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Organization of the
United Nations



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FAO in the Philippines

Delivering for impact

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2019

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Foreword

It is my pleasure to present to you this brief, “FAO in the Philippines: Delivering for impact” highlighting the key accomplishments of FAO in the Philippines in 2019 in our mandate areas of food and nutrition security and rural development covering crops, livestock, fisheries, and forestry.

In this brief, we present to you FAO’s achievements in the country in a capsulized and easy-to-read form. The articles within highlight how FAO’s work is making tangible and positive impact on the lives of Filipinos, particularly of farmers and fishers and their families. These actions are guided by, aligned with, and contribute to the realization of the vision and development priorities of our main partner, the Philippine Government, with whom we collaborate with in all our activities.

Through this document, FAO also gives due recognition to its donors, partners, and stakeholders for their valuable support to initiatives that are helping bring about the dream of a food secure, healthy, peaceful, and poverty-free Philippines into reality. This brief is also a testament to the dedication and hard work of FAO Philippines staff –in the office and in the field –who are the driving force behind its projects and programmes.

Looking forward, FAO Philippines will strive to become much better at delivering on our mandates in the coming years. We will continue to rely on your continued collaboration –our donors, partners and supporters– in our mission to improve the plight of the marginalized sectors of society. Together we can continue to make a difference in people’s lives and collectively contribute towards the country’s efforts of achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you, and enjoy reading.



Xiangjun Yao

FAO Representative *ad interim* in the Philippines



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AT A GLANCE

FAO's work in the Philippines is guided by the Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2018-2024, particularly its three Country Outcomes: (1) improved nutrition for all; (2) expanded economic opportunities in the agriculture, fisheries, and forestry (AFF) sectors and ensured ecological integrity and clean and healthy environment; and (3) reduced vulnerabilities among individuals and families and just and lasting peace achieved. These outcomes are anchored on the priorities of the government as contained in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 and are likewise aligned with the pillars of the UN Philippines Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (PFSD). The Country Outcomes are also expected to contribute to the efforts of the government in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Under the Country Outcome "Improved nutrition for all", FAO Philippines (FAOPH) supported the enhancement of enabling policy and programming environment for food security and nutrition. Specifically, FAOPH provided the government with substantive assistance in evidence-based policy making and programming through the conduct of relevant studies and formulation of national-level food security and nutrition (FSN) strategies and plans. New opportunities have likewise emerged, including the government's establishment of the Zero Hunger Task Force (ZHTF) and the continued expansion of shock-responsive social protection systems in the country.

For the Country Outcome "Expanded economic opportunities in the agriculture, fisheries, and forestry (AFF) sectors and ensured ecological integrity and clean and healthy

COUNTRY OFFICE QUICK FACTS*



Ongoing national projects: **USD 15.475 million**
 Ongoing regional/global projects: **USD 116 million**
 Pipeline national projects: **USD 62.118 million**



Staff complement: **89**
(40 male, 49 female)



- Areas of expertise:**
- Food security and nutrition
 - Agronomy and farming systems
 - Environment and natural resources management
 - Legislation and advocacy
 - Fisheries
 - Disaster risk reduction and climate change action
 - Geographical Information System
 - Development communication
 - Partnerships and resource mobilization
 - Information and Communication Technology
 - Operations
 - Procurement

*As of 31 December 2019

environment”, FAOPH introduced new technologies that helped improve agriculture and fisheries practices and the delivery of related government services. Among others, FAOPH supported the furtherance of the country’s agriculture and fisheries modernization through various e-agriculture initiatives. We likewise promoted sustainable management of natural resources through projects that supported the strengthening of value chains and enhancing the participation of women and IP groups, among others.

For Country Outcome on “Reduced vulnerabilities among individuals and families and just and lasting peace achieved”, FAOPH undertook efforts to increase the Philippine’s resilience to both natural and human-induced disasters such as the introduction of ICT-based solutions for disaster preparedness and planning, as well as innovative anticipatory approaches to disaster risk-reduction and management (DRRM). The Country Office also provided support for the restoration of agri-based livelihoods to farming communities affected by conflicts in Mindanao as well as by typhoons in Luzon. In view of the creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), FAOPH provided institutional capacity building in various aspects, with some undertaken jointly with other UN agencies.

