

# The Right to Food

Proceedings of the Meeting between  
UN Special Rapporteur on  
the Right to Food Hilal Elver and  
Philippine Civil Society Organizations  
February 2015

Published by

Focus on the Global South - Philippines  
Akbayan

Alyansa Tigil Mina

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) - Asia

Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) - Philippines

Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK)

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**Focus on the Global South - Philippines**

with offices at 19 Maginhawa Street, UP Village

Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1011

+63 2 433-1676

**Co-Publishers**

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FCA Printhouse

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# Introduction

The right to food is a right that proceeds from the all embracing right to life. A human being's right to life cannot be fully realized, and may in fact be threatened, if the right to food is not being met or fulfilled. In international law, the right to life permits no derogation even in times of public emergency when there is a bigger threat to the nation or country at large.<sup>1</sup> Also, it includes not only a negative obligation prohibiting the arbitrary loss of life,<sup>2</sup> but an affirmative duty on the part of the States to adopt measures that increase life expectancy and eliminate malnutrition.<sup>3</sup>

Thus, a basic requirement to meeting the right to life, of sustaining life, is the right to food. But right now, there appears to be a dichotomy between these two linked and inalienable rights, if we are to look at the current experiences of countries and their peoples and at the international framework created by the United Nations. The right to life is defined and substantiated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the right to adequate food is contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).<sup>4</sup> The distinction creates serious ramifications considering that the ICCPR makes the rights thereunder immediately demandable and obligatory,<sup>5</sup> while the rights of persons under the ICESCR are subject to progressive realization.<sup>6</sup> In the latter case, the resources of the State

become a factor to be considered, in particular with respect to its ability to comply with human rights obligations.

The same human rights paradox permeates Philippine public policy. Section 1, Article III of the Constitution pertinently reads, "No person shall be deprived of life... without due process of law..." How expansive the right to life is under domestic law cannot be easily determined. For instance, when the constitutionality of the Reproductive Health Law was assailed, the Philippine Supreme Court interpreted the right to life to be inclusive of the right to health.<sup>7</sup> Whether or not the right to health also included the right to food is another matter altogether and was not deemed relevant to the legislative enactment being challenged.<sup>8</sup> In another case involving victims of enforced disappearance, the Philippine Supreme Court decided that the right to life as likewise embracing the right to security of person such that one was from then on entitled to an "assurance that the government he established and consented to will protect the security of his person and property."<sup>9</sup>

The experiences of various members of social groups in Philippine society present another compelling lens through which the right to life and right to food should be studied, assessed, and therefore enhanced. In February 2015,

the UN's Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Dr. Hilal Elver, visited the Philippines. Ms Elver met with government agencies and institutions as well as civil society organizations and social movement groups representing the more marginalized sectors of the country. This report documents the meeting between her and these organizations during which the latter presented and discussed the challenges to the fulfillment of the right to food. Farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples, marginalized women and children, urban poor representatives, climate change and justice advocates, among others, shared cases of land grabbing, loss of sources of livelihood, lack of access to resources that sustain living, further marginalization owing to government's economic policies, corporations' harmful industries that destroy the environment and natural resources. An underpinning narrative was how the State had been failing in many aspects in its responsibility to enforce laws and programs aiming to realize the right to food.

This report also provides the human rights-based approach to the state of hunger in the Philippines and how such situation impacts the obligation of the Philippine government to respect, protect, and promote the right to life of its own people. More particularly, it presents the views and real life experiences of select groups on alleged violations of their right to

adequate food supposedly perpetrated by the government and/or private entities. In the end, the report lays down recommendations and proposes immediate steps as well as structural reforms to address these challenges to and violations of the right to food, and therefore the right to life.

From the human rights perspective, the justiciability, that is, the possibility of enforcement in the event of a breach, of the right to adequate food is beyond dispute. While international instruments subject the right to progressive realization, it must be interpreted as inseparable from the right to life for which reason its enforcement demands immediate compliance from the government. If at all, defining the breadth of right to adequate food is a mere superfluity, but by itself, the right to adequate food is an enforceable and demandable obligation from the moment life begins to exist.

The proposition is not hard to actualize. After all, a State that allows its people to die of hunger arbitrarily deprives them of their right to live. The deprivation is arbitrary because it is not by their own doing that they are unable to eat, but by the inaction, if not incompetence, of their own government. To clarify, the prevalence of hunger is deplorable not so much because of the people being deprived of food, but that their human dignity is denied.

# CHAPTER ONE

## Hunger Situation in the Philippines

### A. International Hunger Ratings of the Philippines

In 2014, the Philippines ranked 29th in the world in terms of hunger incidence and was outperformed by its Southeast Asian neighbors Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Indonesia.<sup>10</sup> The rankings are based on the International Food Policy Research Institute's the Global Hunger Index (GHI), which has been designed to measure and track hunger globally, regionally, and at the country

level; and based on three indicators, namely undernourishment, child underweight, and child mortality.<sup>11</sup>

The GHI uses a scale of 0 (no hunger) to 100 (hunger). The ideal score is less than five, which indicates low hunger. In the case of the Philippines, it posted a GHI of 13.1, which was categorized as "serious". Notably, the GHI score of the country used to be higher two decades ago and was considered "alarming" (20.1) and in year 2000 as "serious" (17.9).



A child feeds on bowl of porridge for lunch in Hacienda Luisita

Meanwhile, according to the 2013 World Food Insecurity Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),<sup>12</sup> 15.6 million Filipinos were undernourished from 2011 to 2013, making the Philippines the 2nd biggest undernourished population among developing Southeast Asian countries, next to Indonesia. Worse, this figure barely improved in two decades since 1990, when 15.5 million Filipinos had been recorded as undernourished.

## **B. Demographic Profile of Filipinos Suffering from Hunger**

Based on the self-rated hunger survey of the Social Weather Station,<sup>13</sup> the number of Filipino families who considered themselves hungry rose from 8.3 percent to 18.3 percent within the past 15 years. In the last quarter of 2014, an estimated 3.8 million households were suffering from hunger. Of the total number of Filipinos within these households, around 13 percent (13.2) experienced moderate hunger and four percent (4.1), severe hunger. While in 2014, 1.2 percent was shaved off on the 2013 average of 19.5 percent, such single-digit decrease has not necessarily translated to significant qualitative improvements.

Filipinos experiencing hunger have been mainly women and children. In terms of the number of underweight children, there had been minimal decrease in almost a decade—from 20.7 percent of total population of children in 2003 to 20.2 percent in 2011. An alarming 33.6

percent of children under five years old suffered from stunted growth in 2011.

Pregnant women in the Philippines are also among those suffering most from hunger. According to the government agency Food Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), in 2011, 25 percent of pregnant women with children less than five years old received poor nutrition, while close to 12 percent of lactating mothers were underweight. Significantly, the poor nutrition of mothers, before and during pregnancy, has had an impact on the development of the newborn and children.

The regions that are the most affected by hunger and food insecurity in the country are rural, such as conflict-affected areas in Central Mindanao and disaster-affected communities, mostly in the Visayas. These are also areas where poverty incidence is higher than the national average.

In 2013, after typhoon Yolanda devastated the archipelago, largely the Visayas regions, a 58 percent self-rated food poverty was noted<sup>14</sup>. This was corroborated by the findings of the UN World Food Programme in February 2014 showing that 27 percent of the population in Yolanda-affected areas has remained food insecure.<sup>15</sup> According to the FAO, food security depends not only on the availability and access to sufficient food, but also on political stability and the absence of violence or terrorism, which may explain why conflict-areas (such as in Mindanao) are “more vulnerable” to hunger.

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The Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has the highest prevalence of underweight children.<sup>16</sup>

### C. Factors Affecting Hunger in the Philippines

Hunger in the Philippines is caused by various factors. Increasing food prices make food items unaffordable and prohibit poor households to meet their daily food and dietary needs.

Unemployment and underemployment which affect income comprise another factor. People working in the agriculture sector tend to be more prone to hunger, whether as farmers or farm workers, because of low rural incomes, lack of access to productive resources such as land and capital, and the vulnerability of the agriculture sector to climate change, extreme weather events, pests, and

diseases. Natural disasters and conflicts also affect food security in the countryside, as these have direct impact on food production and food supply to the local markets. These factors have increased the vulnerability of poor people by limiting their access to sources of livelihoods and income, and consequently, constraining their ability to access food.

