expiring contracts and others because of problems like unjust practices (unpaid salaries, physical abuse, and

"I entered Malaysia illegally five times [already, to work] as a plantation laborer. The last time .. was in August 2021. [I] was captured by the Malaysian Border Force [because] Malaysia is closed to visitors due to COVID-19, [and I was] detained [for] 2.5 months. I do not have many choices [to meet] my family's needs. I have to pay tuition fees for [my] children, debt, and [our] daily needs."

- NURMAN, 39 YEARS OLD,

more). In March 2020, the Ministry of Manpower (Menaker) signed Decree Number 151 of 2020 regarding the "Temporary Suspension of the Placement of Indonesian Migrant Workers". Several migrant destination countries imposed temporary bans on the recruitment of workers as well. However, these developments did not stop some migrants from going abroad. Some pushed on and disregarded this restriction just to be able to afford better lives for themselves and their loved ones. Unfortunately, with the enforcement of stringent policies, more people ended up resorting to illegal channels just to find opportunities to work abroad. Where demand for workers in destination countries continues to exist



Nurman is a beneficiary of the safe migration campaign implemented by ADBMI. (Photo: ADBMI)



Note: The feature articles in this issue focus on projects that were implemented from 2018 to 2020. Photos that accompany them were taken during that period and some in 2021.

Rudat performance in Ketapang Raya Village, Lombok, in 2019

and where some do not mind accepting undocumented workers, so too will back-door channels like this persist, even during a pandemic. Migrant workers bear the brunt of this unintended consequence. They are now even more vulnerable to human rights violations and at a higher risk of abuses like fraud, slavery and torture, to name a few.

It is not only the economy and the migrants themselves that are affected. The migrants' communities and hometowns also encounter problems, one prevalent issue being the rise of the number of child marriages (marriage of minors or individuals under 18 years of age). According to data released by the Regional Integrated Service Unit for the Protection of Women and Children (UPTD PPA) of East Lombok, 42 cases were reported to them in 2020. ADBMI sees that the problem of child marriage is an "iceberg phenomenon" – where only the tip of the iceberg is visible and the bulk of it is underwater – meaning the cases reported are only a small portion of the number of potential total cases that actually occur. The East Lombok Health Office noted that as many as 2,700 women under 20 years old gave

birth in 2020, which likely means that their marriages occurred when they were 19 years old or younger. These numbers do not include couples who do not get pregnant immediately after marriage.

All these things are like "rubbing salt into the wound" for the migrant worker community, especially for their families in their hometowns, causing them so much suffering.

ADBMI, as one of the institutions deeply concerned with safeguarding the safety and well-being of migrant workers in Indonesia, responds to these situations through their project with AWO International on the "Protection of Women Migrant Workers against Trafficking in Persons and Gender-Based Violence in East Lombok". Local wisdom and culture are inherent in people's daily lives. Valuing this in the AWO-ADBMI project made it easier for the community to understand and accept the project's objectives and goals.

¹ Radar Lombok, 2020. NTB/West Nusa Tenggara Lombok takes 4th Place for Supplier of Indonesian Migrant Workers. [online] Available at: <<https://radarlombok.co.id/ntb-tempati-posisi-keempat-penyuplai-ki.html>>
² Antara, 2021. 1st Quarter Total Remittances from Migrant Workers from NTB/West Nusa Tenggara Reaches IDR 100 Billion. [online] Tempo. Available at: <<https://bisnis.tempo.co/read/1466029/total-remittansi-kuartal-1-dari-pekerja-migran-asal-ntb-capai-rp-100-miliar/fullview=ok>>



Drawing competition in Suradadi Village, Lombok (Source: ADBMI)

ADBMI initiated several fresh and new activities to campaign for safe migration during the pandemic; it tapped into and built upon the community's way of living, behavior and attitudes. Through a drawing competition, children of migrant workers enjoyed learning about safe migration, how the process should be carried out, and the risks of not following the rules set by the government. The community also enhanced their awareness by viewing a short Sasak language film produced by ADBMI entitled "Lewak" or "Big Mouth". Lewak refers to someone who cannot keep their promises – like brokers perpetuating undocumented and illegal migration. Highlighting the consequences of availing of unofficial migration procedures, the film narrated the story of its impact on a migrant, her family and community, and consequences for the illegal brokers. This video can be accessed on ADBMI Foundation's official YouTube channel.



Lewak: A Short Film on the Protection of Migrant Workers
SCAN ME ►



Another interesting breakthrough made during the project was the production of a khutbah text, or a sermon content for Islamic preaching. A large part of Indonesia's population practices Islam. The khutbah text is particularly useful for preachers who regularly deliver their teachings in the mosque every Friday and on other Islamic holidays, as well

as congregation members who attend these gatherings. The text was compiled by ADBMI together with the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) of West Nusa Tenggara and contains at least 10 topics related to migrant workers' lives. It was developed from questions, statements and real events that unfold in society with the aim of providing alternative references and literary sources, especially on migrant workers' issues.

Through the most advanced advocacy achievement that ADBMI accomplished in the first project cycle (2018–2020) with AWO International, three out of five project villages secured budgets from the Village Fund that were stated in the Village Government Work Plan (RKPDs) for the benefit of the migrant worker communities in their respective villages. This was facilitated by the Village Social Institution (LSD), a group of community-based organizations initiated by ADBMI.

In 2019, ADBMI also actively encouraged the East Lombok government to form a UPTD PPA under the Office of Women's Empowerment for Child Protection and Family Planning (DP3AKB). As a result, in early 2020, UPTD PPA was established and immediately worked on cases related to the protection of women and children. DP3AKB was the leading agency in protecting women and children and it is now under the responsibility of the UPTD PPA.

¹ Many cases of child marriage go unreported because (1) people do not know the rules regarding violence against women and children and do not know where to report such cases; (2) village officials do not also understand these rules; and (3) the community and village government sometimes view cases of violence against women and children as a disgrace to the family and to the village, so these are mostly resolved amicably without involving the UPTD PPA.

² Indonesia's top Islamic scholars' body

To respond to the economic problems faced by the migrant worker community during the pandemic, Bumi Raya (a fundraising system established by ADBMI in 2006) spent at least Rp 17 billion in 2020 to provide capital for small businesses in East Lombok – including businesses run by the members of the migrant worker communities in the five beneficiary villages of AWO-ADBMI's project. This assistance was coursed through the Multipurpose Business Cooperative (KSU).

In addition, Bumi Raya also suspended the regular contributions of its member small and micro businesses as a gesture of compassion and support for fellow entrepreneurs affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic necessitated that ADBMI, its partner communities and the project adapt to the changing times and circumstances. Local wisdom and culture have been and will continue to be a priority in ADBMI's advocacies and campaigns as a medium for learning and disseminating information. Before the pandemic, everyone was free to gather and learn and grow together – through face-to-face workshops, Rudat or traditional theater performances, and the like. Now, with restrictions

on mass gatherings in place, ADBMI maximizes the use of social and other media, such as the short films, social media campaigns, art contests and publications it opted for. Its social media reach and following on Facebook and YouTube have grown

10 times over since their accounts were created during the height of the pandemic alone. Social media proved to be instrumental in increasing the value of the advocacy carried out by ADBMI. Local governments responded seriously to the issue of protecting women and children after ADBMI posted news and incidents several times, which were then reported by local and national media. Even the East Lombok Parliament immediately took serious action when ADBMI voiced the importance of revising the regional regulation on the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers from East Lombok.

The pandemic may have exacerbated the issues faced by migrant workers and their families, but by reaching out to the local communities in ways that resonate with their identity, ADBMI and AWO International empowered them to rise above these challenges to help themselves and help others.



*Still shot from the short film, Lewak
(Source: ADBMI)*



Behind the scenes during the filming of Lewak (Source: ADBMI)



Another still shot from the short film, Lewak (Source: ADBMI)

Project Details

Project Name

Protection of Women Migrant Workers against Trafficking in Person (TIP) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) in East Lombok

Barangay/Village, City or District/Region/Country:

Villages in East Lombok District (Ketapang Raya, Suradadi, Pringgasela Timur, Anjani, Wanasaba), Indonesia

Partner Organization

Lembaga Advokasi Buruh Migran Indonesia /
Advocacy for Migrant Workers Foundation (ADBMI)

Target Group

- Former, current, and prospective migrant workers
- Migrant sponsors, agencies or brokers
- Trafficking victims and survivors
- Children of migrant workers
- Religious leaders or the Management of Islamic Boarding School in the project villages
- Traditional art figures in the project villages
- Residents in the project villages that own micro-or medium-sized businesses
- Local government of the project villages and relevant line agencies
- Civil society and other non-government organizations with similar advocacies

Links to Policies, Conventions and Goals

- Indonesia's National Development
- Strategy Sustainable Development Goals



Project Objectives

Improved protection for women migrant workers and families from TIP and GBV in East Lombok

Sponsor

AWO International and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Run-Time

January 2018 – December 2020

Number of Beneficiaries:

Direct: 1,461

Indirect: 52,971

Budget

€ 63,000 p.a.



Building Resilient Communities for Migrants and Their Families: A Responsive Local Migration Governance Amidst the Pandemic

WRITTEN BY: CENTER FOR MIGRANT ADVOCACY, PHILIPPINES



Three years shy of its 50th year, the Philippines' overseas employment program¹ has served the country well, thus the accolade for overseas Filipino workers as “modern-day heroes”. However, just as swiftly, when COVID-19 pandemic struck, these heroes become the dreaded virus vectors – returning with empty pockets, battered, and bruised. Can the migrants and their families recover and build back better?



CMA, Talubo Tabaco OFC Federation (TTOF) and Migrant Resource Center (MRC) staff during the project planning at Tabaco City (Source: CMA Philippines)

Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines - Aspiring for a society where justice, good governance, equal opportunity and gender equality prevail – to be enjoyed by all, including migrant workers

The Philippines has one of the largest diasporas in the world, with an estimated 10 million overseas Filipinos scattered in different countries.² The Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA) is steadfast in its commitment to advocate for the recognition, protection and exercise of their rights regardless of their affiliations and status – as ***one's rights are inherent and do not go away when one crosses borders.***

Strengthening capacities for the rights of migrant domestic workers and families: A whole-of-society approach

In 2011, CMA started engaging with local governments and community-based migrant organizations as part of its effort to mainstream the migration and development agenda in the communities where large numbers of migrants and their families live. This became part of its advocacy work on local migration governance, which is a system and process of decision-making that focuses on issues of migrant workers and their families. As CMA entered a partnership with AWO International to implement the 1st cycle of the project that ran from 2018 to 2020.

The Philippines has enacted several laws to protect and promote the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW). One of them is Republic Act (RA) 10022, amending RA 8042, also known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipino Act of 1995, which mandates Local Government Units

(LGU) to proactively disseminate information on all aspects of overseas employment and establish OFW help desks in various localities with the objective of providing up-to-date information to its constituents regarding all aspects of overseas employment. Additionally, RA 8759, otherwise known as the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Act of 1999, expanded the role of LGUs in overseas employment programs. PESOs are now responsible for conducting regular pre-employment counseling and orientation to prospective local and overseas workers, providing special credit assistance, and delivering reintegration assistance services to returning OFWs.

CMA, its partner migrant organizations, and the OFW Family Circles (OFC)³ in different communities have been actively engaging with various LGUs for the realization of these laws and have been consistently promoting for the inclusion of the migrant agenda in the local (barangay, municipality, city), sub-regional (province) and national development plans.

OFW help desks facilitating migration governance

From 2018 to 2020, CMA was able to forge Memoranda of Agreement (MoA) with 17 local government units to facilitate the setting up and/or strengthening of functional migrant help desks at the barangay, municipal, city or provincial level. These MoAs facilitated CMA's sustained engagement with the LGUs and the community-based migrant organizations to enhance their capacities to implement the OFW help desk operations. Specifically, CMA conducted various training and capacity building activities around migrants' rights, migration governance and access to justice. These LGUs include the National Capital Region, Regions I, III, IV-A, V, VI, VII, XIII, and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. As mandated by RA 10022, the help desks will serve as a go-to kiosk that provides accurate, relevant and timely information that migrants and their families

² Referring to the 1970s, a period when the Philippines started to develop institutions, policies and programs to better facilitate overseas employment.