In delivering its mandates, FAOPH closely works with key counterparts in government as well as other partners and stakeholders including other UN agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), local and international non-government organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and local government units (LGUs). These partnerships are key to the success of our initiatives.

To strengthen its operational and delivery capacities, FAOPH intensified its funding and resource mobilization efforts as well as facilitated the construction of new sub-offices in Cotabato City and Zamboanga City. The latter are meant to support our increased development interventions in BARMM.

To highlight its deliveries and impact, FAOPH stepped up its media engagement, developed strategic publications and IEC materials, and enhanced its digital and social media footprint to deliver its key developmental messages and to support its various project and programmes. FAOPH’s communications and advocacy initiatives are also contributing to increasing the public’s awareness of the importance of food security and agriculture in the country.

DELIVERING ON OUR MANDATES

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Helping realize a Zero Hunger Philippines

FAOPH played an active role in the government's initiative to establish the Zero Hunger Task Force (ZHTF), a special task force mandated by the Office of the President to ensure that the country fulfills its obligation as a member state of the UN to achieve SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by 2030. Led by the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, the ZHTF seeks to advance and promote synergistic multi-sectoral efforts towards improving food security and nutrition in the country. The Task Force will be officially launched by mid-2020, the event of which will also be coordinated by FAOPH in partnership with the Office of the Cabinet Secretary.

In support of the ZHTF, the Country Office initiated the development of the publication "Overview of Food Security and Nutrition in the Philippines", which is intended to provide the Task Force with country-specific empirical data to serve as policy reference for decision makers in developing appropriate national food security and nutrition (FSN) interventions. The publication is being developed in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Additionally, the Country Office, together with WFP, is also supporting the Office of the Cabinet Secretary in implementing the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP). The EPAHP aims to address hunger, ensure food security and health, and reduce poverty in the rural communities through concerted efforts by the government and UN agencies.

Assisting government make informed decisions on food and nutrition security issues

Through the project, "National Food Consumption Quantification Study" in collaboration with the DA, FAOPH developed a National Food Production Strategy for nine important agricultural commodities (rice, yellow/orange/violet sweet potato, hog, tilapia, chicken eggs, squash, papaya, coconut, and



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With the establishment of the Zero Hunger Task Force, the country is on track to fulfill its obligation to realize SDG 2 by 2030.



A national food production strategy will guide the government in making informed and effective policy recommendations.

mungbean) that identifies policy and program recommendations to enhance FSN and promote sustainable agriculture. Although covering only six provinces, its findings and recommendations could be applied nationwide.

Additionally, FAOPH, together with WFP, provided technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) of BARMM in completing its Food Security and Nutrition Roadmap.

FAOPH strengthened partner government agencies' capacities in using FSN data analysis platforms such as the online FAO/WHO Global

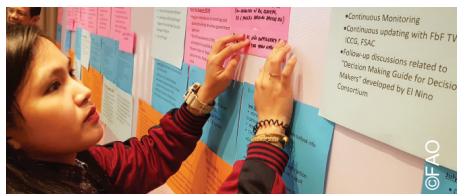
Individual Food Consumption Data Tool (FAO/WHO GIFT). The web-based platform disseminates existing Individual Quantitative Food Consumption Data (IQFCD) in easy to understand age- and sex-disaggregated indicators of food consumption and nutrition. Such initiatives are envisioned to assist concerned agencies in developing responsive national food security and nutrition programmes.

Promoting early action to mitigate the effects of El Niño in drought-vulnerable farming communities

From the last quarter of 2018 up until the third quarter of 2019, El Niño-induced drought and dry spell events have cost the Philippines' agricultural sector some PhP 10.1 billion (about USD 202 million) in damages to crops and fisheries, affecting 362 000 farmers, and forced 49 local government units (LGUs) to declare States of Calamity. The government, led by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), has been coordinating with its pertinent agencies to provide financial assistance and technical advice to affected farmers and LGUs regarding impact-based forecasting and preparedness measures.