While the Philippines did experience an economic growth of 7.2 percent in 2013, only 40 of the richest Filipinos accounted for 70 percent of the country's gross domestic product,<sup>17</sup> indicating the socio-economic inequality pervasive in Philippine society.

Lastly, the growing population, coupled with the steady decline of agricultural productivity and food production in the last three years, have further contributed to persistent hunger and food insecurity in the country.



## CHAPTER TWO

# The Right to Adequate Food and Threats to It

The core normative content of the right to adequate food implies two things.<sup>18</sup> One, that food is available in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture. Two, that food is accessible in ways

that are sustainable and do not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights.

In the Philippines, however, the enjoyment of this basic human right is not fully realized because of the existence of a number of threats.



Save Agrarian Reform Alliance stages a protest in Mendiola

## A. Failure in the Implementation of Laws

Failure in the implementation of laws related to the right to adequate food poses serious threat to the full realization of this right, especially of the country's food producers. This issue predominantly affects two groups: the indigenous peoples and landless farmers.

### 1. The Case of Indigenous Peoples

Republic Act No. 8371, also known as The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 (IPRA), is anathema to the Regalian doctrine underpinning the Philippine Constitution.<sup>19</sup> According to this doctrine, the State owns all public lands as well as minerals and other natural resources found therein. Nonetheless, this legislative enactment withstood the constitutional challenge previously raised against it.<sup>20</sup> The law should be considered groundbreaking as it grants the indigenous peoples the rights of possession and ownership over their ancestral domains. If only properly implemented, the indigenous peoples in the Philippines would have enjoyed control over the use of their lands, including using them for food production, to realize their right to adequate food, and essentially, the right to live.

Unfortunately, IPRA has been rendered meaningless because of the persistent

entry of corporations, particularly mining companies, into ancestral domains. Under the law, activities of this nature require the "free and prior informed consent" (FPIC) of the affected indigenous groups before the government could issue a certification allowing the proposed undertaking. In reality, however, no less than provincial governments condone the illegal practices of unscrupulous mining companies. To skirt the FPIC requirement, some corporations would cause the creation of bogus indigenous people's groups. Another tactic being employed by companies had been the provision of basic social services, including infrastructure, to win over the IPs. This way, the community would become "indebted" or "beholden" to the so-called benefactors, so that by the time they would need the FPIC, it could be obtained more easily. There have been complaints about the ease by which corporations get their certification from the government to enter and exploit ancestral lands, as opposed to the long and tedious processing when indigenous peoples want to obtain title for their ancestral domains/lands.

Worse, by the time the corporations leave, whether by force or voluntarily, the ancestral lands have become too barren to support plant growth and the rivers have either dried up or become polluted. The indigenous peoples become vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition, if not starvation.

## Ang mga Banta sa Pagkakaroon ng Katiyakan sa Pagkain ng mga Katutubo

Magandang araw po sa ating lahat. Ako po si Teresa dela Cruz, mula sa sitio Maporac, Cabanggan, Zambales, isang ina ng dalawang anak. Kasalukuyang kalihim ng Kainumayan Aeta ay Luta Inapopo Maporac (KALIMA) at isa sa mga nagtayo ng Kababaihan Samahan ng Maporac (KASAMA). Ako rin po ay bahagi ng LILAK, isang kolektibo ng mga kababaihang nagtutulak ng mga karapatan ng mga katutubong kababaihan.

Ako po ay masaya at nagpapasalamat sa pagkakataong ito na maibahagi ang aming kasalukuyang kalagayan sa loob ng aming lupaing ninuno, sa inyo po, Dr. Hilal Elver, bilang UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food.

Alam nyo po, ang ugat ng aming patindi nang patinding tunggalian sa aming rekurso at likas yaman ay ang magkakabanggaang pananaw ng pamahalaan. Una po, ang *pagmamay-ari*. Ang pananaw ng pamahalaan ay ang lahat ng likas yaman—lahat ng lupa sa *public domain*, ang katubigan, minerals, coal, petrolyo, lahat ng potensyal na pagkukunan ng enerhiya,

pangisdaan, kagubatan, *wildlife*, mga iba't ibang halamanan, at iba pang likas-yaman—ay pagmamay-ari ng pamahalaan. (Art. XII, sec. II, 1997 *Philippine Constitution*). Samantala, ang pananaw naming mga katutubo ay ang likas yaman ay aming pang minana mula pa sa aming mga kanununuan.

At dahil ang turing ng pamahalaan ay sila ang nag mamay-ari, sila ang may kontrol. Ang pamamahala ay sentralisado. Samantala, kaming mga katutubo, ay may sariling paraan ng pamamahala, base sa *customary law* ng bawat tribo.

Ikalawa, ang pagpapahalaga sa likas-yaman. Sa pamahalaan, tinitingnan nila ang bawat isang rekurso na magkakahiwalay at bawat isa ay may katumbas na halaga sa piso. Nariyan ang pagturing sa puno, hiwalay sa lupa; nariyan ang pagturing sa minerales, na hiwalay sa lupa; sa kabundukan, sa katubigan. Ngayon nga po, ultimo pati hangin, at carbon dioxide ay binebenta na rin.

Samantalang kami, ang pagpapahalaga naming katutubo

ay sa kabuuan ng likas yaman; na ang bawat isa ay magkakaugnay. Para sa amin, ito ay bumubuo ng aming kultura; at higit sa lahat, ay pinagkukunan ng aming buhay.

Ikatlo, ang gamit sa likas-yaman. Sa pamahalaan, ang likas-yaman ay negosyo. Para sa amin, ito ang pinagkukunan ng aming pagkain para sa pang araw-araw. Ang tawag nga namin dito ay parang refrigerator—pinagkukunan ng pagkain at iba pang mga pangangailangan tulad ng gamot, pangkabuhatan, at inilalaan para sa mga susunod pang henerasyon.

Ikaapat, ang turing sa mga tao. Sa pamahalaan, ang mga tao at

komunidad ay tinuturing na kapital. Samantala, sa katutubo, ang tao at komunidad ay partner o katuwang sa pangangalaga ng likas na yaman.

Ikalima, ang mga pwersa na nagtutulak sa paglinang o pagdebelop ng mga likas-yaman. Para sa pamahalaan, ang kagustuhang kumita nang mas malaki, ang kagahaman ng mga nasa kapangyarihan, at ang pagtutulak ng mga korporasyon ang malaking pwersa sa pagdebelop ng mga likas-yaman. Samantala, sa aming mga katutubo, ang *survival* o ang pangangailangang mabuhay ang syang pangunahing dahilan ng paglinang ng likas-yaman. Ang ganitong tunggalian ay ramdam na



Ati women march for ancestral claim in Boracay

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ramdam sa aming lugar sa loob ng aming lupaing ninuno ng mga Aeta sa Maporac, Zambales.

Sa amin, ang likas yaman ay ang pangunahing pinagkukunan ng aming pagkain. Ang mga Aeta po ay nagtatanim, nagkakaingin, nangingisda at nangangaso. Ang lahat na ito ay ginagawa ayon sa kinaugaliang pamamaraan, sa tamang lugar at sa tamang panahon. Kami po ay kilala sa aming upland rice; nagtatanim rin po kami para sa aming pang araw-araw—saging, mais at iba-ibang gulay. Mayaman din kami sa mangga, kasoy, langka at abokado. Ang mga ito ay tumutugon sa aming pang araw-araw na pagkain, at pangkabuhayan din para naman sa pagtustus sa pagpapa-aral, at iba pang pangangailangan. Kami rin ay nanghuhuli ng mga hipon, dalag, igat, iba pang isda, at palaka para sa amin ding pagkain. At kung may labis, naibebenta pa namin.

Tunay na sagana kami. Pero noon iyon. Ngayon, nararanasan na namin ang kakulangan sa pagkain. Marami sa aming pamilya ay gutom. Hindi naman maasahan ang aming ilog, ang aming palayan, para matugunan ang pang araw-araw naming pangangailangan. Malaking pagbabago ang naganap nitong huling dekada.