³ A Migration Standpoint, 2019. The Filipino Diaspora as Long-Time Partners for Change and Development in the Homeland. [online] 05-2019, p.2. Available at: <<http://The Filipino Diaspora as Long-Time Partners for Change and Development in the Homeland>>.



Memorandum of Agreement was signed to set up a migrants' help desk at Barangay Bagumbayan, Mother Kabuntalan, Maguindanao – attended by Kaagapay OFW, BLGU of Barangay Bagumbayan and members of the military and policy forces (Source: CMA Philippines)

need at all stages of migration – from recruitment for overseas work to their reintegration in the Philippines.

As complex as labor migration is, the various social structures in a community – duty bearers, migrants and their families, alongside other relevant stakeholders – can make or break one's migration journey. Addressing this, the help desks also aim to promote an environment of participatory governance where stakeholders can actively engage and collaborate with each other. While duty bearers are held accountable to their duties and responsibilities, the migrants themselves and their families and support network are capacitated and empowered to come up with solutions to migration issues. This is one approach to guarantee responsive migration governance and to ensure that the benefits of these help desks are sustained and can be further strengthened in the future.

The COVID-19 pandemic causing a ripple effect

2020 has seen a plethora of disruptions brought about by



Note: The feature articles in this issue focus on projects that were implemented from 2018 to 2020. Photos that accompany them were taken during that period and some in 2021.

Peer Echo Training with partners from Catanduanes OFW organizations in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Governor of Catanduanes (Source: CMA Philippines)

the COVID-19 pandemic. This global health crisis has also greatly affected the landscape of labor migration, aggravating the situation of men and women migrant workers, particularly in occupations where injustices were already present pre-pandemic. These are seen in the tolerance of long work hours, non-payment and underpayment of salaries and other benefits, maltreatment, gender-based violence, cramped accommodations and many more. More recently, migrant workers faced issues such as racism, stringent screening, border controls, employment and travel bans, and additional health protocols bearing additional costs

to migrant workers. The pandemic cost many people their jobs, not only in the Philippines but globally, too. It increased risks of illegal recruitment and trafficking in persons as unscrupulous individuals may take advantage of the situation.

Despite the struggles brought about by the pandemic, CMA and its partners rose to the challenge and continue to take it on. Their work continues to ensure that the already established help desks in the first two years of the AWO-CMA project are still functioning especially at a time when distressed migrants and their families need the assistance of their LGUs the

“OFW help desks and Migration Resource Centers (MRC) have been assisting OFWs and their families, especially at this time when the ongoing pandemic has aggravated their vulnerabilities. In some communities, OFWs who returned to the Philippines due to the pandemic were monitored and profiled through the intervention program of the LGU-MRC, for example, the Talubo Tabaco OFC Federation (TTOF) in Tabaco City, Albay.”⁴

⁴ OFW Family Circle (OFC) - OFCs are organizations of Filipino migrants and their families abroad and left in the Philippines. CMA has actively engaged with OFCs in communities as it emphasizes the importance of being an organized group to facilitate advocacy for the promotion, protection and fulfillment of their rights. The OFCs also serve as a testament that the issue of migration does not only involve the migrants themselves, but also concerns their families as they provide for the main network of support to their families abroad. OFCs have been engaged since the implementation of Cycle 1 of the CMA and AWO project.



Planning meeting with partners from the Province of the Dinagat Islands, Mujeres Zamboanga, Kaagapay OFW of Cotabato, Kaghlimwa of Maguindanao, United Panaboans of Davao del Norte, and OFCs from Davao del Sur and Davao City. The project implementation in Mindanao started with planning with partners from migrant organizations, CSOs and LGUs. The project was explained to partners including Intended Outcome and target outputs. Afterwards, the team was divided into groups based on their geographical locations, to set targets and activities. (Source: CMA Philippines)

most; and that the last year of the project would be able to forge linkages through the MoAs. With this, the project's implementation plan was reconfigured; CMA redeveloped its approaches and adapted to the needs of time in a fast-paced manner.

Towards sustained efforts and gains: Building rights-based and resilient social structures for migrant workers and their families

AWO-CMA's partnership continues until today. The second cycle of the project, which started in January 2021, persists to build on the efforts and gains of the established help desks through their institutionalization via lobbying for the passage of local ordinances that are evidence-based, rights-based and responsive to the context of each community.

As the terrain of Philippine migration is never set, and new obstacles and challenges are expected of a country where 10% of its population live and work abroad,⁵ CMA intends to hold steady and continue to work on its key strengths, regardless of the changing political, social or economic landscape, for the benefit of the main stakeholders in Philippine migration: the Overseas Filipino Workers and their families.



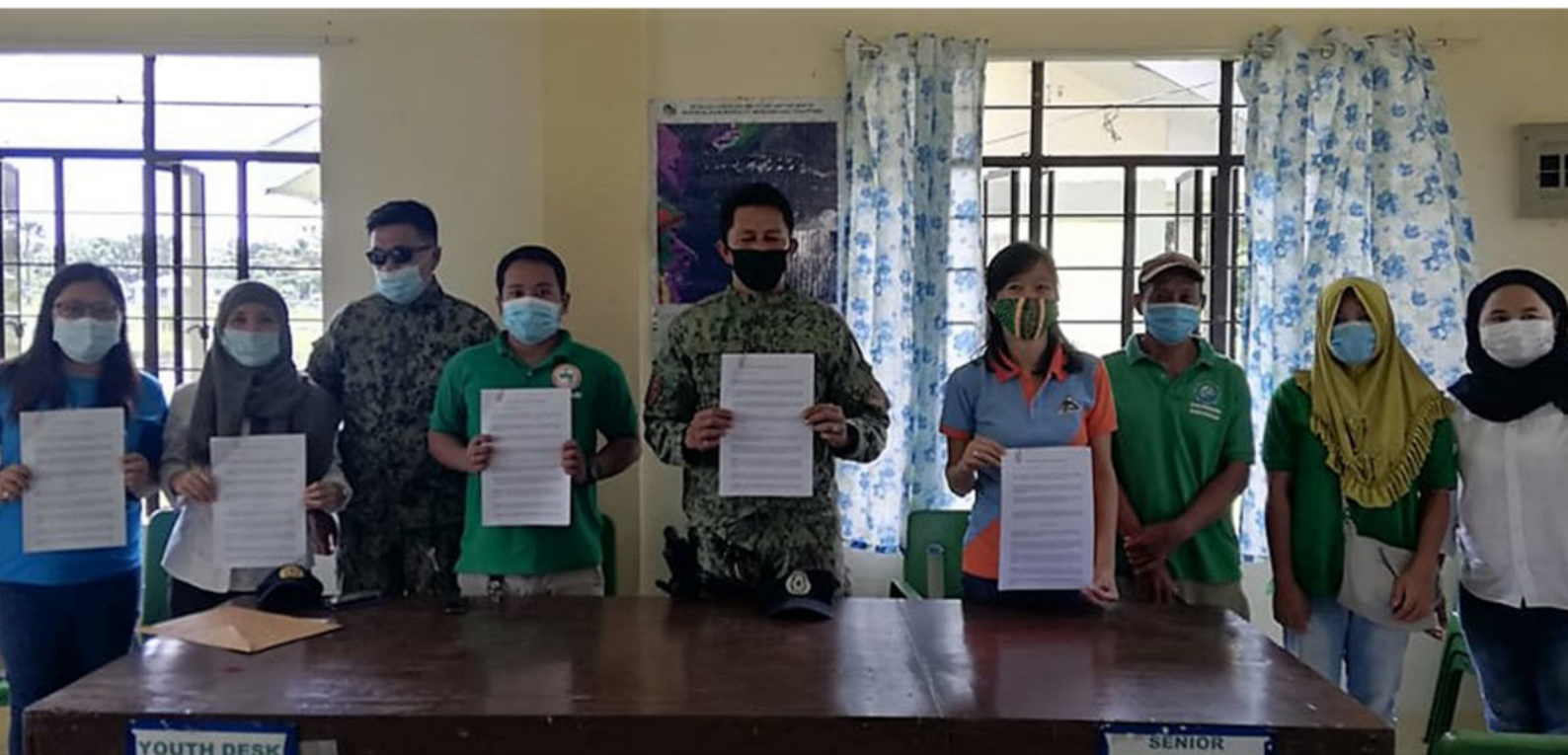
Members of Laur OFC Federation, CMA Staff and Laur Municipal Mayor Alexander Daus during the project planning. (Source: CMA Philippines)

⁵ Focus Group Discussion conducted by CMA on Reintegration with the local governments of Legazpi City, Naga City, and Toba City. Held on September 21, 2021.

⁶ Migration Standpoint, 2019. The Filipino Diaspora as Long-Time Partners for Change and Development in the Homeland. [online] (03-2019), p.2. Available at: <<http://The Filipino Diaspora as Long-Time Partners for Change and Development in the Homeland>>.



CMA signed a MoU with Quezon City's PESO to strengthen the engagement and collaboration between the local government and the community migrant organizations in the city.



A MOA was signed to set up a migrant help desk at Barangay Bagumbayan, Mother Kabuntalan, Maguindanao Province. The signing was attended by CMA's partner - Kaagapay OFW, the local government of Brgy. Bagumbayan and members of the Philippine military and police. (Source: CMA Philippines)



A Trainers Training was held last March 4-6, 2020 at Cagayan de Oro City and attended from representatives, mostly officers, of migrant organizations, LGU and RGA from BARMM, Region 10 and 13. In this photo, representatives from various government agencies, based in Region 10, joined the participants during the discussion on Migration Governance. (Source: CMA Philippines)

Project Details

Project Name

Strengthening Capacities for the Rights of Migrant Domestic Workers and their Families

Barangay/Village, City or District/Region/Country:

1. Luzon: Region III (Central Luzon) – Nueva Ecija Province; Region (IV-A) – Laguna and Rizal; Region V (Bicol Region) – Albay Province, Camarines Norte Province, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Catanduanes Island, Masbate
2. Visayas: Region VI (Western Visayas) – Panay, Negros, Guimaras; Region VII (Central Visayas) – Cebu, Bohol, Negros, Siquijor
3. Mindanao: Maguindanao Province, Cotabato Province, Zamboanga City

Partner Organization

Center for Migrant Advocacy, Philippines (CMA Phils)

Target Group

Community-based migrant organizations and their respective local governments

Project Objectives

1. Capacitate partner local migrant organizations on migrants rights and equip them to become case officers;
2. Establish migrant help desks at the municipal and city level as mandated by section 16.d.2 of the RA 10022 otherwise known as “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995” through partnership and agreement with local governments;
3. Engage with policies, both at the national and international level, that directly affect the lives of OFWs and their families.

Links to Policies, Conventions and Goals

- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration in 2018 Platforms offered by the UN treaty bodies and related formations
- Regional consultative process such as: Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Colombo Process and the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labor

Run-Time

January 2018 – December 2020

Budget

€ 72,500 p.a.

Sponsor

AWO International, German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Number of Beneficiaries:

Direct: 1,039

Indirect: 1,946,979



Promoting Inclusive Community Participation in Emergency Response

WRITTEN BY: CENTER FOR EMERGENCY AID & REHABILITATION, INC.



In disaster-stricken communities, the affected population should not be treated as victims, rather, they should be encouraged to participate throughout the entire intervention. Effective participation means enabling all people, including the most vulnerable, to fully engage in and contribute to all aspects of a project. This helps promote greater understanding of their environment and helps them develop ownership towards the process' outcomes and achievements.



*Relief delivery operations to the most vulnerable households in the 4 covered barangays in Malilipot, Albay
(Source: CONCERN)*

Participation is indeed necessary to achieve a unified and stronger society – one that is ready to work together towards a greater and common goal. This is what AWO International and CONCERN Inc. emphasized during its emergency response project in Malilipot, Albay, completed in April 2021.

Situated on the east coast of the Philippines, Albay is usually first to be hit by tropical cyclones. The province is a disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) champion in the country because of the pioneering programs in Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Action (DRR-CCA) it had previously initiated. Despite this, Albay continues to be devastated by strong tropical cyclones each year. The most recent disaster it suffered was the destruction caused by Typhoon Goni (local name: Rolly), which made landfall on 1 November 2020. It reached category 5, becoming a super typhoon upon its initial landfall. Prior to its arrival, the government already evacuated a million residents in the region, saving countless lives, but the storm did not leave houses and infrastructures unscathed; many were severely damaged. Its strong winds and heavy rainfall caused flash floods, mudflow (lahar), landslides and storm surges in the region. In times like this, it is the most vulnerable – those who belong to the marginalized sectors, usually farmers, fisherfolk, women – who suffer the most and risk losing their livelihood sources and homes.