To supplement the government's measures, FAOPH piloted an "Early Warning Early Action" (EWEA) project that supported 1 500 vulnerable rice farmers in selected municipalities in North Cotabato (Pigkawayan) and Maguindanao (Datu Saudi Ampatuan), which are some of the areas in Mindanao most vulnerable to El Niño-induced drought.

With funding support from the Government of Belgium, the project provided irrigation systems and inputs and offered alternative livelihoods such as livestock farming and high-value commercial crops, various capacity building training on drought-related agricultural technologies and management, Early Warning System (EWS), and launched



Results of FAOPH's EWEA project will help the government be more prepared for another bout with El Niño.

the Provincial El Niño Information Caravan in 15 provinces in the country. FAOPH also conducted preparedness planning workshops and activities with farmers, including women, in the target sites.

Beneficiaries such as the Datu Saudi Ampatuan Women's Cooperative said that the EWEA project greatly helped them by improving their knowledge and skills related to agriculture such as mallard duck and vegetable garden production. The mallard duck eggs and the vegetables that the women in the cooperative produced and are now selling has generated income that has helped them support their children's school-related costs. The vegetables have also been used in feeding programmes at four elementary schools in Datu Saudi Ampatuan.

The findings of the EWEA project were used to inform the national government's initiatives toward increasing the resilience and preparedness of farmers and their communities in the event of an El Niño phenomenon. Other actors like WFP also co-implemented the EWEA project through cash-for-work and capacity building activities in Maguindanao.

In September, FAOPH and WFP organized the El Niño After Action Review (AAR), which served as a platform for government and non-state actors to discuss the successes, challenges, and plans to effectively and proactively respond to El Niño occurrence in the future. At the AAR, the various concerned agencies and actors shared their El Niño response actions, identified key lessons, challenges, and gaps in the actions implemented, and collectively defined and agreed to an integrated El Niño action plan to help prepare the country for another bout with El Niño.



A rice farmer using an irrigation pump provided by the EWEA project.



A woman farmer in Marawi with her seedlings produced from seeds provided by FAO.

Helping conflict-affected families in Marawi get back on their feet

Armed clashes between the ISIS-linked Maute Group and government troops from May to October 2017 took a heavy toll on thousands of families in Marawi City and its outlying municipalities in the Province of Lanao del Sur. Particularly affected were rural livelihoods and industries, more specifically the food supply and agribusiness value chain on which smallholders depend on for their daily subsistence.

FAOPH's emergency and recovery response to the Marawi crisis focused on the rehabilitation of the agriculture and fisheries sector, the

restoration of the food supply chain in crisis-affected communities, and helping farmers reclaim their lost livelihoods so that they can begin rebuilding their lives.

FAO's Marawi emergency and recovery response efforts, funded by various donors including New Zealand, Belgium, Australia (through Community and Family Services International, CFSI), and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund for Underfunded Emergencies (UN CERF-UFE), have benefitted about 15 000 conflict-affected and internally displaced families in Marawi and adjacent affected municipalities. FAOPH's interventions included distribution of seeds of agricultural commodities, farm inputs such as fertilizers, small livestock, fishing gear, and farming tools and equipment.

Improving livelihoods through agribusiness in Mindanao

Through landmark agreements formalizing their alliance, FAOPH and the newly formed BARMM embarked on a partnership saw the implementation of agricultural development projects in the Bangsamoro Region that aims to improve the livelihoods of thousands of smallholder farmers and fisherfolks and their families through agribusiness training and by enhancing agribusiness value chains of key commodities. The projects also assist in strengthening the capacity of BARMM sectoral Ministries in promoting food security, nutrition, and resilient livelihoods in the region.



Poultry producers in Mindanao.