Dumating ang mining sa aming lugar. Pinangunahan ito ng Namco & Son,

na nagmimina ng nickel sa loob ng aming lupaing ninuno. Isa lamang ito sa maraming pinayagang pumasok ng provincial government para maghukay at magmina sa amin. Nilabanan at pinigilan naming mga katutubo ang kanilang pagmimina. Nung 2012, wala nang mining sa amin. Pero ramdam naming ang epekto ng ilang taong pag-abuso sa aming likas-yaman—tuyo na ang aming mga ilog; bitak-bitak na ang aming kabundukan. Ang kawalan ng tubig na dumadaloy mula sa ilog at bundok ay nagresulta sa pagkatuyo ng aming lupang pinagtatamnan. Hirap na kami makapag-ani. Wala nang isda, hipon at kahit mga suso nang matuyo na ang mga ilog namin. Kung dati ay iilang basket ang napupuno ng hipon, ngayon ay kailangan pang maglakad ng isang araw para maabot ang ilog na may laman pa.

Ang pagmimina ay sinabayan pa ng logging sa aming kagubatan. Ang sabi ng mga loggers ay may permit sila galing sa DENR o Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Matindi ang epekto nito sa aming pagkain, at sa aming buhay. Sa dumadalas na pagdating ng malalakas na ulan at bagyo, dumadalas na rin ang mga landslides at baha. Laking kapahamakan ang dulot sa aming komunidad.

Kaharap rin namin ang mga makapangyarihang nang-aagaw ng lupa. Pumapasok sila, na may mga

pinapakitang papeles na mula sa lokal na pamahalaan, kasama pa ang mga pulis. Pinatataniman nila ang mga lupang sakop ng aming lupaing ninuno. Sa ngayon, mahirap makapasok sa ilang bahagi ng aming taniman, dahil sila ay nakapagtanim na rin ng kape at mangga. Sa ibang bahagi naman, ang mga ani ng aming ibang miyembro ng komunidad ay naaagaw ng ibang di katutubo, na nagsasabing sa kanila ang lupa na pinagtamnan.

Ang lumalalang sitwasyon ng agawan ng lupa at pang-aagaw nito sa amin ay ang paglala rin ng kagutuman at kahirapan sa aming komunidad. Ang kawalan ng regular na pagkukunan ng pagkain ay malaking bigatin para sa amin, lalo pa sa amin na mga nanay. Kami ay napipilitang maghanap ng ibang paraan para matustusan ang pagkain ng pamilya, at iba pang pangangailangan. Marami sa amin, na dati'y nagtanim, ay ngayon ay namamasukan bilang kasambahay. Nalalayo kami sa aming pamilya, at napupunta sa ibang mga syudad. Nahihinto ang ilang mga bata sa pag-aaral dahil wala nang pantustus, o ang ibang bata ay tumatayo bilang nanay sa kanilang pamilya. May mga pagkakataon din na ito ay nagiging sanhi ng pagkawatak-watak ng pamilya.

Sa lahat nang ito, lalo kaming napahihirapan dahil magpahanggag ngayon ay di binibigay ang aming

Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT). Ilang taon nang natapos ang lahat ng rekisito mula sa amin. Pero sa mahiwagang dahilan, nakabinbin pa rin sa National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). Kung gaano kadaling makakuha ng iba't ibang permit ang mga minero at loggers, gayon din ang mga di katutubong mayayamang tao, ganon naman kahirap at katagal mag-isyu ng pagkakakilanlan ng aming lupaing ninuno.

Nagagamit rin ng husto ng mga ibang may interes ang mga polisiya na sana ay magtataguyod na aming karapatan sa aming lupain. Tulad na lang ng FPIC o free prior informed consent. Dapat sana ay kami, bilang lehitimong mga lider ng komunidad ng mga Aeta, ang kinukunsulta sa pagpasok ng kahit sino, at kahit anong proyekto sa aming lupain. Pero, dahil alam na kami ay hindi papayag sa mapanirang gawain tulad ng mining at logging, nagtayo ng ibang Indigenous Peoples Organization, at kinilala ng NCIP at lokal na pamahalaan. Sa bagong IPO na ito nila kinukuha ang di tunay na FPIC. Maski ang representasyon ng mga katutubo sa lokal na pamahalaan, ang mandatory representative, ay hindi dinaan sa tamang proseso, at ang Mayor ang syang nagbasbas ng mandatory representative naming mga katutubo. Sinisuguro nila na madaling makapasok ang mga kompanya na

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gustong pagkakitaan ang aming lupain at likas yaman.

Sa patuloy naming pagtutulak ng aming karapatan, at pagsisiwalat ng mga mapanlinlang na gawain ng mga kompanya, ng NCIP at lokal na pamahalaan, sunod-sunod ang natatanggap naming pagbabanta sa aming seguridad at buhay. Nariyan ang pagpapadala ng text na mga pananakot at pagbabanta; nariyan ang pag-aaligid sa aming mga bahay ng mga di kilalang armadong tao.

Ang lahat nang ito ay hindi lamang kwento naming mga Aeta na taga-Maporac. Ito ay kwento rin ng mga dumagat sa Quezon, mga Mangyan ng Mindoro, Ifugao ng Nueva Vizcaya, Ibaloi ng Benguet, Iraynon ng Antique, Subanen sa Zamboanga, Blaan sa South Cotabato, Higaonon sa Misamis Oriental, at iba pang mga katutubong komunidad na pinasok ng mga higanteng korporasyon, at

hinayaan ng pamahalaan na abusuhin at pagkakitaan ang aming likas-yaman.

Bagamat kami ay gutom, patuloy kaming nakikibaka at nagsusulong ng aming mga karapatan—sa pagkain, sa aming lupaing ninuno; karapatan rin na bilang katutubo ay aktibong makalahok at magkaroon ng partisipasyon sa pag-uusap at pagdedesisyon kung pano linangin at paunlarin ang aming likas-yaman. Amin ring buong puso na isinusulong ang aming karapatan na mamuhay na may dignidad, bilang kababaihan at katutubo.

Nawa’y matulungan mo kami,  
Dr. Hilal Elver, bilang UN Special  
Rapporteur, sa aming pakikibaka.

*\* This statement was delivered by Teresa dela Cruz, an indigenous woman leader who heads the Buklod ng Nagkakaisahang Tribu ng Kababaihan/LILAK on February 20, 2015 at Quezon City.*



Picket outside DAR on CARP Anniversary, June 10, 2015

## 2. The Case of Landless Farmers

Another innovative piece of legislation is Republic Act No. 9700 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER), which originated from Republic Act No. 6657, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988. Both laws seek the redistribution of lands exceeding five hectares to the landless farmers and farm workers who have been tilling them.

Again, while the legislative objective is laudable, the implementation of the law has encountered roadblocks. Its two main components, namely land redistribution (with titling as final stage) and provision of capital and other support, remain to be completed after 25 years. Huge tracts of lands which should have qualified for distribution under the agrarian reform law are still owned by the political and economic elite. Farmers

and farmworkers who merely want to own the land they have tilled for decades are being harassed with criminal charges and subsequently arrested without any warrant. The harvest, including trees, which should have been enjoyed by the tillers themselves are destroyed. The notices of coverage, which under the law puts the land for redistribution, are being ignored by the landowner. At times, even the military and the police are at the disposal of the landowner to harass farmers' groups.

Like the indigenous peoples who continue to be deprived of their ancestral domains despite IPRA, the farmers and farm workers are losing means and sources of subsistence. These serious threats and dangers that they have to face to get their lands further bolster the argument that the right to adequate food cannot be treated separate and distinct from the right to life.

## Estado ng Lupa at Kagutuman sa Pilipinas

Magandang hapon po. At maraming salamat sa oportunidad. May ilang mahahalagang isyu po kaming ibabahagi sa kalagayan ng mga magsasaka at mahihirap sa kanayunan ukol sa usapin ng pagkain at lupa sa Pilipinas

- 1. Karamihan ng mga taong mahihirap at nagugutom ay nasa kanayunan.** Sa bawat 10 magsasaka, 4 ang mahihirap, at mayorya ay mga kababaihan. Mas matindi po ang kahirapan sa hanay ng mga walang lupang manggagawang-bukid, nagasaka ng maliit na sukat ng lupa, at mga lugar na kung saan matindi ang konsentrasyon ng lupa sa kamay ng iilang pamilya. Pinakamataas din po ang naitalang bilang ng mahihirap sa mga magsasaka sa maisan, palay, tubo at niyugan.
- 2. Ang kahirapan at kagutuman sa kanayunan ay bunga ng kawalan ng isang epektibong repormang agraryo at pamamahagi ng lupa.** Ang lupa ay buhay para sa mga magsasaka. Mismong ang 1996 World Food Summit sa Roma ang kumilala sa kahalagan ng access

at kontrol sa lupa at seguridad ng pag-aari ng lupa sa paglutas sa kahirapan at kagutuman sa mundo, gayundin sa Pilipinas.