The AWO-CONCERN emergency response project was focused on meeting the basic needs of the most vulnerable. Support came in the form of food supplies, hygiene kits, access to water, and information campaigns on the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and on enhancing community resilience against disasters. Areas covered by the project comprised four barangays,

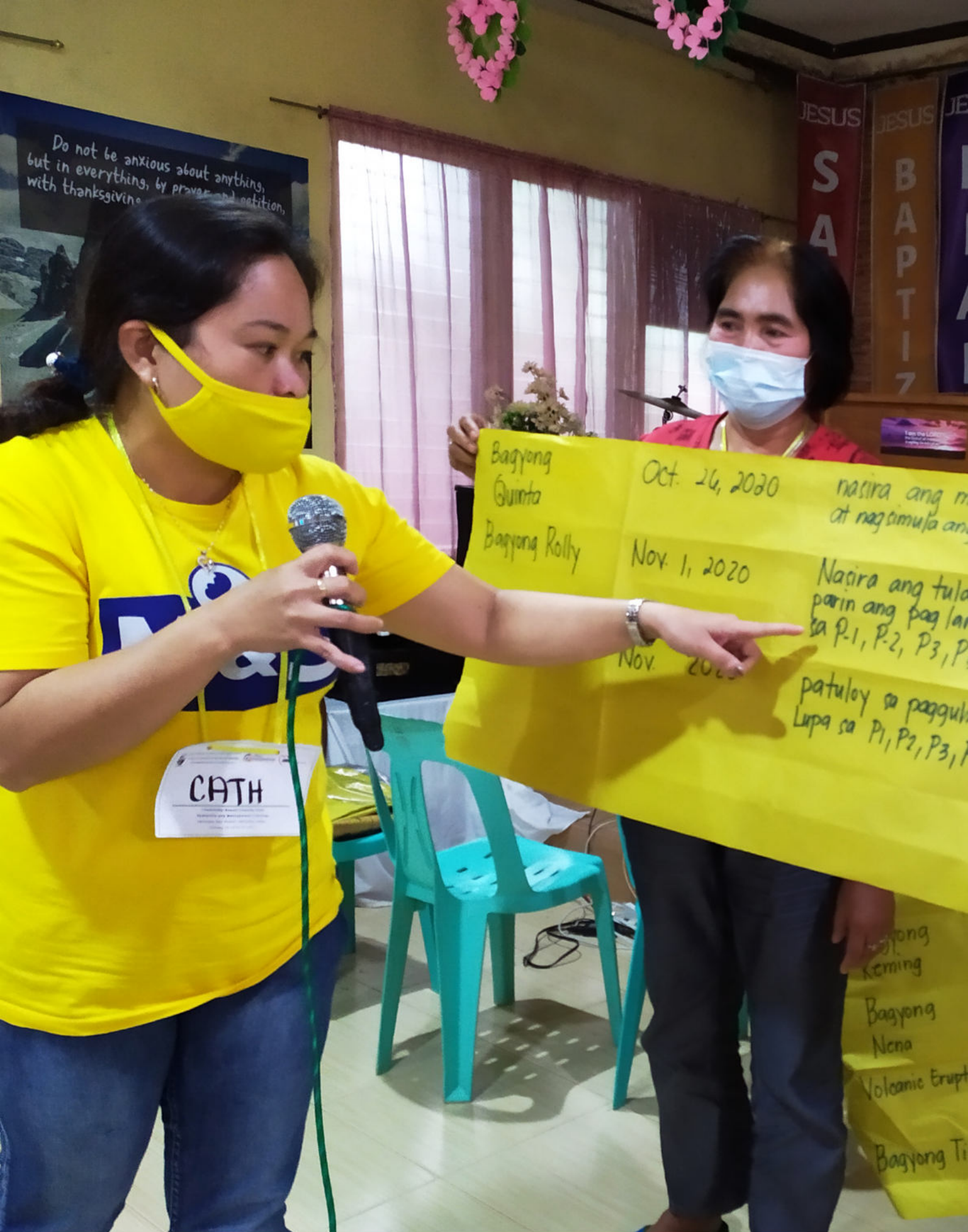
which were a mix of coastal and inland areas, where accessibility is difficult.

In all the interventions, community engagement and participation were evident. During the relief operation, an Area Support Community (ASC) was created as a mechanism to help in participatory beneficiary selection. The ASC was made up of barangay representatives and volunteers from each purok (divisions within barangays). They defined the selection criteria and did community validation. For transparency, the final list of beneficiaries was posted in the barangay hall. A grievance committee composed of community members was also created to cater to and handle comments and complaints from the community regarding

the final beneficiary list. These mechanisms developed in the barangay made the relief delivery operation run more smoothly. More than the organized distribution, the involvement of the community members throughout the whole process was highly appreciated by the barangay. They said that they will use the same process in future relief operations – to ensure transparency, participation and orderly distribution.

In terms of DRRM capacity development, the Grassroots Disaster Response Machinery (GDRM) was organized in each barangay. The GDRM was composed of community members who were trained on community-based DRRM and spearheaded the risk assessment and formulation of a DRRM plan. These groups were accredited and became part of the Barangay DRRM Committee. They were put to the test when Typhoon Surigae (local name: Bising) struck in April 2021. They rushed into action by immediately conducting a meeting to review plans, activate the warning systems, as well as carry out other preparedness activities. Since they are part of

“*I can say that there was a change. There was increased individual participation and volunteering in helping the barangay councils. Our [community's] bond became stronger.*”
- BARANGAY COUNCILOR FE BO
from Barangay San Jose.



Participants during the community-based DRRM training, in Barangay San Jose, Municipality of Malilipot, Albay, presenting the disaster historical timeline (Source: CONCERN)

the Barangay DRRM Committee, it was easy for them to move around, give guidance or advice, and connect with people in the community.

We learned to become aware of disasters. The volunteers have been a great help to us in our barangay. Actually, with the hazard map that was created, alone, we already have something to analyze that can help us [during times like these]. Thank you very much.”

**- BARANGAY COUNCILOR
GABRINE BASILLA**

from Barangay San Roque

Inclusivity was promoted as well. The elderly, youth, persons with disability, farmers, fisherfolk, religious groups and women were all part of the different project activities, such as relief operations, training, consultations and discussions. They are now also members of ASC and GDRM. The role of women in disaster resilience or preparedness was highlighted. With all the activities they participated in, they were empowered and were able to convey to their husbands and families the support they need so that they can positively contribute to community affairs.

“The training changed me as a woman. There, I learned that women should not only be relying on men if there is an impending calamity. Even if we are women, we need to be prepared for our family. We also need to share what we learned to our community, not only to our family. Thank you.”

- GDRM MEMBER GERLYN BITARA

from Barangay Calbayog

Although the project was short-lived, it went beyond just relief distribution. Providing the affected communities with immediate basic needs is important but building capacities to become resilient against disasters is equally important and will have more impact in the long run. Communities should be able to know their risks, formulate plans, maximize the use of their resources, and recover from adverse situations that come their way. Furthermore, actions like these can be sustainable if there is active community participation and inclusion of vulnerable groups to ensure needs-based planning and actions and that no one is left behind.



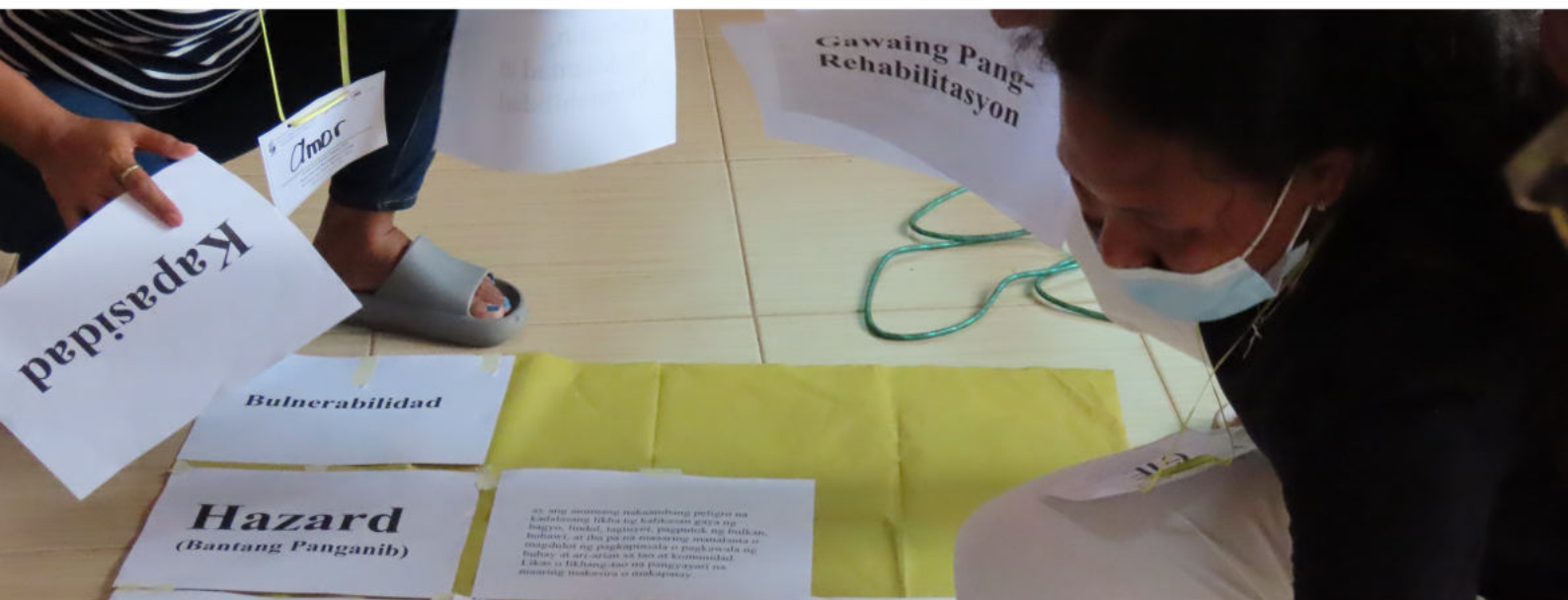
Members of the Grassroots Disaster Response / Risk Reduction Machinery in Barangay Calbayog, Municipality of Malilipot, Albay (Source: CONCERN)



Presentation of participatory disaster risk assessment result to the community of Barangay San Jose, Municipality of Malilipot, Albay, conducted by the GDRM (Source: CONCERN)



Members of the ASC during the relief delivery operation (Source: CONCERN)



Participants during the community-based DRRM training, learning basic definition of terms (Source: CONCERN)

Project Details

Project Name

Emergency Response for Typhoon Goni in Malilipot, Albay

Barangay/Village, City or District/Region/Country:

Barangays in the Municipality of Malilipot (Calbayog, San Roque, San Jose, Binitayan), Province of Albay, Luzon, Philippines

Partner Organization

Center for Emergency Aid, Rehabilitation and Development (CONCERN), Inc.

Target Group

- Residents of typhoon-affected barangays from vulnerable sectors including poor households, farmers, fisherfolks, single parent, elderly, mothers with more than 5 children, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program's beneficiaries;
- Barangay officials,
- Municipal local government unit

Project Objectives

The vulnerabilities and suffering of the typhoon-affected population are reduced, and their human dignities are safeguarded.

Sponsor

AWO International and Aktion Deutschland Hilft (Germany's Relief Coalition)

Run-Time

December 2020 – April 2021 (5 months)

Number of Beneficiaries:

Direct: 7,347

Indirect: 30

Budget

€ 39,812.22

Links to Policies, Conventions and Goals

- Sustainable Development Goals



- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; specifically, Priority Action 1 (Understanding Disaster Risk) and 2 (Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk)
- Philippine Republic Act 10121 or Philippine DRRM Act of 2010 and the National DRRM Plan



Concern, Inc.
Center for Emergency Aid and Rehabilitation, Inc.

Typhoon-hit Communities Build Disaster Resilience Amid a Pandemic and Conflict



WRITTEN BY: ECOSYSTEMS WORK FOR ESSENTIAL BENEFITS, INC.