The livelihoods development projects include: (1) the “Agricultural Training for the Establishment of Peace in Mindanao” – a project funded by the Government of Japan which aims to enhance the agricultural vocational skills of farmers and fisherfolk in the Bangsamoro areas and other post-conflict areas in Mindanao, which they can use for their own agriculture-based livelihoods for employment; (2) the “Support Agriculture and Agribusiness Enterprises in Mindanao for Sustainable Development – a project funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), which aims to sustain livelihood and increase income of farming and fishing households, primarily by enhancing

agribusiness value chains of key commodities; and (3) the “Support the new Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) in establishing BARMM in the Philippines” – a project funded by the Government of New Zealand which aims to establish close collaboration and coordination mechanisms with BTA and assist in capacitating the new relevant Ministries, particularly on promoting food security, nutrition, and resilient livelihoods in BARMM.

BARMM Chief Minister Ahod B. Ebrahim cited the partnership and the projects as being key in helping ensure a better life for the Bangsamoro people, which, he says, is the heart of the newly ratified Bangsamoro Organic Law.

In consultation with partners, FAOPH also mapped out a short- to medium-term strategic response plan to restore the entire food supply and agribusiness value chains that will transform Marawi and other affected municipalities into resilient communities that are better linked to regional markets.

Rebuilding from Typhoon Mangkhut

FAOPH provided emergency assistance to communities across various regions in the country affected by Typhoon Mangkhut (local name: Ompong) to restore food security and enhance food production and resilience. In Lanao del Norte (Region X) and Lanao del Sur (BARMM), FAOPH supported the restoration of the livelihoods of 1 970 farming households, or 9 850 people, by providing certified rice seeds, fertilizers, and training for LGU officials and beneficiaries on disaster resiliency and response such as resilient rice-based farming systems, DRRM, EWEA, and cash-based transfers.

In Regions I (Ilocos Region) and II (Cagayan Valley), FAO implemented a recovery project funded by New Zealand that involved the distribution of 355 tonnes of urea fertilizer to 3 550 farming households from seven municipalities in the two provinces. Additionally, FAO assisted LGUs in prioritizing areas where interventions were critically needed and to ensure that gaps in response related to the restoration of agricultural livelihoods were sufficiently addressed. The Country Office also trained local partners on the Damage Assessment Reporting System (DARS) and the KoBo ToolBox application.



Rebuilding from the destruction wrought by Typhoon Mangkhut.

With funding from the Government of Australia, FAOPH, in partnership with WFP, supported the recovery of farming families also affected by Typhoon Mangkhut in Cagayan Province in Region II. FAOPH provided 4 000 bags (200 tonnes) of urea fertilizers to 2 000 beneficiary households in four municipalities and 4 650 packets of assorted vegetable seeds to 2 325 beneficiary households in five municipalities. FAOPH also facilitated training of LGU staff on DARS and the KoBo Toolbox application.

Empowering small-scale ginger farmers

Funded by the Government of Japan and as part of a regional initiative on “Development of effective and inclusive food value chains in ASEAN Member States”, FAOPH’s ginger value chain project empowered local smallholder ginger farmers and improved their participation in the value chain. The initiative supported improvements in production techniques by upgrading a compost facility in one of the established demo farms, produced a “Ginger Farming Guide” for smallholder farmers and trainers to enable them to cost-effectively produce ginger for commercial purposes, and trained producers on plant nutrition management, improved marketing practices of fresh ginger, and development of new products.

Leveraging ICT to support decision-making in agriculture and fisheries

FAOPH completed a project, “Development of an Enhanced Production and Risk Management in Agriculture Integrated Decision Support System (EPRiMA)” in collaboration with the DA. The project empowered key actors to make more effective and timely decisions by providing them comprehensive and near real-time access to ICT-driven crop production and risk and damage assessment information and tools.