- 3. Sa kasamaang palad, matagal nang nasa kiritikal na kondisyon ang 26 na taong programa sa repormang agraryo.** Naghihingalo na ang Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms. Bagamat batay sa datos ng gobyerno ay nakapamahagi na ito nang kulang-kulang 4.6 milyong ektarya ng lupa sa 2.7 milyong magsasaka at mga walang lupang mangagagawang bukid, karamihan sa mga lupang ito ay lupa ng estado. **Ang kalakhan ng natitirang lupang dapat ipamahagi sa kulang-kulang na 1 milyong magsasaka, manggagawang bukid at kababaihan na may bilang na mahigit 750,00 ektarya ay malalaking pribadong lupang agrikultural (24 na ektarya pataas) na pag-aari ng mga panginoong malupa at korporasyon na matagumpay na nakaiwas sa programa sa nakaraang 26 taon.** Ang

malalaking lupaing ito ay nasa niyugan, 28 porsyento, tubuhan, 24 porsyento at palay, 21 porsyento. At di na lingid sa amin na matindi ang pagtutol ng mga panginoong maylupa sa pamamahagi ng lupa sa mga lugar na ito. Karamihan sa natitirang lupa ay nasa isla ng Negros, ang puso ng landlordismo sa bansa at sa Mindanao kung saan matatagpuan ang malalaking plantasyon. Napakabagal po ng pagpapatupad ng repormang agraryo at si Pangulong Aquino ang may pinakamasamang performance sa pagpapatupad sa CARP/ER.

- 4. Magkaugnay ang kahirapan, kagutuman at kawalan ng lupa.** Mismong datos po ng gobyerno ang nagpapatunay na sa 15 lalawigan may malaking backlog sa distribusyon ng lupa naririto ang pinakamahihirap na pamilya sa bansa. Sa loob ng 26 na taon, usad suso ang naging pamamahagi sa mga lupaing ito. Laging nasa top 5 ng mga probinsyang malaki ang backlog ang Negros Occidental, Camarines Sur, Masbate, Cotabato at Leyte. Mataas ang antas ng kahirapan sa mga lalawigang ito; noong 2009, 54.2 porsyento Masbate, 51.2 porsyento sa Northern Samar at 47 porsyento sa Camarines Sur. Ang Negros Occidental,

Camarines Sur, Leyte, Iloilo at Lanao del Sur naman ay nasa 10 pinakamataas na probinsiyang may mahihirap na kababaihan, ayon sa 2009 National Household Targeting Survey for Poverty Reduction ng Department of Social Welfare and Development.

At ang mas matindi pa nito ay 30 porsyento ng kabuuang bilang ng mahihirap sa bansa ay nasa 15 probinsya na ito. 13 sa mga probinsiya ay may mahihirap na populasyon na mas mataas sa national average na 26.5 porsyento, samantalang ang Masbate at Maguindanao ay doble ang taas sa pambansang antas. Bakit ba mahalaga ang mga datos na ito? Dahil ang mga ito ay patunay na malaki ang kaugnayan ng kahirapan sa mabagal na implementasyon ng repormang agraryo at kawalan ng access sa lupa ng mga magsasaka at mangagawang-bukid

Gayundin, dapat na pagtuunan ng pansin kung paano ipapamahagi ng mga ahensyang nagpapatupad ng CARPER ang lupa sa Mindanao. Apat sa 15 probinsya na may pinakamalaking backlog at mataas na bilang ng mahihirap ay nasa Mindanao. Ngunit alam natin na ang kahirapan at kawalan ng lupa ay maraming aspeto sa rehiyong ito na mas pinapalala o pinapasalimuot ng armed

conflicts, tunggalian sa pagitan ng iba't ibang uri ng land claimants, at isyung may kinalaman sa kultura, pagkakalilanlan ng mga Moro at lumad.

### 5. **Mga makababaeng probisyon sa pag-aari ng lupa at suportang serbisyo.**

Kasama dapat sa mga target ng DAR at DENR ang pagpapatupad ng mga makababaeng probisyon para sa pag-aari ng lupa at suportang serbisyo. Kahit may probisyon na nararapat na may pagkakapantay-pantay sa pagitan ng babae at lalaki bilang mga benepisyaryo, ayon sa datos ng NSCB, noong 2009, 537,320 lamang na kababaihang ARBs ang nabigyan ng CLOA, kumpara sa mahigit 1 milyon na bilang ng mga kalalakihan. Bahagyang tumaas ito—9 porsyento—sa 2008 na datos ng DAR; nagpamahagi ito ng CLOA sa 512,565 na kababaihan.

### 6. **Matindi ang lumalaganap na land grabbing sa bansa dahil sa agresibong polisiya ng pamahalaan para makaengganyo ng mamamuhunan sa agrikultura—para sa pagkain at biofuels, turismo, Special Economic Zones, na di tugma sa mga layunin ng CARPER.** Ang Pilipinas ang pangalawa sa mga bansa sa Timog Silangang Asya

na destinasyon ng malalaking pamumuhunan na may kinalaman sa lupa; 3.1 milyong ektarya ang ipinangako ng pamahalaan. Ang malaking tanong, nasaan ang mga lupang ito? Hindi ba ito sasagka sa pagpapatupad ng CARPER? At sa dulo ay maaring magdulot ng rekonolidasyon ng pagmamay-ari ng lupa, kanselasyon ng mga CLOAs, at pagkakaroon ng land use conversions?

### 7. **Laganap na ang exemption at land use conversion sa mga lupang dapat saklawin at nasaklaw ng repormang agraryo. Talamak ang conversion sa irrigated lands, mga lupang may interes ang dayuhan at lokal na mamumuhunan at gayundin, sa mga lugar na papaunlad o iyong mga nagiging peri-rural/urban kagaya sa Region 3 at 4 at mga lugar na nagiging lungsod gaya ng (a) Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur and Davao City in Region XI (the location of Metro Davao), (b) Cebu (Metro Cebu), (c) Misamis Oriental (Metro Cagayan de Oro), (d) Iloilo (the Metro Iloilo-Guimaras urban belt), (e) South Cotabato (General Santos), and (f) lalawigan ng Pangasinan. Mataas din ang land use conversion application sa dalawang probinsya na may mataas na backlog na land distribution sa Negros Occidental at Camarines Sur.**

**8. Pandadahas sa mga magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng pagkaso, pagpatay at pananakot.**

Kasama na rito ang kriminalisasyon ng magsasaka at mangagawang-bukid at paggamit ng sistemang legal ng mga panginoong maylupa upang sila’y kasuhan. Halimbawa nito ang pagkaso sa mga magsasaka sa Quezon, Bataan at Nueva Vizcaya ng qualified theft at trespassing. (e.g. Lisa Tulid, kaso ng Porac, Negros, Mindanao, etc.)

Bilang panghuli nais ko pong idiin na ang repormang agraryo ay isang malaking isyu na pinukol sa administrasyong Aquino III noong tumatakbo pa lamang siya bilang presidente. Nangako siya na magkakaroon ng lupa ang mga magsasaka pero patapos na ang administrasyon niya, marami pa rin ang walang lupang magsasaka. Hindi pa rin ganap ang pamamahagi ng lupa sa sa Hacienda Luisita at Negros na siyang litmus test ng kanyang commitment sa repormang agraryo.

Hindi lamang dahil sa pamilya niya ang may-ari ng lupa ngunit dahil sa idinidikta nitong direksyon at kinabukasan ng CARPER. Ngunit patuloy pa rin siyang nagpapatumpik-tumpik sa isyu, nagpapatunay na hindi niya ito prayoridad.