Everyone says we should prepare for the worst, but how can we prepare for something unexpected? When we think we have already experienced the worst and have had enough, another event can occur and greatly affect us and change our plans. Find out how AWO International and ECOWEB helped barangays in Lanao del Norte recover from a typhoon amid a pandemic and local conflicts.

Munai and Salvador are landlocked municipalities in Lanao del Norte. Some of their areas lie in valleys below mountain ranges and are susceptible to flooding, as they are partly denuded due to persistent timber poaching. Most of the barangays in both municipalities are agricultural areas, where they grow crops like coconut, banana, ginger, onion, rice and corn.

On December 22, 2017, Lanao del Norte was devastated by Typhoon Tembin (local name: Vinta) as it cut across the island of Mindanao. Among the most devastated municipalities were Munai and Salvador. Barangays in the area were heavily affected – hundreds dead, thousands of families affected, innumerable houses damaged, and many hectares of farmland totally washed-out by the floods and buried by mud, debris and rocks. Among the most affected were the persons internally displaced by the Marawi Siege in May 2017, who sought refuge with relatives in Munai and Salvador.

A law was passed in 2010 to strengthen the Philippine disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) system. Despite this law, barangays,

especially in rural areas, are still struggling with DRRM because of limited resources, including funds and capacity (knowledge and skills) of people responsible for DRRM, making disaster risk management weakest at the barangay level. The impact of the Typhoon Tembin could have been mitigated if only the leaders and community members were capacitated on DRRM and the communities had adequate plans.

Following this calamity, a short disaster preparedness and livelihood resiliency project was implemented in Salvador, together with AWO International and ECOWEB Inc. The project contributed to the improved capacity for DRRM of the two barangays through training, drafting of the Barangay DRRM Plan, and support for the recovery of livelihoods of the most vulnerable households. The DRRM systems that were developed in the barangays were tested and activated during the floods caused by Typhoon Danas (local name: Falcon) in 2019. Community members reported that they were able to apply their learnings from the community-based DRRM training and that the drill was useful in practicing what should be done in the event of flooding.



A participant reports on the insights of her group during the Training on the Conduct of Response to Typhoon, Flood, Landslide, and Earthquake, in Brgy. Bacayawan, Municipality of Munai, Lanao del Norte (Source: ECOWEB)

Thus, there were no reported casualties and all the residents were safely evacuated. After its completion and having seen the impact of the interventions, a similar project was implemented in Munai, which intended to replicate the activities and sustain the efforts conducted in Salvador. Its overall goal was to improve the DRRM of the target barangays and reduce the loss of lives and damage to property.

Through the AWO-ECOWEB project that ran for 20 months, the DRRM capacities of the target barangays in Munai improved – and further enhanced that of Salvador’s, simultaneously supporting their livelihood recovery. Since the barangay local government units (BLGU) are at the forefront of DRRM their structures and capacities were

formed, strengthened and, together with some members of the BLGU, volunteers and community members, capacitated on DRRM through training, information and education campaigns, drills and simulations, small-scale mitigation measures, and other activities. Furthermore, plans to guide the DRRM interventions of every barangay were crafted. Each barangay adopted these plans through special assemblies for its sustainability.

While it seemed like everything was going smoothly, unexpected events shook the entire implementation. Not long after the project started, the COVID-19 pandemic began. All schedules under the AWO-ECOWEB project were put on hold after strict lockdowns were imposed in March 2020. The project’s target

“*The project of ECOWEB gave us hope. We learned a lot from it – [on] preventing disasters, if not, mitigat[ing] its impact”.*”

**- HON. MONAORAY
COMONDARA**

Chairman, Brgy. Bacayawan, Municipality of Munai



Community volunteer giving the early warning during the hazard simulation and evacuation drill (Source: ECOWEB)



*Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Information and Education Campaign to community members
(Source: ECOWEB)*

communities, which were just starting to recover from the impact of Typhoon Tembin, struggled with the resulting restrictions and limited mobility that slowed down the conduct of activities and delivery of services. The target communities, being vulnerable, were supported with assistance to address these issues. When restrictions became less stringent, the DRRM interventions, such as training, workshops, education campaigns and drills, continued, this time incorporating COVID-19 preventive measures.

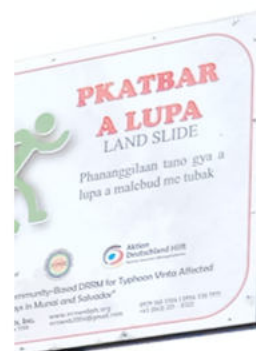
Along with COVID-19, another major challenge encountered by the project was a political dispute and armed conflict, which led to family feuds and insurgencies. For some time, all community-based activities were again stopped as a precaution. The situation was later eased with the help of the municipal local government unit and a highly respected local leader.

Additional COVID-19 precautions were taken and the implementation was extended to cope with the above circumstances and ensure achievement of the project goal. Notwithstanding these major challenges, the community leaders and members showed great support and active participation in all the DRRM activities. Their lessons learned from the devastation of Typhoon Tembin and the pandemic, together with their acceptance and willingness to learn and be capacitated, were key in the successful implementation of the project activities. More so, strong coordination mechanisms with the LGU – both municipal- and barangay-level – and good relationships with government agencies enabled increased accessibility to resources and facilitated support to successfully complete the project and achieve its goal of enhancing their DRRM.

“The project staff suffered from the [project’s] implementation, crossing seven rivers just to reach the community. I am grateful that despite the challenges, especially now with the presence of members of ISIS (the terrorist group), the project still runs. Barangay Lininding is very lucky to be part of this project, it is a very isolated barangay and yet, ECOWEB managed to extend their services [to it].”

- HON. ALLAN ALI

Chairman, Barangay Lininding, Municipality of Munai



ECOWEB and barangay representatives set up early warning signs around the project area. (Source: ECOWEB)

Project Details

Project Name

Enhancing Local Capacity on Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management for Typhoon Tembin-affected Barangays in Munai and Salvador, Lanao del Norte (including COVID-19)

Barangay/Village, City or District/Region/Country:

Barangays in the Municipality of Munai (Lininding, Bacayawan, Old Poblacion, Matampay & Pendulonan); Barangays in the Municipality of Salvador (Mindalano & Calimodan), Province of Lanao del Norte, Mindanao, Philippines

Partner Organization

Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits (ECOWEB), Inc.

Target Group

- Members of the Barangay DRRM Committee,
- Community members,
- Self-help groups,
- Barangay Health Workers and Rural Health Units (for COVID-19 assistance),
- Other stakeholders (provincial, municipal, and government agencies)

Links to Policies, Conventions and Goals

- Sustainable Development Goals



- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; specifically, Priority Action 1 (Understanding Disaster Risk), 2 (Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk), 3 (Investing in DRR for Resilience)
- Philippines' Republic Act 10121 or Philippine DRRM Act of 2010 and the National DRRM Plan

Run-Time

September 2019 – April 2021
(20 months)

Budget

€ 167,378.68

Sponsor

AWO International and Aktion Deutschland Hilft (Germany's Relief Coalition)

Project Objectives

Communities and families, especially the most vulnerable, have increased resilience against both natural and human-induced hazards and disaster risks.

Number of Beneficiaries:

Direct: 6,101

Indirect: 6,517



The Pathway to Creating Sustainable Migrant Worker Protection Mechanisms in their Local Communities

WRITTEN BY: MUHAMMAD IRSYADUL IBAD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

A new development approach is needed to realize the sustainable protection of Indonesian migrant workers (PMI). Bridging, bonding and binding groups of migrant workers in their home and destination countries and connecting them with other stakeholders like the local government and civil society organizations are needed to create a collaborative environment to strengthen the protection of Indonesian migrant workers. These approaches also maximize resources and role sharing among the respective actors to ensure collective priorities and aspirations are aligned and followed up by the State.



Through the Training on Citizen Journalism, participants -who were returned migrants, wrote about their experiences to warn their fellow men and women about the risks of labour migration. (Source: INFEST)

The expectation from the AWO International and INFEST collaborative project was that migrant community-based organizations (CBOs) could eventually be expected to inspire local advocacy movements, which could be replicated and echoed to other villages in Indonesia, especially those with high numbers of locals migrating abroad for work. Best practices derived from it could also be brought to sub-national and national level attention and discourse for the agenda of greater Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) protection to be mainstreamed. While much progress has been made in labor migration governance in Indonesia – through devolution (Law No. 18 Year 2017: Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection/UU PPMI) where all government levels are now involved in the process of PMI protection as they should be – a lot more work still needs to be done. Due to the lack of understanding of the proper implementation of existing and updated laws, so far, villages have long only focused on existing programs and services with little thought on sustainability and coherence with farther-reaching interests and development.

The project activated the PMIs' role in advocacy by establishing the CBOs, which underwent transformative changes during the implementation period. The goal was to bring out their passion and commitment to advocate and own the cause of PMI protection as theirs without dependence on any other parties. At the project's early stages, prompting this kind of participation was challenging. Also, increasing membership was difficult and depended on the leadership of the CBOs and the involvement of the members who joined early. Various stigmas and limited access to enter the village level development activities resulted in the passive attitude of PMI groups to join specific organizations. The leaders of the CBOs and the early members visited their fellow PMIs and their families, going house to house to improve their awareness, explain pressing issues, and invite them to join the CBO as members.

INFEST trained the members of the CBOs on organizational development; paralegal case handling, including case identification, assistance, counseling, documentation of cases; citizen

journalism; and introduction of local policy advocacy, among many other sessions. The project also capacitated the village staff, leaders, and other marginalized groups to create better regulation and environment for migrant worker protection. This approach also benefited other marginalized groups that could provide the village government with the inputs to improve RPJM Desa¹ (mid-term village planning document) and RKP Desa (annual village program). The project created a sustainable environment connecting the government and people to mutually solve particular issues at the village level, including migrant worker protection. As a result, the village governments actively involved the CBO members in certain activities in the village. The CBOs have transformed into well-capacitated groups that help village governments resolve various problems in the village. For example, the Pondok Village government assigned the CBO to identify the complaints from residents related to village services. In addition, the village government also places the CBOs as an actor driving youth group activities. This mutual collaboration contributed to Pondok village receiving an award from the Province government as the best village in "gotong royong" (cooperation) in East Java. Recognizing the contribution of the CBOs to village development, several village governments provided them with various kinds of support, such as the village of Gelanglor, which lent them the land (the village treasury) for the further economic development activities, and Desa Pondok, which provided a secretariat office for the CBO.

In general, the capacity improvement the project created contributed to two significant aspects, specifically in the migrant worker protection mechanism by stipulating the village level regulation on migrant worker protection and the derivative policies in the form of various village programs targeting the PMIs; and better participation and collaborative works between the CBO and other groups with the village government. This situation indicated that the village government had positioned migrant worker protection as a priority in the development agenda.

¹ RPJM Desa is the primary document in the village regulating the targets of the village development. This document is also known as the projection of leadership during the term of a village head. Together with the village officials, the village head should develop RPJM Desa in the early phase of his term. In standard practices, the formulation of RPJM Desa only involves the elite group in the village and limited representation from the concerned village's community. RPJM Desa can be reviewed and modified by the head of the village or as proposed by the Village Consultative Body (Badan Permusyawaratan Desa/BPD). Other policies regarding the village development process depend on RPJM Desa; this includes the annual village program (officially called as Annual Village Working Program) and annual income and budget for village development (APB Desa). RKP Desa and APB Desa operate based on RPJM Desa. RKP Desa and APB Desa could only comprise the elements of the program mentioned as a priority in RPJM Desa. The village governments, responding to the specific governance issue, are allowed to stipulate particular regulations commonly known as the village regulation (peraturan desa). Thus, to create systematic and sustainable changes in the village, the AWO-INFEST project targeted to influence the village government to review and modify the RPJM Desa to include migrant worker protection as a priority and stipulate specific regulations to run technicalities on migrant worker protection.



Note: The feature articles in this issue focus on projects that were implemented from 2018 to 2020. Photos that accompany them were taken during that period and some in 2021.