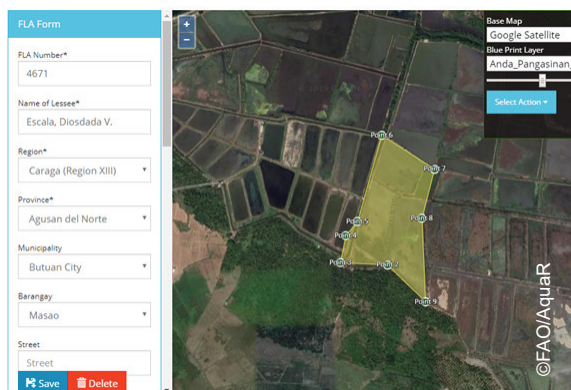


ICT-driven decision support tools could lead to better and more effective crop production and risk and damage assessment in agriculture.

These ICT-based tools included dynamic cropping calendar for rice and corn directly linked to seasonal and short-range forecasts at provincial and municipal scale, a national agricultural drought monitoring system, use of unmanned aerial surveillance system (drones), protocol for rapid production and damage assessment using satellite and drone imagery, and an online platform for EPRiMA Integrated Decision Support System. For the latter, FAOPH facilitated the establishment of an EPRiMA data server and workstation housed at the DA.

For the fisheries sector, through its project, “Support to Aquaculture Resources Mapping and Development Planning through ICT-based Solutions”, FAOPH, in partnership with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), developed and piloted an ICT-based aquaculture resources data inventory and mapping system called Aquaculture Resources System (AquaR) that helped enhanced BFAR’s aquafarm data collection system. AquaR produces digital visuals of the aquaculture resources in a region through interactives charts and figures. FAOPH also assisted BFAR in developing business plans for aquaculture zonal development of selected high potential areas as well as for the mangrove crab industry in Catanduanes.

FAOPH also helped BFAR develop and implement an investment assessment approach for FLAs and Mariculture Parks, and formulate implementation mechanisms and guidelines to ensure efficient and transparent management and inclusive access to Special Fisheries Science and Approfish Tech Fund (SPS-ATF) and Aquaculture Investment Fund (AIF), which are meant to stimulate private investments in the aquaculture sector.



Screenshot of one of the digital mapping functionalities of AquaR.

Recognizing the importance of AquaR, the BFAR Director issued a department-wide memorandum in November 2018 mandating all its regional and field offices to adopt the system to inventory aquaculture farms across the country and help institutionalize Good Aquaculture Practices.

Mainstreaming agriculture in national adaptation plans

FAOPH has completed a global project, “Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans (NAP-Ag)”, locally implemented with the DA and in coordination with UNDP. NAP-Ag strengthened the technical capacities of institutions on NAPs in implementing climate change and DRR-mainstreamed approaches, particularly providing support to the establishment of the Climate and Disaster Risk Information Services Center for Agriculture and Fisheries. The project also supported the development of various NAPs-related information systems such as the Enhanced Seasonal Climate Products for Agriculture and Fisheries and the National Climate Information System for Agriculture and Fisheries in the Philippines, as well as economic valuation tools for monitoring and evaluation of CCA and DRR for agriculture and fisheries at the policy and programme levels. The initiative contributed as well to the updating of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan (AFMP) with climate change actions (CCA) and DRRM components. The updated AFMP has been integrated into the PDP and the National Adaptation Planning Process (NAPP).

Anchoring on legislation to influence national food security and nutrition policies

FAOPH launched the FAO Legislative Advisory Group-Philippines (FLAG-PH) in 2018 as a pilot initiative under a larger effort to build a Parliamentary Alliance in the Asia-Pacific region, which is the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. Since then, the actions of FLAG-PH has led to the improvement of current bills on FSN, agriculture, and natural resources. These included the Zero Hunger Bill, Forest Resources Bill, and Executive Order (EO) 318 Formulating IRR for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), among others. This action also led to the enhancement of current laws such as the Seed Industry Development Act of 199 (Republic Act 7308) and the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 (PDRRM Act of 2010) or Republic Act 10121. The initiative also supported the establishment of local food security and nutrition committees.