**Sa huli:**

- malinaw na malaki ang backlog—kontrobersyal at malalaki ang mga lupain pang dapat ipamahagi.
- marami pa ang mga benepisyaryong kailangang abutin
- malaki ang pagsagka ng mga may-ari ng lupa
- kulang sa politikal na suporta para sa programa mula sa pamahalaan
- tumitindi ang land grabbing sa Pilipinas

Kung hindi maisasaalang-alang ito ng pamahalaan, patuloy na hindi maisasakatuparan ang karapatan sa pagkain at dignidad ng mga mamamayan sa kanayunan.

\* Statement delivered by Jansept Geronimo of KATARUNGAN and the Save Agrarian Reform Alliance on February 20, 2015.

### B. Insufficient Government Support

Although the agricultural sector has greatly weakened in the past two decades, accounting now for only 30 percent of the GDP, the country's population is still predominantly rural (70 percent of the total) and two-thirds of this population depends on farming for their livelihood.<sup>21</sup> In terms of employment, about half of the national labor force is still engaged in agricultural activities.<sup>22</sup>

#### 1. The Case of Small Farmers

Farming in the Philippines is still generally undertaken through small farms.<sup>23</sup> These have an average size of about two hectares each, which are owned and managed by single families doing from subsistence to commercial production.<sup>24</sup>

Small farmers face various challenges with respect to their enjoyment of the right to adequate food. The main challenge is meager income. In 2013, their average monthly income of Php5,063.70 (US\$117.8) was not even sufficient to cover their monthly expenditures amounting to Php5,590.00 (US\$130) for a family of five. In 2012-2013, their income only increased by Php2.00 (US\$0.05).

For three decades now, the agricultural sector has not grown, posting a very dismal average productivity rate of one to three percent.<sup>25</sup> The highest productivity that the sector attained was 6.2 percent way back in the 1970s because of the capital infusion made by the government. With the dawn of globalization in the 1990s, Philippine agriculture had been on a downward



Farmer in Hacienda Luisita

path. Currently, the Philippines is already a net-importing country in terms of agricultural products. Gone were the days when it used to be the top exporter of its traditional export crops such as sugarcane, coconut, banana, and coffee; and tuna, as main product of the fishing industry. Even staple crops such as corn and rice have been affected by the decreasing productivity of Philippine agriculture. The policy of liberalization implemented by the government has only worsened the already bad situation that the farming sector has been in.

Another challenge to the small farmers is the existence of monopolies and big traders who control the prices of farm products. For failure to compete, small farmers are forced to sell their harvest at a very low farmgate price, compromising their net earnings.

There is also the lack of infrastructure in the form of farm-to-market roads. Support services such as capital and post-harvest facility are very scarce, as these have not been government's priority in terms of public investment. Small farmers have had to fend for themselves for lack of government support and assistance, and without enough income, their families bear the brunt too.

Irrigated farming has become more difficult to come by because of the prevalence of economic zones. Much to the disappointment of small farmers, these export-processing zones and Freeport zones were put up in irrigated or irrigable lands. Also, financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and World Bank have given more support to the privatization of the irrigation sector, thereby making irrigated farming more costly for the average farmer.

## Kasalukuyang Estado ng Agrikultura at Maliliit na Sakahan sa Pilipinas

**1. Maliit na sakahan ang gulugod/ lakas ng agrikultura ng Pilipinas.**

Mga maliliit na sakahan na di bababa sa dalawang ektarya ang kalakhan ng lupang agrikultural sa Pilipinas—81.1 porsyento noong 2002. Sinasalamín nito ang bumabang sukat ng mga sakahan na siyang itsura ng land use at ownership ng mga nakaraang dekada.

**2. Sa konteksto ng Pilipinas kung saan ang kahirapan ay may rural na katangian at agrikultura pa rin ang pangalawang pinakamalaking labor absorber o nag-eempleyo ng mga tao, ang pag-unlad ng maliliit na sakahan o small farms ay makakatulong sa paglutas ng gobyerno ng problema ng kahirapan.**

Noong 2013, kulang pa sa buwanang kita na PhP 5,063.70 (US\$ 117.8) ng mga nagtatrabaho sa agrikultura ang pangtustos sa buwanang pangangailan para sa pagkain na pumapatak sa PhP 5,590.00 (US\$130) ng isang pamilya na may 5 miyembro. Mula 2012-2013, P2 lang itinaas sa kita ng mga nagtatrabaho sa agrikultura. Lubhang napakaliit at di sasapat para pakainin ang pamilya.

**3. Ngunit sa halip na tutukan ito ng pansin, mahigit tatlong dekada**

**ng bansot at hindi lumalago ang agrikultura sa bansa— halos tatlong porsyento lang ang inilago ng sektor.** Noong dekada '70 pa ang pinakamataas na naitalang produktibidad (6.2 porsyento) dahil sa mataas na pampublikong investment ng dikdaturang Marcos. Agrikultura ang pinakamalaking dehado sa globalisasyon at structural adjustment program ng World Bank. Sa katunayan, lahat halos—mula sa hanay ng magsasaka, industry players at Departamento ng Agrikultura ang nagsasabi ng iisang konklusyon—ang Pilipinas ay isa nang net importing country. Dehado ang tubo, niyog, at iba pang tradisyunal na export crops ng bansa tulad ng banana, tuna, at kape. Maging ang staple crops tulad ng mais at palay ay apektado rin ng pagbaba ng produktibidad ng sektor ng agrikultura.

**4. Malaki ang problema naming maliliit na magsasaka sa naging polisiya ng gobyerno—sa halip na paunlarin ang maliit na sakahan, liberalisasyon ng agrikultura ang naging gulugod ng kanyang istrategiya at programa sa kabuuan.** Kahit may mga social justice na programa tulad ng CARP, IPRA at Fisheries Reform Code na napakabagal at

hindi epektibong pinapatupad, ang mababang taripa at komprehensibong programa ng trade liberalization ay matindi ang tama sa agrikultura lalo na sa aming mga food producers.

- 5. Hirap ang mga magsasaka na mapataas ang kanilang kita dahil sa farmgate pa lamang ay kontrolado na ng mga monopolyo at mangangalakal at presyo ng produkto. Kulang rin sa imprastruktura/farm-to-market roads, suportang serbisyo tulad ng kapital, puhunan, post-harvest facility, at pagkakataon sa merkado kaya halos sariling sikap ang ginagawa ng mga magsasaka.** Kung hindi namin mapapataas ang aming kita, hirap din kaming pakainin ang aming mga sarili at pamilya.
- 6. Isa pang malaking balakid sa pag-angat ng maliit na sakahan ay ang talamak na land use conversion at land grabbing lalo na sa mga irrigated at irrigable na sakahan.** Sa buong bansa, kulang-kulang 50,000 ektarya ng mga sakahan at nairepormang lupa sa ilalim ng CARP/ER ang na-inconvert na, hindi pa rito kasama ang mga Special Economic Zones na noong 2008 ay bumilang ng 166 at sumakop sa 6,700 ektaryang lupain. Nadagdagan pa ito ng 134 na operating SEZs at di pa kasama ang 12,000 ektaryang lupang sakop ng Aurora Pacific Economic Zone and Freeport na magpapalayas sa mga magsasaka,

katutubo at mangingisda sa probinsya ng Casiguran. Maging ang programa ng gobyerno Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) na dapat sana ay magpaunlad sa maliliit na sakahan ay walang naitulong.

- 7. Ang kasalukuyang gobyerno ni Pangulong Benigno Aquino III ay may programa dapat na "Food Security and Rice Sufficiency Program at Food Staples Self-Sufficiency Roadmap" ng Departamento ng Agrikultura.** Pero masyado raw magastos ang rice self-sufficiency kaya ang suhestyon ng Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), ang think tank ng gobyerno ay seguridad sa pagkain na batay sa pagtanggali ng quantitative restrictions sa bigas at deregulasyon ng palay— isang polisiya na magbibigay daan sa importasyon kung saan sa tingin nila ay tataas ang kita ng pamahalaan. Sa kabilang banda, ang food sufficiency program ng DA ay nakakuha ng malaking suporta mula sa aming magsasaka, mga NGO advocates ng organic farming. Ngunit batay sa kasalukuyang performance ng DA, hindi nila maaabot ang target na rice self-sufficiency sa 2016.
- 8. Isa pang malaking problema namin sa ngayon ay ang epekto ng pagbabago ng klima—**hindi lamang tagtuyot o baha ang iniinda ng mga magsasaka,

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maging mga bagong peste na wala pang gamot kagaya ng nangyari sa coconut farms na halos ubusin ng peste noong nakaraang taon. Bukod pa rito, mula 2000-2013, halos US\$ 4 milyon ang nawawala sa kaban ng bayan dahil sa hagupit ng bagyo sa agrikultura, mahigit 64 milyong katao ang apektado ng mga bagyong ito. Hindi pa kasama sa bilang ang epekto ng bagyong Yolanda. Ang kawalan ng matinong crop insurance ay isang pasakit sa mga maliliit na magsasaka na kada bagyo ay nalulugi at nagkakanda-utang para mapunan ang pangangailangan sa saka at pamilya.