Case management system discussion with network organizations (Source: INFEST)

Several challenges were present throughout the project implementation, even until now with a new AWO-INFEST project building upon the previous partnership outcome, as well as different concerns of political actors, dynamics of the stakeholders, the COVID-19 pandemic, and more. However, through the willingness of the CBO members to learn and the openness of the actors and stakeholders involved with this project, the 2018–2020 project succeeded in shaping three crucial areas:

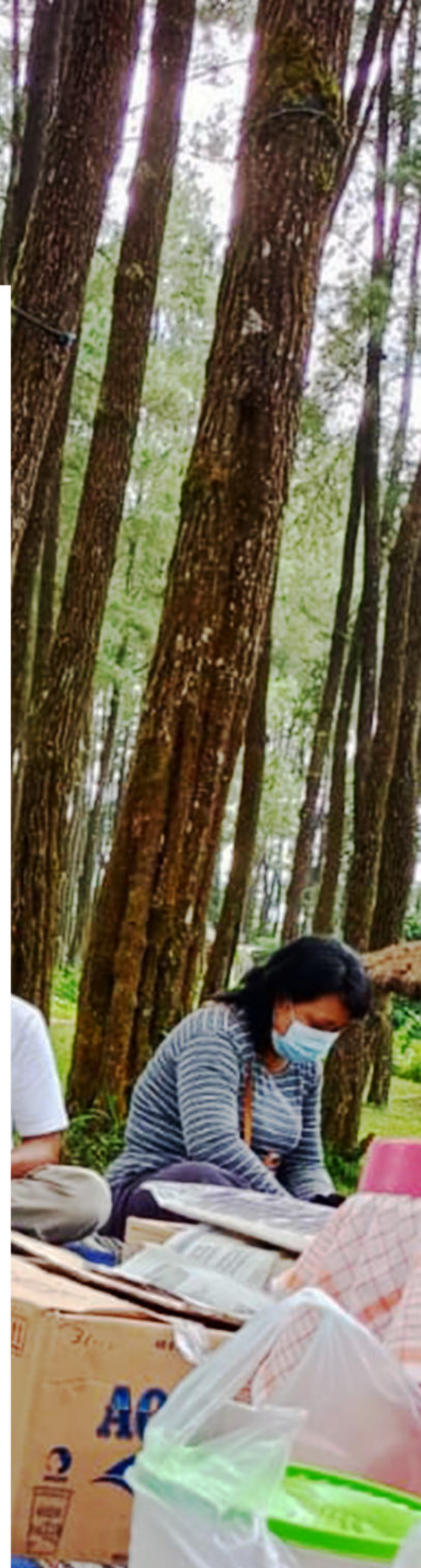
1. Improved migrant case handling and management,
2. A more inclusive process of policy advocacy for the protection of the PMIs, and
3. Enhanced contribution to knowledge sharing.

All of these successes started at the village level and were facilitated by the CBO members themselves, with guidance from INFEST. Migrant workers have long been at risk of various threats, and it is clear that the future holds uncertainties. Thus, the sustainability of PMI protection mechanisms should be guaranteed by sustainable and systematic changes in the village, especially regulations. INFEST considers that combining the social changes (more inclusive people in the village) and the regulation (law) would contribute to the sustainable protection of migrant workers and other marginalized groups.



Success Story **Waluyo:** **from Illegal** **Recruiter to** **Migrant** **Workers'** **Defender**

For 13 years, Waluyo resorted to unlawful means to recruit as many people who wanted to work abroad as possible. He was eventually caught and served a four-month prison sentence in 2012. Regretting his actions and wanting to atone for his past mistakes, he has since made a turnaround and corrected his life. Today, Waluyo is making himself useful to others as a leader and organizer of the PMI CBO in his village of Jatinom in Blitar district, which was established with the support of INFEST and AWO International. Apart from facilitating migrant worker's cases, Waluyo's goal is to increase PMIs' awareness of safe migration and empower them for socio-economic success.



Waluyo now dedicates his time and efforts in organizing and strengthening the CBO he belongs to. (Source: INFEST)

Lessons Learned from the AWO-INFEST Project

More Inclusive Process in Policy Advocacy for the Protection of PMIs

INFEST introduced "Village Appreciative Planning" ("Perencanaan Apresiatif Desa/PAD") as an approach to policy advocacy for PMI protection. When previously, most villages utilized so-called deficit-based village planning methods that only concentrated on the problems among the villages, INFEST developed PAD by formulating development models using appreciative-based community development (ABCD). This approach focused on identifying the existing potential, including human resources and economic, cultural and social systems, to improve the village condition. The biggest issue of the old method of village planning lies not only in focus but also in the lack of community participation. The PAD was very different from the general operation of the RPJM Desa and other policy formulation processes at the village level, where the government only involved the elite without considering the diversity of actors.

The PAD mainly created a collaborative space, bridging the government and the communities to

set a common target to identify primary data for further development planning. It encourages the village government to institute an additional committee called : "Village Reform Team" ("Tim Pembaharuan Desa/TPD")² responsible for supporting the village during the data collection process. This team worked to collect and analyze the assets and potentials of a village through the review of five aspects:

1. The mapping of village authorities: identification of the village authorities that might be appropriate with the context of each village;
2. Village assets and potentials: creating the database of the village's potential that includes human resources; economic, cultural, knowledge and social systems; and natural resources;
3. Local indicators of village welfare: formulation of local indicators to measure village welfare; conducting a census and supporting the village to lead a public discussion to validate all collected data;
4. Aspiration of the marginalized groups: identification of the development proposal from marginalized people; and
5. Public service implementation in the village: conducting evaluation and satisfaction surveys to identify the inputs from the people on public services.



PAD in Bringinan Village, East Java (Source: INFEST)

² Tim Pembaharuan desa (village reform committee/TPD) is a crucial part of PAD indicating appreciation of actors in the village who possibly contribute to development. Additionally, PAD encourages the government to involve more people representing various groups in the village, in addition to the existing elite, to participate in the whole village planning process. Based on the other previous lessons learned from the other project, an increased number of people participating in the village planning process would also improve the quality of the RPJM Desa and other derivative policies in the village. In this project context, the CBOs were integrated into TPD to work with other elements in supporting village government

This committee represented several other community groups, such as women, people with disabilities, poor households and farmers. The representation of the plural communities in the committee enabled the discussion of various issues in the village related to development. It also allowed the governance to collect multiple perspectives on the need for specific aspirations from a particular group in the village. During this process, the CBOs actively mobilized other group entities to join the PAD process and the TPD.

The CBOs were equipped with knowledge and skills to lobby for their cause with regard to the Village Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJM Desa), which regulates village-level activities and operations. They not only extracted relevant data for inclusion in the community proposal submission but also consulted with the village government. All CBOs were able to present data that was sufficiently valid and detailed that it led to the revision of the previous RPJM Desa. The CBOs in Pondok and Bringinan, for example, proposed to revise the village profile document that comprised the segregated data of human and natural resources, infrastructure and economy, and cultural assets with a detailed data presentation.

All CBOs also encouraged the village government to stipulate the specific indicators for the welfare of particular people based on the instrument developed by the communities. Before the census, the TPD presented the concept of the instrument to fellow villagers through village public discussion forums. The TPD utilized the validated instrument to map the welfare condition in the village. Indirectly PAD had also affected other marginalized groups in the villages, such as women and children, people with disabilities, and poor households. Having a comprehensive dataset on the current situation of the people in the village and the quality of service, the village governments were able to develop data-based planning (RPJM Desa) and programs (RKP Desa) that have more focus on improving people's welfare and protecting marginalized people in the villages.

Through the advocacy campaigns of the CBOs, PAD, and the revision of existing laws or creation of new ones, it is hoped that programs and services that cater to labor migration at the village level

would be improved. It is not easy as various interests are at play. While several project villages have stipulated village regulations on the protection of Indonesian migrant workers, such as Bringinan and Pondok villages in Ponorogo district, villages in the Blitar district are still currently pursuing efforts to discuss draft village regulations with relevant government agencies and stakeholders. External factors like political interests and priorities of authorities can be reduced or mitigated with the appointment of a local village coordinator and taking careful and strategic steps.

The social structure-initiated reform through PAD intends to attain better social inclusivity within the village – it is a long-term social investment. As PAD had already initiated some changes in village management and participation, INFEST believes it will continuously impact village inclusivity in the future.

Improved Case Handling at the Local Level

While the CBO members gained in-depth knowledge about case management and facilitation, they were also taught how to document cases in an online case management system developed by INFEST under this project. The system is called Rumah Pengaduan Buruh Migran (or Migrant Workers' Grievance House). The online Grievance House was developed to facilitate collaboration between the CBOs and other organizations handling migrant workers' cases so that experiences and practices could be shared and circulated. The platform was developed by tailor fitting the structure and operating procedures used by legal aid organizations handling migrant workers' cases for the use of paralegals, who are also CBO members.

In the process of handling and assisting cases of PMIs, the CBOs have been able to individually facilitate the cases and identify the needs of the victims. They write the case records, analyze the cases with details of the legal violations experienced by the victims, classify actors who can assist in solving the specified problems, and document these cases in the Grievance House website.

Enhanced Contribution to Knowledge Sharing

The migrant workers' Grievance House, the online case management system managed by INFEST, is not only being used by the CBOs but also by INFEST's network of organizations, which are also advocating for PMI protection. For the CBOs, the presence of a case management system increased their capability to document and work systematically to handle certain cases they accepted from the migrants. The system created an evidence-based approach and environment for the CBO members in handling the cases. Network organizations have utilized it as a case document repository – for monitoring and evaluation and as a reference source as evidence-based policy advocacy lobbying for Indonesian migrant workers. Lastly, it is also utilized as the system for internal control for each case reported by the migrant.

In handling cases of migrant workers, it is necessary to cooperate with other organizations. Labor migration covers various issues that require the involvement of various government and private agencies, such as overcharging, debt bondage and repatriation of the PMIs from certain countries. Therefore, the handling of every case with external collaboration can also be used as an arena for sharing knowledge and experiences that can be assessed together by the parties involved. Thus, unique knowledge resources owned by a particular organization can be shared as a knowledge alignment process.

Also, in policy advocacy at the village level, achievements that were not originally intended in the project planning document can be made. The results can later be enjoyed by not only the PMIs and their family members but also disadvantaged village groups, such as women, children, people with disabilities, and others.

A Sustainable Model for PMI Protection: Moving Forward

The above-detailed results from the project were intended to create a sustainable model for protecting migrant workers at the village level.

From the former stigma attached to migrant workers as a source of the problem, PMI groups transform to become agents of change and development in their villages and become partners of village members and leaders. Through the migrant CBOs that were established and capacitated, migrants, who know the situation of their fellow migrants best, can solve problems of and through their group and identify other marginal village groups that need to be assisted. Once the CBOs can stand for themselves, their existence influences development dynamics towards village independence, projecting that villages can successfully manage their problems.

While PMI protection laws have been around for a while, these are often overlooked at the village level. Through the legitimacy of the CBOs and the openness of village governments and the community to collaborate, these groups can encourage each other to carry out their mandated duties adequately and even go beyond them. For this reason, adapting advocacy and development approaches to the local context and being inclusive in every process can increase acceptance and appreciation of any intervention – it is necessary to avoid bias. In addition, raising awareness of the issues that afflict their community can open up a space in the community and local government for political discussion. It will not only open up issues to meaningful dialogue between stakeholders but also safeguard the interests of many in terms of socio-economic, cultural and legal dimensions.



Members of the community migrant association in Jatimom Village, Central Java, were encouraged to voice their thoughts on local policies through PAD. (Source: INFEST)

Project Details

Project Name

Empowerment of Indonesian Migrant Workers in East Java, Indonesia; and Johor Bahru, Malaysia

Barangay/Village, City or District/Region/Country:

Villages in Blitar and Ponorogo District (Bringingan, Gelanglor, Gogodesa, Jatinom, Nongkodono, Pandanarum, Pondok), East Java, Indonesia; Johor Bahru, Malaysia

Partner Organization

Institute for Education Development, Social, Cultural, and Religious Studies (INFEST)

Target Group

Indonesian migrant workers and their family members

Links to Policies, Conventions and Goals

- Sustainable Development Goals



- Indonesia's National Long-term Development Plan (RPJPN)
- Indonesia's Mid-term Development Plan (RPJMN)

Sponsor

AWO International and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Project Objectives

Indonesian Migrant Workers in East Java and Malaysia can assert their rights and have an improved access to justice

Number of Beneficiaries:

Direct: 850

Indirect: 1,900,759

Run-Time

January 2018 – December 2020

Budget

€ 58,000 p.a.