Additionally, FLAG-PH facilitated technical discussions on food security and nutrition concepts to support the ongoing parliamentary discussions on relevant bills, including the Right to Adequate Food Framework Act – otherwise known as the Zero Hunger Bill – which was authored by then Representative and now Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles. FLAG-PH also facilitated the development of a framework for rural development by supporting the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department (CPBRD), as well as other bills on food security and nutrition that need to be prioritized.



FLAG-PH kick-off event graced by Senator Cynthia Villar (middle, in green), Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food and the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

Since its establishment in the Philippines in 1947, FAOPH has been collaborating with the government and its attached agencies, NGOs, CSOs, academe and research universities, private sector and parliamentarians to effectively contribute to efforts in improving food and nutrition security, enhancing agricultural production and productivity, sustainable management of natural resources and improving agricultural adaptation from climate change and disaster risks. Such partnerships have made it possible for FAO to mobilize its best available knowledge and capacities to provide the most effective support to the government to achieve its development priorities and respond to humanitarian needs.

Government

The Government of the Philippines is FAO's main development partner in the country. During the year, the FAOR and, towards the latter part of 2019, the OIC of the Country Office, continued to maintain regular contacts with relevant counterpart Department and Cabinet Secretaries (minister-level), senior officials, and Parliamentarians (Senate and Congress). As and when needed, meetings – whether policy or technical in nature – are held between FAO and government officials depending on the nature of the agenda. FAO also holds regular courtesy calls to partner government agencies to maintain working relationships. One of the main challenges in terms of engagement with the government is the delays in responses from partner entities. This stems largely in the difference between FAO's and

the government's processes, priorities, and timelines. Such delays are usually evident in cases when FAO requests government clearances or approval of its projects and related activities.

We continue to maintain and expand our partnership with parliamentarians through the FLAG-PH initiative, details of which are described in the preceding section on "Delivering on our mandates". The expansion of the initiative to cover the BARMM parliament and youth legislators is being explored.

FAOPH strengthened its collaboration with the Philippine Government on the South-South Cooperation (SSC) through an MoU that sought to support the efforts to bridge the knowledge gap in the food and agriculture sectors. The agreement aims to enhance partnership on technical assistance and capacity building as well as

Stock photo



FAOPH staff meeting with BARMM Chief Minister Al Haj Ahod Balawag Ebrahim

sharing of relevant expertise and knowledge in agriculture, agribusiness and food security by the Philippines to other SSC-participating countries, with FAOPH helping to facilitate such initiatives.

Development partners

The Country Office has been actively participating in fora organized by various partner CSOs whose mandates are aligned with FAO's. For example, in November, FAOPH co-convoked the 5th National Dialogue Platform on Forecast-based Financing (FbF) with WFP, the Red Cross/Red Crescent, NDRRMC, LGUs, and other stakeholders to discuss ways and means to optimize the application of FbF for improving local communities' disaster resilience and response.

FAOPH's partnership with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), formalized through an MoU, is being pursued. This year, PDRF facilitated the involvement of some of their private sector members in the market linkage intervention of the FAO project that supported communities affected by the Marawi conflict.

In addition to bilateral meetings, courtesy calls, and briefings, FAOPH also organized a number of field visits for development partners/donors to keep them apprised of the projects that they funded. These field visits also allowed them to interact with beneficiaries and, in some cases, the local media.

UN System linkages

FAOPH continues to serve as the People Pillar alternate UN co-convener of the PFSD 2019-2023, as well as an active member of the Planet and Prosperity Pillar (with ILO as co-convener and UNDP as alternate). The Country Office also served as member of the following PFSD working groups: Joint Results Groups, Results Coordination Group, Monitoring and Evaluation Group, Operations and Management Team, and Communications Group.

FAOPH is an active member of the UN Country Team (UNCT), Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Security Management Team (SMT). FAOPH co-leads the food security and agriculture cluster of the HCT, which provides regular updates and collaborates with other relevant agencies on disaster response, recovery and rehabilitation. In 2019, FAOPH was part of a multi-UN agency team that conducted rapid impact and needs analysis of communities affected by Typhoon Kammuri in the Bicol Region, which is one of the worst hit by the typhoon.