Sa panghuli, ang mensaheng gustong ipaabot namin sa inyo Dr. Hilal Elver ay mga maliliit na magsasaka ang inaasahang magpakain sa lumalaking populasyon ngayong siglong ito—

na gumawa ng sapat, mura at ligtas na pagkain para sa lahat habang pinangangalagaan ang kapaligiran sa pamamagitan ng mga agroecological at sustenableng pamamaraan ng pagsasaka. Kaya namin ito, may likas na lakas kakayanan ang mga magsasaka upang gawin ito. Kaya naming pagyamanin ang lupa. Ngunti magagawa lamang namin pakainin ang Pilipinas, ang mundo kung may sapat na ayuda mula sa pamahalaan—matinong pamamahagi ng lupa, suportang serbisyo, sapat na pampublikong investment, maayos na imprastraktura, akses sa merkado, malinaw na programa sa pag-unlad ng maliliit na sakahan, pagtigil sa land use conversions at land grabbing, at pagbaligtad sa polisiya ng liberalisasyon at deregulasyon ng agrikultura.

\* Statement of Trinidad Domingo, Katipunan ng Bagong Pilipina



## 2. Farmer Seed System

Seeds are the source of food and livelihood of small farmers. Small food producers like the farmers, especially in developing countries, rely on an informal seed system. In accordance with Southeast Asian traditional practice, farmers save, re-use, and exchange seeds with other farmers, and this has sustained their agricultural production and contributed to crop diversity until the entry of corporate interest and hybrid seed production into the system

In the Philippines, the lack of a coherent government policy contributes to the weakening of farmer seed system. Though the Philippine ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)<sup>26</sup> or International Seed Treaty has augured well for the welfare of small farmers, the rights enumerated in the document only pertain to plant genetic resources. The treaty does not provide remedies and redress mechanisms in case of a violation of the rights of farmers to freely exchange and cultivate seeds and therefore, biodiversity vis-à-vis the commercial seed system and monopoly privileges given to plant breeders through patents and intellectual property rights regimes.

Philippine laws are also restrictive on the farmers. Case in point is Republic Act No. 9168, or the Philippine Plant Variety Protection Act of 2002. The law negatively impacts the existing informal seed system, because of the statutory

restrictions on the use, exchange, and sale of farm-saved PVP seeds. These limitations severely affect the positive linkage between the formal and informal seed systems. Ultimately, the law only makes it harder for resource-poor farmers to access improved seeds. The restrictions also lead to fewer options for farmers who become increasingly dependent on the formal seed sector. Improved varieties, however, often require more inputs compared to local farmers' varieties, pushing up production costs.

Another example is Republic Act No. 7308, or the Seed Industry Development Act of 1992, which requires the certification of "quality seeds". The cost of certification is prohibitive for small farmers-breeders. There are also instances when despite the surplus in local varieties produced, the seeds cannot be procured by the government from the small farmers because of the standing policy that only certified seeds can be procured. This results in the *de facto* exclusion of farmers from market access and from enjoying incentives provided by this law.

With respect to genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the same diminish the availability of, if not totally displace, the conventional and native varieties traditionally used by farmers. There is likewise limited information about the GMO crops being planted now. Also, because GM crops are protected by patents, farmers can no longer share or exchange seeds the way they used to.

### 3. The Case of Municipal/Artisanal Fisherfolk

Asian countries account for about half of global fish capture production.<sup>27</sup> Specifically in 2007, the fisheries sectors in South East Asia produced an estimated 25.2 MMT, which had an estimated value of US\$23.9 billion.<sup>28</sup>

Ironically, despite the contribution and value of fisheries in the region, an estimated 17 million small-scale fishers with more than a hundred million dependents still live in poverty while facing even worsening social, environmental, and economic conditions, creating more impediments to their right to adequate food.

Current Philippine policies and programs on trade liberalization of fishery products have not protected those in small-scale

fisheries and instead have provided biased protection to investments that result in overfishing and further degradation of fishery resources.

Aquaculture is being given much attention by UN member States to supply the export market without proper management of capture fisheries and its needed support. The massive expansion of aquaculture has been causing negative environmental and social impacts in coastal communities.

Coastal areas, fishers' communities, and the fisheries sector in general are vulnerable to climate change. The 2020 scenario leading to further rise in sea level, further warming of sea surface temperature, and more extreme weather events are expected to greatly damage coastal ecosystems and displace fishing communities.



Various mega-projects in coastal waters like deep sea ports, power plants, sand mining, and mining of mineral resources affect small fishers who are denied access to fishing areas. This is the unfortunate experience of municipal fisherfolk in the Laguna Lake where reclamation projects are rampant. The previous administration approved the construction of a ferryboat station for tourism purposes, and such projects have consequently dislocated the municipal fisherfolk from their living and settlement areas and caused harm to fish spawning and natural production. Ultimately, natural fish habitats like mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrasses are destroyed due to the absence of regulatory policies and/or weak enforcement of fishery laws.

Illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing in both national fishing territories and borders in the shared water bodies still remains a problem. This contributes to further depletion of fishery resources. To illustrate, the prevalence of fish pens and fish cages, which up to now are left unregulated in Laguna Lake, greatly contribute to its destruction.

Meanwhile, fishers get arrested for fishing in disputed territorial boundaries and receive inhumane treatment from police authorities, without appropriate assistance from their own country's government authorities. Perhaps, this is largely due to unclear territorial boundaries and the overlapping territorial claims among UN member countries.

Worse, within Philippine waters, some municipal fisherfolk get the same abusive

and coercive treatment from government authorities or private security agencies guarding the fish pens and cages, such as those in Laguna Lake.

*\* This was culled from the statement delivered/read by Ruperto Aleroza, fisherfolk leader*

### **C. Urban Food Insecurity: The Case of the Informal Sector**

In 2010, by the reckoning of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), 45 percent of the total number of employed Filipinos belonged to the "informal economy." By the assessment of most unions, the statistics pertaining to those in this sector were also on the high side, as many of the jobs in the so-called "formal sector" were actually short-term, casual, insecure, unprotected, "informalized" ones. Per computation by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, the number of informal workers in the Philippines reached 25 million or 77 percent of the total employed population in that year. In contrast, the ranks of formal workers had been progressively decreasing.

Informal workers in the cities are particularly vulnerable to constant abuse and harassment. To illustrate, street vendors are being chased for being "unregistered" business entrepreneurs. Apart from livelihood, urban informal workers are usually the victims of ejection whenever business tycoons are eyeing huge tracts of land as sites of potential business activities. Even

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when relocation is being offered by the government, the relocation sites are usually far from where they work or where their economic activities, such as vending/retailing, would thrive. The daily transportation cost is often prohibitive coming from and going to these relocation zones. Worse, whereas before the government reclaims land for the poor such as in Dagat-Dagatan, Manila, the current practice now is the government reclaiming lands for big business.

Often, urban informal workers are originally rural poor who have gone to the city to try their luck. Unfortunately, once in the metropolis, they suffer from food insecurity because of their inability to find jobs that would fit their qualifications. Without a stable and sufficient income, they do not have access to adequate food, and often they cannot find decent housing as well. Neither can they afford regular medical care and education that could be their ticket for more gainful employment. Social protection measures in the form of contribution-based social security and health insurance usually do not cover the working poor, and if they do, the coverage is irregular, intermittent, and unreliable.