The 3C's - Care, Commitment and Competence: Keys to Helping OFWs and their Left-Behind Families

WRITTEN BY: GLORIE VI G. SENO, PROJECT MANAGER, MINDANAO MIGRANTS CENTER FOR EMPOWERING ACTIONS, INC.



Overseas Filipino Workers have been hailed as the country's “modern-day heroes”, yet they and their left-behind families face continuous struggles. Did “other heroes without capes” come to their rescue?

Organized on January 17, 2013, Bago Aplaya Migrants Association (BAMA) – formerly Samahang Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and Families of D'Garden Bago Aplaya is a community-based migrants organization composed of former and current OFWs and their left-behind families residing in Barangay Bago Aplaya, Davao City. Organized with the help of the Mindanao Migrants Center for Empowering Actions, Inc. (MMCEAI), BAMA has been actively responding to various issues and concerns of migrant workers and left-behind families in Bago Aplaya.

Years before the formation of BAMA, hundreds of residents

of Barangay Bago Aplaya already left their families behind to work abroad in the hope of a better future. The Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) encountered several cases of distressed

OFWs, trafficking in persons, and families abandoned by OFWs in the past, but due to lack of capacities to respond to these cases, those who

who sought help were not immediately assisted. One particular case that BAMA, the BLGU and MMCEAI responded to was the case of an abused OFW who sought help via social media, which went viral in 2013. The OFW was a resident of Bago Aplaya, hence the BLGU and the newly-formed BAMA had firsthand experience of responding to such a complex case. Eventually, the OFW was able to return home and justice was served through a very tedious legal and psychological battle.

“Before, when there was no migrants’ desk here in the barangay, we often got confused about where to refer the concerns of families of distressed OFWs. Now that we have it, we are confident that those who need help will really receive it, whatever their difficulties might be.”

- BEVERLIE BONGCAYO

Rights and Welfare Action Committee Member, BAMA
Secretary, left-behind family of OFW, and barangay staff

With that experience and other cases that BAMA and the BLGU later encountered, capacity gaps were identified, such as the proper handling of cases, referral pathways, and basically



*Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement with the BLGU for the institutionalization of the Bago Aplaya Migrants' Desk
(Source: MMCEAI)*

understanding the laws protecting migrant workers. In view of this, MMCEAI helped in strengthening and building the capacity of the community migrants' associations (CMA) and the barangay officials of Bago Aplaya, who are in the front lines of responding to cases of distressed OFWs in the community.

To put in place the protection mechanism for OFWs and their families given the continued influx of international migration, a community-based migrants' desk was established in 2019. Trained BAMA members manned the day-to-day operations of the migrants' desk with the active support of the BLGU. Their complementing efforts and continued commitment and dedication led to the immediate response and facilitation of assistance to many OFWs and left-behind families in need of help. Indeed, our community **"heroes without capes" helped our "modern-day heroes"**.

BAMA exemplified the three important keys that led to its success: CARE – *A heart that truly cares for their fellow OFWs and families;*

COMMITMENT – the steadfast desire, commitment and dedication to serve; and **COMPETENCE** – the competence gained from years of solid grassroots experience, and banking on the gains and lessons learned along the way.

"As a former OFW myself, I really hope to be of help to other OFWs especially now that we have a desk in the community where we can go to in times of problems."

- THELMA PASAYLOON

BAMA Vice-President

The migrants' desk in Barangay Bago Aplaya is just one of five desks catering to the needs of migrant workers and families in Davao City and supported by AWO International through the project on the "Protection of Female Migrant Workers in Mindanao from Exploitation and Abuse". Despite the limiting situation COVID-19

has presented these groups and the people they aim to help, these CMAs continue to actively serve the public and attend to the needs of migrant workers and their families – especially online via the use of social media platforms.

The cooperation and interplay of these social structures and duty bearers – BLGUs, CMAs and Anak OFW (children of OFWs) Organizations – were instrumental in reaching more individuals



In a group sharing session with MMCEAI and AWO International, BAMA members shared their thoughts, expectations and plans for BAMA, as an organization, and its members. (Source: MMCEAI)



Ribbon-cutting during the opening of the Migrants' Desk in Brgy. Bago Aplaya (Source: MMCEAI)

and better addressing the welfare needs of distressed migrants and Anak OFWs especially during the lockdown. In 2020 alone, 25 out of 44 distressed OFWs affected by the pandemic availed of psychosocial counseling under the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) and three received medical assistance and free swab testing. Of the 25 cases, 16 were referred to MMCEAI by the Rights and Welfare Action Committees (RWAC), a specific committee under the CMA that is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the migrants' desk, and by BLGUs through the migrants' desk. In 2021, 98 cases were assisted by MMCEAI, 65 of which were endorsed by the migrants' desks and CMAs. The top three reasons for referral were medical concerns, violence against women in migration, and requests for financial and/or livelihood support.

The case referrals from the CMAs through the migrants' desks were reinforced by the conduct of community baseline profiling in 2021, which

captured the stories of more than 3,000 OFWs and enabled the direct referral by the RWAC of their concerns to the appropriate government agencies.

By continuing to enhance the capacities of the CMAs and strengthening the operations and functionalities of the migrants' desks in the communities, MMCEAI and its partner communities fervently hope that these structures and mechanisms can help bridge the gap so that many more OFWs and left-behind families are able to access programs and services for their survival, protection and development. Moving forward, MMCEAI's partner communities can become exemplary models for and share best practices with other communities looking to establish migrants' desks run by caring, committed and competent CMAs.



OFWs lining up at the airport immigration booth (Source: MMCEAI)

Project Details

Project Name

Protection of Female Migrant Workers in Mindanao from Exploitation and Abuse

Barangay/Village, City or District/Region/Country:

1. Barangays in Davao City (Calinan, Los Amigos, Mintal, Bago Aplaya, Matina, Bangkal -Muslim Village, Bucana), Davao del Sur, Mindanao, Philippines
2. Regional Clusters of Metro Davao, CARAGA, Northern Mindanao, Western Mindanao, SOCCCKSARGEN, and Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao

Partner Organization

Mindanao Migrants Center for Empowering Actions, Inc. (MMCEAI)

Target Group

- a. Former, active and prospective migrants (including distressed and returnees)
- b. Children of migrant workers
- c. Community leaders and civil society organizations

Project Objectives

1. Reducing the risks of migrants and families engaging in irregular migration
2. Organizing and advocating for the rights of female migrant workers and their families
3. Ensuring that the policies and regulation for the protection of female migrant workers and their families are adequately implemented

Sponsor

AWO International and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Number of Beneficiaries:

Direct: 919

Indirect: 1,460

Run-Time

January 2018 – December 2020

Budget

€ 63,367 p.a.

Links to Policies, Conventions and Goals

- Davao City OFW Ordinance of 2008
- Davao City OFW Families' Center Ordinance of 2020
- Philippines' Republic Act (R.A.) 8042 or Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995
- Philippines' R.A. 10022 or an Act Amending R.A. 8042, Further Improving the Standards of Protection and Promotion of the Welfare of Migrant Workers, their Families, and Overseas Filipinos in Distress, and for Other Purposes
- Establishment of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Overseas Filipino Workers' (OFW) Desk and Designation of DILG-OFW Desk Officer



MMCEAI

Mindanao Migrants Center for
Empowering Actions, Inc.

Freedom from Debt, Key to Development

WRITTEN BY: AIDA S. MAGALLANES, PROJECT OFFICER, OND HESED FOUNDATION, INC.



Womens' Self Help Groups (SHG) have a great potential to enhance the situation of women and wives in society. Their active participation in these groups can become a vehicle towards their empowerment and freedom from debt, unleashing potential that can contribute to various positive initiatives and engagements in their local communities.



Note: The feature articles in this issue focus on projects that were implemented from 2018 to 2020. Photos that accompany them were taken during that period and some in 2021

*Coastal clean up organized by the SHG members and participated by them and their community members
(Source: OND Hesed Foundation)*



AWO staff were able to meet some SHG members from Brgy. Calumpang during one of its monitoring visits in 2021.

Wives of fishers often bear the brunt of the stress that comes from the bondage to their debt when income from fishing is not enough to feed the family. Women are managers of their households; they take care of their children and their families' needs using meager resources or income. In General Santos City and Sarangani Province, fishing is the main source of income of 70% of marginal fishers out of 730 self-help group (SHG) members of our project communities. Their husbands earn only around PHP 5,000 a month to feed a family of five with a simple meal composed of rice and fish or vegetables, noodles, dried fish and soy sauce. This income would only allow the woman of the house to manage her family's food for a day, leaving no budget for other basic needs. Insufficient income undermines the self-confidence and meaningful participation of women in society since this puts women in a disadvantaged position, worrying where the next meal will be coming from. Thus, it affects their social interaction with others.

Some of the fishers' wives venture to go abroad to look for other sources of income to augment their family's basic needs like the education of their children, shelter and medical expenses. But not all of them succeed, like one mother who was not paid on time by her employer and another one who was not paid at all. In these cases, because of the difficulties they experienced, they decided to come home. Before these problems could escalate, AWO International and OND Hesed Foundation started a project in 2018 in the areas of General Santos City and Sarangani Province. The fisher's wives were organized to form SHGs in the areas

covered by the project. In their formation, they are capacitated with knowledge and skills on various livelihood ideas like food processing and home care products making, as well as given lessons on financial literacy, values and leadership formation, advocacy promotion like anti-trafficking and responsible recruitment, women's rights, environmental protection, and the Food Always in the Home (FAITH) Program. All these activities contribute to developing their personal and social capabilities – giving them a sense of greater self-worth, as well more chances to have meaningful participation in society, starting with their own communities. The training sessions were conducted with the help of government line agencies like the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Trade and Industry, City Agriculture Office, and local trainers.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, women were greatly affected, since their families' livelihoods were also affected. Fishers' mobility was restricted, and the number of fish buyers dwindled due to the imposed lockdowns, strict health protocols, and stringent border controls imposed throughout all areas. The income generation activities, weekly group meetings, and repayment of loans of the SHGs were also affected due to limited movement allowed. Further, many were exposed to psychological and gender-based violence since families were forced to stay in their homes during the lockdowns. Adding to these sources of worry was the health insecurity within families due to the unfamiliar virus that infected thousands of people each day.

These SHGs were organized towards achieving common goals, specifically financial independence, greater participation in decision making – both in the family and community – and enhanced confidence in themselves and with their fellow women. There were 39 SHGs that met every week on an agreed time, day and place to pray, share about their situations, express their hopes and dreams, as well as propose ideas to increase each of their families' savings. Based on their individual hopes and dreams, the welfare of their children, families and communities are always at the center of the members' personal goals. Their group goal is inspired by each of their own personal aims and it always includes the SHG's three main principles, which are the social, political and economic empowerment of women towards development. The group goals and individual goals are reviewed on a quarterly basis in order to measure everyone's progress and discuss what more can be done in order to effectively achieve their targets.

The SHGs also set their own policies based on what they see, judging from the situations that they are in, and acting on it based on their discernment. These SHGs' collective savings is determined by each group; some SHGs agreed to save 20 pesos, some 50 pesos, and others even 100 pesos – all of which are collected on a weekly basis. Aside from weekly savings, each member or individual can establish a social fund intended for family emergencies. This fund is put in a box with three different keys kept by three different members. A book writer records the savings and minutes of meetings, and documents the goals of the group while each member records her own personal goal. All weekly savings can be loaned by all members while the limit of the special savings will depend on the amount a person contributed to it. From the pooled savings, individual women can access it through loans. Each SHG has its own policy; some SHGs allow members to pay only the interest first before renewing their loan, while others do not allow members to avail of the loan unless they pay their outstanding balance. All SHG members decide who can avail of the loan. The top three reasons why SHG members loan from their savings are 1) for additional capital of their family's income generating project, 2) payment of bills, and 3) improvement of their home or children's educational needs. These loans accrue an interest of 5%, which is determined by the group



Training on proper processing of fish for one of the SHGs (Source: OND Hesed Foundation)

without external intervention. SHGs are lifelines for some families – they serve as support systems for those in dire need and through the financial loans offered by SHGs, members can avoid approaching loan sharks who charge exorbitant interests.