FAOPH is also involved in other UN Technical Working Groups such as those on indigenous peoples, gender and youth, and family farming. FAOPH is also actively engaged in the Operations Management Team, the UN Country Communications Group, and the UN Humanitarian Communications Group.



Belgian Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Michel Goffin during a visit to one of the EWEA project sites.



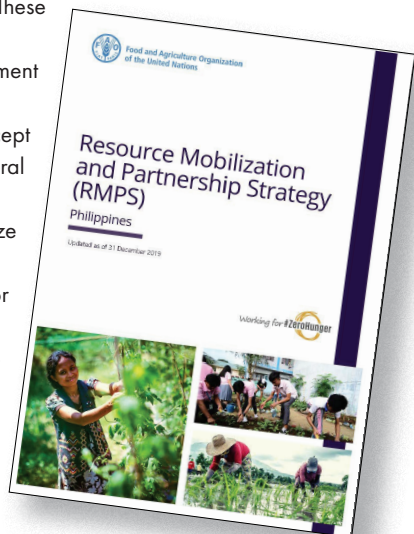
STRENGTHENING OUR OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

Resource mobilization

FAOPH'S active donor partners during the year included New Zealand, Belgium, Germany, KOICA, Japan, Australia (channeled through the Community and Family Services International, an NGO, and WFP), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA). Resources were also provided via internal FAO funding mechanisms such as through Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects. FAOPH is also pursuing additional opportunities from GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) while exploring alternative modalities for collaborating with financing institutions such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank (WB), IFAD, and the private sector.

FAOPH's resource mobilization efforts are guided by its Resource Mobilization and Partnership Strategy (RMPS). The RMPS is updated quarterly and is considered a "living" document and provides for flexibility should there be any significant developments in the country, especially in the agriculture sector. All units of the Country Office contribute at different levels of support to the resource mobilization efforts under the overall leadership of the FAO Representative. These efforts involve:

- Networking and engaging with potential development partners;
- Coordinating the formulation of technically sound concept notes and proposals in response to donor calls and bilateral discussions;
- Acting as a liaison between donors and FAO and organize fundraising events, conferences, workshops, etc;
- Conduct of regular Development Partners' Forums (DPF) or briefings at least twice a year;
- Participating in donor/government consultations to promote the food security and agriculture agenda and advocate for adequate budgetary allocation (applicable to both emergency and non-emergency situations)



- Establishing and formalizing strategic partnerships and MoUs with strategic partners (government, private sector, UN, NGOs, CSOs, R&D, and academia);
- Production and dissemination of visibility, promotional and fundraising materials and publications;
- Participate in the periodic reviews, reporting, phasing over and closure of FAO projects;
- Developing, updating and implementing resource mobilization plans; and
- Formulating and disseminating resource mobilization reports for management feedback.

FAOPH also leverages on its communications and visibility initiatives (see related section on “Increasing visibility”) to stimulate current and new donor and partner engagements. The DPF serves as FAOPH’s centerpiece engagement activity to promote resource mobilization, visibility, advocacy, and deeper partner engagement. At the DPF held in September, FAOPH highlighted its key milestones and accomplishments from December 2018 related to its mandates as outlined in the country outcomes contained in the CPF 2018 – 2024. High-level representatives from embassies, international development organizations, the national government and its line agencies, NGOs, and the private sector attended the DPF.



Attendees to this year’s Development Partners’ Forum listening to a presentation by FAO Assistant Representative (Programme) Tamara Palis-Duran.

Infrastructure development

The Country Office facilitated the construction of two new sub-offices in Cotabato City and Zamboanga City, which were officially inaugurated in September and December, respectively. The new sub-offices will primarily support FAOPH’s programmes and project activities in Mindanao especially in light of the Country Office’s recent partnership agreement with the newly formed BARMM.