From a macro-perspective, food security becomes more critical an issue as urban poverty rises. In fact, evidence indicates

that food security and nutrition are worse among the urban poor than the rural poor. Food production in the city is in many cases a response to inadequate, unreliable, and irregular access to food, and the lack of purchasing power. The urban poor face a daily struggle to feed their families. Their food and nutrition security is determined by their livelihood, which encompasses their capabilities, assets, and activities for making and earning from a living. Due to economic hardships, the urban poor make do with less nutritious, less filling, and unsafe food. The UN Millennium Task Force on Hunger has reported that among the hungry in the world, 20 percent are in poor urban households.

Consumption patterns in urban areas have also changed, as supermarkets now command the scene. Processed food and junk food have become standard fares; there is less consumption of high-fiber and healthier foods such as whole grains, legumes, fruits, and vegetables, in favor of meat, dairy, canned, and packaged foods. Urban dwellers, because they generally do not grow their own food and live in communities that do not produce food, are vulnerable to food price hikes and spirals, such as those which occurred at the height of the global financial crisis, and in the period 2010-11 as well.

## Women Workers in the Informal Economy Struggle for Urban Food Security

Hunger in the Philippines has increased to more than 20 percent since 2009, and may be correlated with many factors, including the impact of disasters, rise in unemployment and underemployment, and internal displacement due to conflict.

Food poverty is just one aspect of overall poverty, the incidence of which has remained unchanged since 2006. According to the latest NSCB data for the first semester of 2012, poverty incidence stood at 27.9 percent of the population, just about the same figure obtained from the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) in 2006 and 2009.

The percentage of malnourished children ages 0 to five ranged from 24.6 percent to 34.5 percent in the period 1990 to 2008. Two-thirds to 85 percent of families in ARMM, Zamboanga peninsula, CARAGA, Bicol, SOCCSKSARGEN, and Eastern Visayas spend more than 50 percent of their income on food and therefore are more vulnerable to food insecurity. Only one-third of all Filipino households have enough

caloric intake. Underweight and stunting affect malnourished children in a number of regions.

Poverty feeds hunger and hunger feeds poverty. The poor have no or little access to food, which weakens their health and productivity. This in turn prevents them from engaging in economic activity which can increase their income so that they can have more food. Their ability to learn is impaired, and the capacity to provide and care for their families diminished. Unhealthy and malnourished adults cannot work well and cannot produce healthy children who can ensure a bright and happy future for themselves. The cycle of poverty and hunger is reproduced in the next generations if not addressed sufficiently. This serves as a severe constraint to the attainment of sustainable human development.

Poverty, and therefore hunger, stalk even those who are employed, as ILO statistics on working poverty bear out. In 2007, at least one out of five workers lived in extreme poverty, subsisting at less than one dollar a day. Some 60 percent did not have

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enough income to get themselves out of poverty.

In the Philippines, by the reckoning of the Department of Labor and Employment, 45 per cent of the total employed belonged to the “informal economy” in 2010. By the assessment of most unions, the percentages are also on the high side because many of the jobs in the so-called “formal sector” are actually short-term, casual, insecure, unprotected, “informalized” ones. Per computation by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, the number of informal workers in the Philippines comprised 25 million or 77 percent of the total employed population. In contrast, the ranks of formal workers, had been progressively decreasing.

Majority of employed women in the Philippines are in the informal economy as home-based workers, vendors, small farmers, waste recyclers, etc. The informal economy is highly gendered, serving as a catch basin for women who were among the first to be displaced from formal work as globalization gender progressed. Women have always been the mainstay of the informal economy given the existing division of labor, since informal work (e.g., home-based work) is compatible with their primary role in reproductive work (child care; household maintenance). They take on various means of making a living while tending to domestic as

well as community responsibilities, thus bearing the triple burden of productive, reproductive, and community work.

Women in the informal economy have little access to education, credit, healthcare and other forms of social protection. Nevertheless, those who have succeeded in organizing themselves in the context of disasters and other crises have honed their ability and adaptability to create and/or enter many forms of employment because they need to put food on the table and ensure family survival. Some group enterprises in food production and processing are linked together in what is called “solidarity economy”.

### Food Security as Gender and Human Rights Issue

Women have long been acknowledged as the key to food security, particularly in strengthening its three pillars: food availability or adequate food production; economic access to available food; and nutritional security, which often depends on the availability of non-food resources such as child care, health care, clean water, and sanitation. However, their potentials are constrained by their lack of access to and control of resources, such as land, technology, and credit. Their multiple burdens affect their time allocation and their participation in decision making processes.

In the Philippine case, food security is a human right that has been increasingly threatened by disasters such as super typhoons and prolonged drought associated with climate change. The Philippine state, through the Magna Carta of Women, recognizes the right to food as well as the contributions of women to food production which it guarantees by ensuring their right to the resources to enable them to play a vital role in this regard. (Republic Act 9710). There are many factors that influence the realization of this right, principally poverty and informality, which heighten their vulnerability to economic and environmental risks leading to hunger and food insecurity.

### **Food Insecurity in Urban Settings**

As more and more people live in urban areas, there is less and less land to cultivate. Urban areas are expanding to accommodate rising population; land previously planted to food crops is increasingly being converted to commercial use. The huge influx of rural migrants to cities, in itself a symptom of rural poverty and unemployment, has resulted in the creation of many informal settlements or slum areas where the poor congregate and spend a huge portion of their meager income on cheap food. The UN Millennium Task Force on Hunger

reported that among the hungry in the world, 20 percent are in poor urban households. Due to economic hardships, they make do with less nutritious, less filling, and unsafe food. Often, it is hunger which drives the rural poor to try their luck in the cities, where they suffer from food insecurity because of their inability to find jobs that fit their qualifications. Inadequate income means that they cannot access adequate food, and often they cannot find decent housing; neither can they afford regular medical care and educational attainment high enough to enter gainful employment. Social protection measures in the form of contribution-based social security and health insurance usually do not cover the working poor, and if they do, the coverage is irregular, intermittent, and unreliable.

Consumption patterns in urban areas are also changing as supermarkets command the scene. Processed food and junk food have become prevalent; there is less consumption of high-fiber and healthier foods such as whole grains, legumes, fruits, and vegetables, in favor of meat, dairy, canned and packaged food. Urban dwellers, because they generally do not grow their own food, and live in communities that do not produce food, are vulnerable to food price hikes and spirals, such as those which occurred at the height of the global financial crisis, and in 2010-11 as well.

### Integration of Food Security in Social Protection Policy

One encompassing definition of social protection is that it describes “all initiatives that: (1) provide income (cash) or consumption (food) transfers to the poor; (2) protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks; (3) enhance the social status and rights of the excluded and marginalized” (Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004:9).

There are many social protection instruments that enhance food security: input subsidies, weather and health insurance, public works programs, targeted food subsidies, and conditional cash transfers. As regards input subsidies, there is a need to shift to sustainable agriculture as advocated by the FAO. Such type of agriculture respects the soil and does not deplete it. It is also ecological because not too much water is required, as is the case when pesticides are used. Weather-index based insurance can work (there are a few cases in the Philippines to substantiate this) provided farmers are sufficiently oriented through accompanying financial literacy programs. Local government support is also important, as in one case when farmers could not afford the premiums and city hall paid for these. Employment in public works programs in exchange for food or cash is important not only after disasters occur, but also

as a guaranteed entitlement for a set period, as in the 100-day rural employment program in India.

Targeted food subsidies and conditional cash transfers are more problematic to implement, given the tendency for inclusion and exclusion errors, substantial “leakages” due to corruption, as well as their stopgap nature. CCTS also have social costs for women, who are relied upon to do all the work at implementation level while the men escape responsibility.

Social protection policies and programs should be coherent with and complementary to a host of other policies and programs which cover not only the social and productive sectors but also the financial sector.



Macro-economic policies on trade, investments, taxes, budgets, etc. should also be anchored on human rights and put people's interests first. In this manner, the transformative aspect of a human rights-based social protection framework is maximized, and social protection instruments will avoid the stigma of being considered mere doleouts or band-aid solutions to the essentially systemic problems of poverty and vulnerability. Article 1 of both the ICESCR and the ICCPR on the right to self determination and to use of natural resources is primordial here.