Some SHGs extended help to their members in terms of food, like using their SHG interest fund to buy rice and other necessities and distribute it to each member. During the pandemic, the harvest from the FAITH garden helped their families, and they were even able to share their harvests to a COVID-19 isolation facility. SHG members also served as a support system to the community, especially those who were infected by the virus.

As of today, OND Hesed, with the continuous support of AWO International, has organized 56 SHGs with a total of 730 members. By the end of 2019, they had saved over PHP 900,000, which was enough for the members to carry out house repairs, purchase motorized boats or banca as added capital for individual income-generating projects (IGP), and pay bills. As of 2020, their total savings amounted to a little over PHP 800,000.



The AWO-OND Hesed project helps secure the livelihoods of fishers on water and on land. It not only engages fisherfolks by raising awareness on their rights and building their capacities in advocacy promotion but also aims to develop their entrepreneurial skills, which can help them become self-reliant and uplift their economic status. Among the type of remunerative ventures already started and sustained by some fisherfolk associations are sari-sari stores, fishing supplies stores and more.

The most active SHG is the Shining SHG of Brgy. Bula, General Santos City, which continued to be active during the pandemic by sustaining their income generation projects. Other SHGs initiated group business initiatives like siomai (dumpling) and lumpia (spring roll) making, milkfish deboning and fish lamayo (a fish preparation style), doormat and rag making, sandal and pillow cake making, fish cage management, and rice retailing. As a group, it helped them make a profit even during the pandemic, and individually, they were able to earn money for daily expenses. A group that was producing sandals earned more than PHP 3,000.00 in a month and another that processed alamang (shrimp fry) had a net income of PHP 400 per production. For other income generation projects, the amounts they earned were added to their capitals.

The SHGs also recognized exceptional members who exhibited proactiveness and initiative by sharing insights with other SHG members through activities like SHG orientation and formation in their areas and promoting the sustainability of their small businesses while being leaders in their own communities.

Through the continued outstanding performance of these SHGs and monitoring of the AWO-OND Hesed project, these groups embody the potential that women can unleash towards freedom from debt and improving their social and political participation while enhancing their self-esteem and self-worth.

Community-based organizations (CBOs) like SHGs positively affect the process of rural change in the long run. With training, seminars and advocacy communication related to their lives, the people are enlightened of their rights as individuals and as citizens in their communities – whether it be the fishing community or not. Eventually, they may be inspired to protect the environment and marine resources, and most of all, build a harmonious relationship with one another. CBOs that have been capacitated under the AWO-OND Hesed project have even initiated giving support to communities (through cash or in-kind items like food) by tapping other private institutions like Caritas Manila and Apostleship of the Sea. To further strengthen SHGs in these communities, OND Hesed with its partner, AWO International, will continue to form Cluster-Level Associations (CLA), thereby increasing the awareness and capacities of trained leaders to be able to share their skills to their own communities. Furthermore, for SHG participation to carry on and persist, the private and public sectors must be willing to engage with them – set quality time to visit them, listen and converse with them. OND Hesed introduced the SHGs to other government line agencies, development partners and other non-governmental organizations so that they themselves can establish partnerships with them. Such partnerships can bring to the fore the issues of women in the fishing sector and generate support for future projects and programs for women.



Where fishers' wives become members of SHGs, their fisher husbands and other family members can also become part of their respective community's fisherfolk associations. Both community-based organizations are supported and strengthened by the AWO-OND Hesed project.

Project Details

Project Name

Reduction of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) among Fishing Workers and Communities

Barangay/Village, City or District/Region/Country:

Barangays in the City of General Santos (Calumpang, Fatima, Bula, Labangal, West), South Cotabato Province; Barangays in the Municipality of Kiamba (Kayupo, Lumoyon, Salakit), Sarangani Province; Barangays in the Municipality of Maasim (Kamanga and Tinoto), Sarangani Province, Region 12 (SOCCSKSARGEN), Mindanao, Philippines

Partner Organization

OND Hesed Foundation, Inc.

Target Group

- Wives and families of fishers,
- Marginalized fishers and fisherfolk associations,
- Fisher who are victims and/or survivors of TIP or forced labour
- Bantay dagat/deputized fish wardens

Project Objectives

- Laws and policies for the prevention of trafficking and protection of fishing workers are adequately implemented.
- Fishermen and their families are organized, and their rights are advocated for.
- Risks of being re-trafficked is reduced through services made available to victims of trafficking in persons in the fishing industry

Sponsor

AWO International and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Number of Beneficiaries:

Direct: 3,952

Indirect: 8,684

Run-Time

January 2018 - December 31, 2020

Budget

€ 61,900 p.a.

Links to Policies, Conventions and Goals

- Sustainable Development Goals



- Philippines' Ambisyon Natin 2040 (The Country's Collective Long-Term Vision and Aspiration): specifically, #1 (Prosperity for All) and #5 (Just and Fair Society)



The Good and the Bad: Experiences in Responding to Successive Adversities that Struck Indonesia's North Lombok Regency of West Nusa Tenggara



WRITTEN BY: ZAH RATUN, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PERKUMPULAN PANCA KARSA

What happens when another calamity strikes not long after a previous one just left thousands injured, hundreds dead and hundreds homeless? Where and how should a community even begin to respond when it is still recovering and suffering from the previous disaster? With numerous needs still unaddressed and piling up, where should they focus their attention first? What role should each person in the community play? Find out the efforts and lessons learned from PPK and their partner migrant organizations as they rose to the challenges they faced.

From July to August 2018, a series of shallow and destructive earthquakes and numerous aftershocks, with magnitudes not dipping below 6.0, struck Lombok Island. The main shock, the peak of the earthquake, occurred on August 5, 2018 with a magnitude of 7.0. Its epicenter was in North Lombok Regency – the target area of AWO International's development cooperation project with PPK¹. Material loss is estimated to be at Rp 12 trillion (around 16,000 €)

“What I experienced was unimaginable, [the earthquake] destroyed our home and our source of income, and the child we dreamed of no longer existed.”

- WILLIN

earthquake survivor from North Lombok



with 80% of the existing infrastructure in North Lombok damaged or destroyed. A total of 563 people lost their lives^{2,3,4} 1,353 were injured, and more than 352 thousand people were displaced. In North Lombok alone as many as 471 people died and 460 more people were injured.

Beneath the visible physical destruction that the earthquake left in its wake, such collapsed houses, damaged public facilities

¹ Panca Karsa Association (Women Development Association)
² Galek, S., 2018. Death toll from Indonesian quakes climbs to 563. [online] Aa.com.tr. Available at: <<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/death-toll-from-indonesian-quakes-climbs-to-563/1239034>>.
³ Malia, I., 2018. 536 Lombok Earthquake Victims, Minister of Social Affairs says the “Status is still a Regional Disaster”. [online] Indonesia Times. Available at: <<https://www.indonesiatimes.com/news/indonesia/indonesiamalia/ko/kan-gruppa-lombok-536-jwa-menres-status-masih-bencana-daerah/full/2/>>

⁴ ReliefWeb, 2018. Impact of the Lombok Earthquake: 436 Died and Economic Losses of More than IDR 5.04 trillion - Indonesia. [online] Available at: <<https://reliefweb.int/report/indonesia/impact-lombok-earthquake-436-died-and-economic-losses-more-idr-504-trillion>>.



The 2018 Lombok earthquake destroyed many houses.

and shattered bridges, the mental and psychological effects were taking a toll on the residents, especially communities in the project area. Many, like Wilin's family, recounted their story in tears. She was four months pregnant with her first child, but she and her family had to leave their house and stay out in the open, barefoot and without shelter. They feared the aftershocks and even a possible tsunami. Worst of all, Wilin lost her baby the next morning, and could not even get access to proper health care.

In the aftermath of the disaster, the crisis centers supported by AWO International's project in three villages – namely Sambik Bangkol Village, Tegal Maja Village and Medana Village – that housed operational equipment were destroyed and left unsalvageable. These community-based crisis centers provided information and services for the promotion of safe migration to women migrant domestic workers and their families. Crisis centers with equipment purchased and maintained under the project with AWO International became almost non-existent; digital equipment, furniture and more were beyond repair. Post-disaster response in the community was insufficient; many believed that the interventions done were inadequate and the lack of proper coordination in handling emergencies and crises such as this slowed down the recovery process.

The AWO-PPK project continued to provide encouragement and support to immediately help in the local community's recovery. With energy and enthusiasm, PPK and the Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) Observer Groups or generally termed as "social structures" organized under the AWO-PPK project began to build synergies,

gathered themselves, and planned rehabilitation efforts to be able to go back to normal. Community members and leaders and the village government expressed appreciation for the help provided by the project; they were taught how to actively participate in responding to emergency situations, during rehabilitation and recovery. This was a new experience for them.

Efforts carried out by the project include:

1. Providing counseling services to female cadres;
2. Cadres and groups began assessing and providing the needs of vulnerable groups (women, children, disabilities, the elderly, pregnant and lactating mothers).
3. Building synergies and cooperation to seek assistance, both from individuals and groups/institutions at the national and international levels (one organization that provides the most assistance is AWO International)⁵.
4. Distributing healthy food to the most vulnerable groups.
5. Assisting in the recovery of women's Small and Mid-sized Enterprises by providing entrepreneurial motivation, skills training, marketing and business equipment assistance.
6. Supporting temporary crisis center facilities in five villages as shelters in disaster situations.

The threats from the COVID-19 virus emerged in early 2020. The community was not yet fully recovered from the effects of the 2018 Lombok earthquake. This virus rapidly spread around the world and reached Indonesia in March 2020. The World Health Organization (WHO) categorized the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic in the same month. It changed many things in people's lives; social, financial, and mental situations and well-being were challenged. Many people died, behaviors and habits changed, social and mobility restrictions and strict health protocols were enforced, and many of these practices and policies harmed the economy. In addition, millions of people lost their income sources due to mass layoffs with several economic sectors at a standstill.

The lack of reliable information and the spread of fake news caused people to panic even more. Confusion and false information quickly spread online and it divided people's views on whether COVID-19 was real or not. As a preventive measure, everyone was asked to use personal protective equipment to contain the virus. Many panicked and stockpiled on these items.

Face masks, hand sanitizers and other essential hygiene tools suddenly could hardly be found in the market. Whenever these were made available or resold, they were usually priced at unbelievably high rates that many would not be able to afford. No one expected the COVID-19 outbreak to grow as big an issue as it did.

Members of the PMI Observer Groups are composed of former women migrant workers, trafficking in persons (TIP) survivors, and PMI members' families. Due to their active involvement in these social structures, they have gained experience in responding to numerous types of migrant workers cases in the past and more recently, vulnerable and natural disaster-affected populations. They have also facilitated connecting aid organizations to people in need of their support. They are officially recognized as partners of the village government through a Village Head Decree.



With funding support from Aktion Deutschland Hilft, PPK and AWO International were able to respond to the communities affected by the earthquake. Relief goods were distributed.



Residents of North Lombok grappled with the situation that the 2018 earthquake left them with. Unfortunately, many were still struggling with its aftermath when COVID-19 reared its head in early 2020.

Through initiatives and support from and collaboration with PPK and its partners, some efforts that the PMI Observer Groups carried out to respond to COVID-19 in their community were the following:

1. Creating homemade hygiene materials to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus: Hand sanitizers were produced using easily accessible herbal ingredients in the area. Face masks were also made from cloth scraps that are still suitable for use. Items like these were produced in large quantities and were distributed to their communities, especially targeting the most vulnerable – such as pregnant or nursing women and the elderly.
2. Ensuring the availability of handwashing facilities in public places and simultaneously providing tips and techniques for proper hand washing: Maximizing available and affordable resources, water containers filled with gallons of water were distributed among small business stalls and areas in the community.
3. Conducting information dissemination campaigns about COVID-19 to the public in collaboration with Yayasan Sheep Indonesia (YSI) based in Yogyakarta and funding sources from AWO International and Aktion Deutschland Hilft.

4. Helping businesses adapt to the new normal: They helped businesses survive and thrive during the pandemic by sharing safe and effective sales strategies; physical stalls and stores could still remain open but would need to implement health protocols, and these stores could also start actively promoting their businesses through social media.
5. Continuing to do case assistance: They record, facilitate and connect the most vulnerable and affected parties to relevant agencies to provide these individuals with assistance.