Acting BARMM Chief Minister Macacua (*middle*) and FAOR Jose Luis Fernandez (*right*) inaugurating the FAOPH sub-office in Cotabato City.

FAO, Philippine partners conclude pilot initiative on developing national Food Safety Indicators

INCREASING VISIBILITY

FAOPH's advocacy and communication strategy at the country level focuses on promoting evidence-based decision making in agriculture and food security at the national level, increasing the impact on national agriculture and food security policies, and increasing the participation and engagement of stakeholders. To this end, we continuously work with donors and partners to enhance the visibility of project deliveries.

Media engagement

FAOPH strengthened its engagement with the media to increase the public visibility of its work and of the support provided by its donors.

News and feature articles were distributed and published in over 20 national print dailies and online media houses such as the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Philippine Star, the Manila Bulletin, Business World, Business Mirror, GMA Network News, ABS-CBN Online, Philippine News Agency, and Philippine Information Agency, among others.



(Above) FAOPH staff fielding questions from the media after the partnership agreement signing ceremony between FAOPH and BARMM. (Right) News article of the same event published by the Philippine News Agency.

With support from FAORAP in Bangkok and the Office of Corporate Communications (OCC) at FAO HQ in Rome, at least eight op-eds by the Director-General and Assistant Director-General/RAP have also been published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, and Business Mirror.

Publications and IEC materials

FAOPH produced several publications during the year with topics ranging from practical manuals to strategic policy and programmatic reviews.

At the same time, the Country Office developed a number of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials aimed at raising the profile of the Country Office's projects and activities. These included: (1) project and thematic briefs that are updated monthly and which are used in information packs/briefing kits given to donors, government, and other partners and the media, as needed; (2) project-specific IEC materials and technical publications in English and Filipino such as manuals and guides. Similar materials were also developed by government and CSO partners with guidance from FAOPH; and (3) regular contribution to other FAO thematic and institution-wide publications.

Events and exhibitions

FAOPH's Communications Unit facilitated the organization, coordination, and participation of FAO in several exhibitions, events, and high-level receptions during the year.

Among the notable ones include: closing of the EPRIMA and Nap-Ag projects, World Food Day (in partnership with the DA), World Soil Day (in partnership with DA-BSWM), UN Decade of Family Farming (in partnership



(Top) Presenting the student-winners of the FAO-DA "On the spot poster-making contest" at the culminating event of the World Food Day 2019 celebrations held in Quezon City. (Bottom) A product exhibition of the FAOPH-implemented Agrobiodiversity project.

with IFAD and KLMPE), inauguration of FAOPH's sub-offices in Cotabato City and Zamboanga City, PhilHarvest Expo (with the Department of Tourism, DoT), visit of the Belgian Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Michel Goffin to EWEA project sites, launch of livelihood skills training projects in BARMM funded by Japan and KOICA, respectively, and the handover of emergency livelihood assistance to families affected by Typhoon Mangkhut.

Multimedia and digital/social media

FAOPH's Communications Unit facilitated high-quality photo documentation and the production of audiovisual material that were widely circulated to donors, used in publications and high-level events, and used in its social media channels. The materials have also been periodically used by OCC and RAP in reports, publications, and digital platforms. FAOPH also produced this year an updated FAO Philippines briefing video in 5- and 1-minute formats.

The country website (www.fao.org/philippines), FAOPH's main digital portal, is regularly updated with fresh content. FAOPH also maintains a Twitter account (@FAOPhilippines), through which it supported OCC, FAORAP, other UN agencies, and partner organizations in promoting campaigns, events, and global observances. "Followers" of FAOPH's Twitter account increased from about 1 400 in January 2018 to almost 2 000 by December 2019. FAOPH is also working on its new country Facebook page.

The Country Office also continued to contribute content to FAO's global web platforms such as In Action, FAO in Emergencies, and Nap-Ag, among others. In September, FAOPH technical staff participated in an audio podcast with OCC on the topic of climate change and disaster risk reduction.



Screenshots of FAOPH's country website (above) and Twitter page (left).

Working for  **ZeroHunger**

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