Throughout AWO-PPK's partnership in the last three years, the experiences of dealing with these disasters have taught PPK and its partner communities that these cannot be avoided, but the most important thing to do is to recognize what we can do to reduce and minimize their risks and impacts. The solution is to map the existing vulnerabilities and threats of disasters in our area; consider available resources; and build networks for cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration for better handling of the relief, recovery and rehabilitation processes. In each process, particular attention must be given to the most vulnerable groups in society. Further, lessons learned from these events and experiences have greatly benefited the community – helping them to survive, and even thrive.



Water containers were distributed to business stalls and areas in the community. (Source: PPK)



The women of the PMI Observer Group harvested betel leaves for the homemade hand sanitizer they produced. (Source: PPK)

Project Details

Project Name

Strengthening of Rights and Protection of Women Migrant Domestic Workers (WMDW) in Lombok Utara

Barangay/Village, City or District/Region/Country:

Villages in North Lombok (Sambik Bangkol, Rempek, Tegal Maja, Medana, Teniga), Indonesia

Partner Organization

Perkumpulan Panca Karsa / Women Development Association (PPK)

Target Group

- a. Migrant workers from the project villages (former, current, prospective and undocumented)
- b. Human trafficking victims that need to access assistance and services
- c. Local community leaders and government officials on village, district, and provincial level
- d. Citizens from the project villages

Project Objectives

1. WMDW are organized in community-based organizations and are able to advocate for their rights.
2. WMDW have economic knowledge, access and control over their own remittances.
3. Government regulations on local, district and provincial level reflect the needs of WMDW and are aligned with national policies.

Run-Time

January 2018 – December 2020

Budget

€ 63,000 p.a.

Sponsor

AWO International and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Number of Beneficiaries:

Direct: 2,560

Indirect: 27,847

Links to Policies, Conventions and Goals

- Sustainable Development Goals
- West Nusa Tenggara's Medium-term Development Plan for 2019-2023
- West Nusa Tenggara's Provincial Government Regional Regulation No. 1, Year 2017
- Indonesia's National Mid-term Development Plan of 2020-2024



PERKUMPULAN
PANCA KARSA MATARAM

Youth as Important Actors in Disaster Risk Reduction

WRITTEN BY: AZHARI, A MEMBER OF PRINGASELA TIMUR'S LEMBAGA SOSIAL DESA



What can the youth offer for the development of society? Because they have raw knowledge and limited experiences, often, their voices are not heard. By not considering their thoughts and insights, we might be missing opportunities and potential that could be useful in changing perspectives and driving positive change.



The youth took part in the disaster mapping activity organized by YSI in its project with AWO International. (Source: YSI)

Following the series of earthquakes that occurred on the island of Lombok from July to August 2018, the affected communities are still recovering from the devastation it brought to their lives and properties. Hundreds of thousands of families lost their homes and even more people suffered from emotional stress because of the repeated tremors and not knowing where to go and what to do. Recovery required tremendous work and effort for people to be able to return to their normal lives. With limited support from external actors that were

not based in Lombok, the task of ensuring the continuous rehabilitation of communities is now the responsibility of local actors such as non-government organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs). However, these groups usually have minimal knowledge and experience on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM). Therefore, there is a need to capacitate them so that they are empowered to address the needs of their own communities.

AWO International's project with YSI aimed at increasing the resilience of earthquake-affected communities in Lombok against disaster risks. YSI partnered with three local NGOs that are active in Lombok, namely ADBMI (Advokasi Buruh Migran Indonesia), PPK (Perkumpulan Panca Karsa) and Gravitasi. This project sought to increase the capacity of these NGOs, CBOs and their target villages on community-based DRRM through education, advocacy, and mainstreaming of plans and policies to reduce disaster risks and help them build back better.

The assessment for disaster risk in Pringgasela Timur village, under the support of ADBMI, did not rely solely on the influence of the village government, but also on individuals and groups who were interested in taking part in the initiative. There is a youth group in Pringgasela Timur called the village social organization (Lembaga Sosial Desa or LSD, for short) organized in 2018 to assist migrant workers. LSD collaborates closely with the local community and village government, where they are seen as a critical contributor to village development. Furthermore, they actively took part in the project implementation, especially in the understanding of disaster risk in the village.

Pringgasela Timur village is one of the villages in East Lombok with sand mining activities. The disaster risk analysis carried out by YSI-ADBMI suggested that sand mining is a hazard in the village, which can potentially cause a disaster if no risk reduction measures are done by village officials and local authorities sooner or later.

However, sand mining is a source of income for some people in the village, particularly the youth, who are forced to take part in it to help meet their family's daily needs. It is done not only by unemployed youth in their late teens to 20s, but even by junior and senior high school students, who make use of school breaks or recess periods to mine sand. When trucks carrying sand pass by, they would immediately go home, change out of their uniforms, and go to the open sand pits to work.

Many are not aware of the long-term consequences brought about by sand mining, which is why they do not care much about its immediate effects.

Based on discussions during the workshop on understanding disaster risk reduction and community-based risk analysis, a noticeable impact the locals saw was the drying up of springs. This, in turn, affected the irrigation system for local agriculture – causing water shortages, reducing soil fertility, and even increasing the rate at which landslides occur.

There has been a growing awareness among the youth of Pringgasela Timur of these issues, as well as the need to accelerate disaster risk reduction efforts and promote environmental sustainability. This inspired the young people from Pringgasela Timur's LSD to participate in discussions, campaigns and education sessions being conducted by ADBMI. It was hoped that engaging the youth would increase participation so they could voice their views, and remarks such as: "Percuma sekolah tinggi-tinggi kalau pulang menjadi buruh pasir" (It is useless to have an advanced degree if you go home and become a sand miner) would no longer be heard. If everyone in the village, including the youth, will work together to identify existing hazards and discuss and implement solutions, the goal of caring for the environment, being prepared for disasters and building a better village will be within reach.

It was not easy to engage many people and change their mindsets, as earning money remains their priority. Hence, a creative approach was necessary to give them a new perspective. The LSD of Pringgasela Timur invited their fellow youths employed in the local sand mining pits for a chat during their coffee break. By appealing to these young people in this simple and relaxed way, they were able to strike a chord with them and enhance their awareness. Some were even willing to help out in activities in their hamlets. They saw that balancing individual economic interests with village development and disaster risk reduction is possible.

The youth are agents of change in the community. If they could serve as good examples in their own communities, like Pringgasela Timur's LSD did, then others can follow. Their creative minds and energy can craft fresh and diverse solutions to respond to the changing issues and contexts of today. Integrating the perspective of the youth in disaster risk reduction can offer effective solutions to local environmental problems.



Youth girls planting (Source: ADBMI / YSI)



Pringasela Timur's LSD members accompanying children in their community and orienting them about disasters (Source: ADBM / YSI)



Youth boys planting (Source: ADBMI / YSI)

This article was originally published in *Reducing Disaster Risks of Lombok Earthquake-affected Communities through DRR Mainstreaming with Local Organizations and Village Governments*, which documents the lessons learned and best practices from AWO International and YSI's project. Some revisions have been made to the version in this magazine.

Project Details

Project Name

Reducing Disaster Risks of Lombok Earthquake-affected Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming with Local Organizations and Village Governments (including COVID-19)

Barangay/Village, City or District/Region/Country:

Villages in North Lombok Regency (Sambik Bangkol, Pringgasea Timur, Sukadana, Rempek, Tegal Maja, Medana, Teniga), Indonesia

Partner Organization

Yayasan SHEEP (Society for Health, Education, and Environment and Peace) Indonesia (YSI)

Target Group

- Residents of earthquake-affected villages from vulnerable sectors including poor households, pregnant and/or lactating mothers, children (even those under 5 years old) and youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly
- Community-based organizations;
- Village officials; and
- Local partner NGOs.

Project Objectives

Increased resilience against disaster risks of the poor and most vulnerable sectors in earthquake-affected communities in Lombok

Sponsor

AWO International and Aktion Deutschland Hilft (Germany's Relief Coalition)

Run-Time

January 2020 – June 2021 (18 months)

Number of Beneficiaries:

Direct: 3,819

Indirect: 15,583

Budget

€ 115,191.73

Links to Policies, Conventions and Goals

- Sustainable Development Goals



- Indonesia's National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; specifically, Priority Action 1 (Understanding Disaster Risk) and 2 (Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk)



Promoting the Essence of AWO *in Southeast Asia*



AWO or Arbeiterwohlfort translates to Workers' Welfare in English. Staying true to its name and mission, we continue to promote workers welfare, first and foremost in our team, as well as among the project teams in each of our local implementing partner organizations. Before the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdowns, several workshops and training sessions were organized and conducted by AWO International to upgrade and enhance the knowledge and skills of its own staff as well as those of its partners – on effective technical writing and reporting, monitoring and evaluation, among many others. AWO International's offices across the world also collaborated and engaged in interregional workshops on topics such as results-based management (between AWO International Southeast Asia and South Asia in July 2019), a humanitarian action planning workshop (with all regional offices in January 2019), and more.

With the COVID-19 situation in the Philippines improving, we were able to conduct a blended-type learning session on basic disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) among the development cooperation partners in the country (July to August 2021). Considering the disruptions that the pandemic caused and several disasters the region has experienced recently, the training was essential to enhance our partners' understanding and appreciation of DRRM, humanitarian principles and the value of inclusivity, so that they can better employ these practices and standards in their own work and strengthen their efforts. We believe in the importance of investing in our workers' well-being for enhanced resilience and better engagement with the communities we aim to help and support.

Linking Projects to **Broader Plans and Strategies**



March 2020: Planning Workshop in Indonesia



November and December 2019: National Strategic Planning Workshop in Indonesia and the Philippines



Collaboration allows for the creation of strong, implementable plans. In anticipation of a new development cooperation program cycle that started this year and will end in 2023, and retaining the same thematic area of promoting safe migration and combating human trafficking from 2018 to 2020, preparations were conducted more than a year before the new cycle began. During this time, we made sure to actively engage relevant stakeholders from all levels in this process. This kicked off with two strategic planning workshops held in the Philippines and Indonesia in November and December, respectively. Representatives from national line agencies, duty bearers, beneficiaries, the academe, fellow international organizations and civil society organizations, as well as our very own implementing partner organizations, attended both events. To complement existing development efforts, the workshop gathered insights and inputs from all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the upcoming projects for 2021 up to 2023 would align with existing local, national, international, development and strategic plans.

In a follow up to the strategic workshop, a planning workshop for both program countries was originally scheduled. However, only the workshop in Indonesia pushed through.* This time, the workshop gathered stakeholders on a scale more specific to our partners' target areas, which covered village and regency levels. This was intended so that the participants could collaboratively discuss and jointly come up with a project design that underwent a participatory process.

Lending a Hand to **Empower**



AWO International continues to actively work in Southeast Asia. While thematic focuses change and social and economic landscapes shift, our guiding principles of solidarity, tolerance, freedom, equality and justice are consistently upheld in our efforts and practices. Since 2018, our cooperation projects for development have concentrated on promoting safe migration and anti-human trafficking. We also continue providing humanitarian aid based on the needs of the affected population. We were there when Tropical Cyclone Tembin devastated Lanao del Norte, Philippines in December 2017; when a series of magnitude 7.0 earthquakes ravaged Lombok, Indonesia in August 2018; and during the COVID-19 pandemic and when Typhoons Goni and Vamco wreaked havoc in 2020. The mission to empower individuals and communities remains our priority through enhancing their capacities as well as advocacy and lobbying activities.

Project Cooperation with **New Partners**



In 2021, we welcomed three new project partners for development cooperation. Through the forging of new partnerships with Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute, Migrant Forum in Asia and Migrant CARE, AWO International in Southeast Asia envisions to intensify its work and efforts on safe migration and anti-human trafficking. With the support and commitment of our partners in the communities and the new partners active on anational and regional level (ASEAN), we aim to reach farther and generate synergies that will augment the impact of our joint efforts in making migration safe and combatting trafficking in persons and abuse.



***Much appreciation goes to our funders and donors.
Without them, the successful work of AWO International
and its partners would not be possible.***



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with AWO International may contact us using the details
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This publication was produced by AWO International Southeast Asia with funds provided by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Contents, views and statements of the publications produced under this Project are those of the AWO International Southeast Asia and the contributing authors and must not comply with the BMZ.

Together for a just world.

Bersama untuk dunia yang adil.

Sama-sama para sa patas na mundo.



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