Social protection should bring in the whole question of the "working poor," the majority of employed people in the world belonging to the informal economy, many of whom are women. Considering that the working poor, given the global data provided by the ILO, are here to stay, and are bound to increase given the continuing impact of globalization on the labor market as well as various financial, environmental, and social crises besetting many countries, social protection interventions in their interest would likely not be temporary, but more long-term in the context of progressive realization of economic, social, and cultural rights. Graduating to solidarity-based sustainable livelihood is in this context important as a transition from emergency employment as a stopgap measure. Furthermore,

various categories of the poor are also changeable given the fluidity of climatic and other conditions. The working poor today can easily fall into the category of absolute or chronic poor tomorrow.

### **Urban Food Security and City Governance**

Increasing urbanization has brought forth the increasing probability of food insecurity among the urban poor. In an urban context, advocacy for the right to food is linked to other rights such as the right to decent work, to social protection, to housing (free from the threat of eviction), and most basic of all, the right to organize (freedom of association and representation) which makes the pursuit of other rights possible.

Urban food security is a relatively new and challenging terrain for advocacy and praxis, given the increasing ranks of the working poor, many of them women, in Philippine cities which are in themselves vulnerable to the risks associated with climate change. It is worthwhile to note at this point some initiatives that can help achieve food access, availability, utilization, and safety in an urban environment.

Ideally, such initiatives should be integrated and comprehensive, such as that found in the pioneering food security system of Belo Horizonte,

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the third largest city in Brazil. The system, consisting of more than 20 interrelated programs, succeeded in substantially reducing child mortality by 60 percent. Its key elements are focused management by a city department; community gardens which incorporate training; special outlets and market stalls for the produce of small holders; information campaign with free cooking lessons; free school meals with highly nutritious components; and public restaurants serving healthy subsidized meals to all. The Belo Horizonte model is the fruit of a human rights-based National Food and Nutritional Security Law advocated by civil society organizations (CSOs) and implemented by CSOs together with national government agencies. Joint CSO and government initiatives is propelled by a “zero-hunger” strategy.

What is more commonly being promoted and implemented in many countries is what is known as urban and periurban agriculture (UPA). Although not yet able to provide enough, urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) is considered a major strategy to help ensure food security in cities. This covers growing of plants and animals within and around urban centers, including “agro-parks, vertical farming, rooftop farming, aquaponics, aeroponics, and the like.” Because food supply is nearby, transport and storage costs are minimized.

The United Nations has identified UPA as a key strategy in attaining the Millenium Development Goals. For example UPA facilitates the attainment of Goal 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) by increasing nutrition levels, reducing the need to buy food, creating income through the sale of agricultural products, and employing vulnerable groups. Under Goal 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women), UPA strengthens livelihood groups and networks among women, allows for more flexible use of their time for production, increases their income and independence. Under Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability), UPA promotes recycling of solid waste and water, helps absorb pollution, and reduces erosion.

Farming has always been associated with rural areas, a reality which is evident in the Philippines as well. Agriculture is concentrated in the countryside while the urban centers are the market for the produce.

Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that UPA has been adopted by national and local government units, educational institutions, non-government organizations, families/households and organized groups to address food security in the Philippines. UPA here means the production of food or agricultural products done within the confines of the cities, which may also include population centers in bustling towns. For many practitioners, UPA

refers not merely to the growing of food crops and fruit trees but also the raising of animals, poultry, fish, bees, rabbits, guinea pigs, or other livestock considered edible locally. UPA advocates claim that if done on a massive scale, it can ease up the problem of food insecurity in the urban communities. It has aesthetic value as well since it can enhance the beauty of communities and homes.

In the case of PATAMABA, the solidarity economy model being tried out in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo has become more complex and diverse. Recycled juice bags are converted into inputs for container gardening, especially in the herbal section of the farm. Funding and venue for the recycling project came from the municipal government. Animal manure from adjoining farms of group members and their relatives is used as fertilizer. The group is able to use a 4000 square meter piece of land generously provided by the group leader. Seeds originated from the Department of Agriculture and the local government. Vegetables are periodically harvested to be directly consumed by group members and their families or sold in the public market for additional income for vendor-members. (PATAMABA has been provided production and market space by the municipal government). High-nutrient vegetables from the garden such as camote tops, moringa, and alugbati are mixed with milk, flour, and sesame

seeds to produce *budbod sustansiya* as main ingredient for *polvoron* sold to neighbourhood children as well as those in public schools. Green papayas from trees blown down by typhoon winds are pickled, bottled and sold. Additional capital for these ventures comes from the PATAMABA microfinance program supported by a private foundation. Waste water from the garden is channelled into ponds of catfish fed with vegetable discards. Net income when the catfish is sold is re-invested in the community garden mainly in the form of dikes to guard against flooding.

In sum, the solidarity-based community garden enhanced access to and convergence of productive resources such as land, seeds, tools, labor, technology, supplies, finance, and markets. It illustrates a community-based supply chain where responsibilities are shared by people-managed enterprises, the state through local government, and the private sector.

Given these examples, community-based interventions with support from local governments and other stakeholders seem to work well. They provide a glimpse of the urban future, with organized groups claiming the right to produce and consume nutritious food for themselves and their communities.

\* Statement prepared and presented by PATAMABA

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### D. Further Marginalization of Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities

#### 1. Women

Based on recent studies, permanent hunger is often experienced by those who live below the poverty threshold, the most impoverished being the fisherfolk, accounting for 49.9 percent; the farmers, 44 percent; children, 40.8 percent; and women, 30.1 percent.<sup>29</sup> This means that three out of 10 women in the Philippines experience hunger. One can imagine how worse off it is for women fishers and women farmers, especially those in conflict areas and those who experience calamities.

One of the issues being faced by Filipino women is their “invisibility” in the food production. Less than 30 percent of the women in agriculture and fisheries benefit from support services like credit, seeds, training, technology and extension support. More than half of these women workers in the rural areas are doing unpaid

work. They have little access to sustainable income and livelihood. They experience multiple burden and work, e.g., 23 percent of the women farmers who already have their own lands still need to work in other farm lots to augment their income.

Women’s access to and control over land and its resources are of paramount importance to fully develop their role in food production. Unfortunately, despite advancement in their recognition and right to land and support services, government data show that women agrarian reform beneficiaries comprise only 37.5 percent of the total ARBs.

Women in the fishery sector are also invisible as they are not considered ‘directly involved’ in fishing. Official data state that there are less than nine percent women fishers nationwide. This is in spite of them being involved in looking for capital, preparing food for those who go to sea to fish, mend nets, sell the fish catch or do all sorts of things to ensure that the family have food to eat specially when there are low or no catch.



Women and children need adequate and nutritious food

## Women and the Right to Food

Greetings to everyone. I would like to thank the organizers for inviting PKKK or the National Rural Women Coalition to speak in behalf of the women and our right to food. We also would like to thank Dr. Hilal Elver, UN Special Rapporteur to Right to Food for giving time to hear what the situation is from the perspective of civil society organizations.

### General Situation

Official statistics say that around seven million Filipinos do not have the capacity to have sufficient food (NSCB). While social surveys say that around 14 million Filipinos (twice the official count) have experienced hunger (SWS). Majority of those who remain hungry and lack the capacity to provide their own food are in the rural areas—those who depend on natural resources for subsistence and livelihoods.

Permanent hunger is often experienced by those who live below the poverty threshold, the most impoverished are the fishers, farmers, children and women. Three out of 10 women in the Philippines experience hunger. One can imagine how worse off it is for women fishers and women

farmers, especially those in conflict areas and those who experience strong typhoons like Haiyan.

### State of the Filipino Women

In 2010, a study was conducted after the food crisis, economic crisis, and climate crisis in 2008-2009, done by a group of women (including PKKK, Patamaba, Makalaya, and other partners of Homenet, and with Focus on the Global South). Amidst the many crises (financial, climate-related calamities and disasters, food), a poor household often cut costs or spending on water, fuel, electricity, and food. It must be noted that a poor family spends around 60 percent of its income on food, which is high compared to a rich family spending about 20-30 percent on food (Oxfam study). So naturally, in a crisis, budget spending decreases and it is the budget for food that is affected. The State of the Filipino Women study showed that during the crisis, it was common to have only two meals a day among the workers, farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples and informal sector.

The women in the grassroots have to employ several ways to address

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hunger, mainly through adjustments in the food preparation and diet, some examples are: a) Extenders (vegetables that are easily found in the community) are mixed with cheap instant food (noodles, sardines); b) Measured distribution of food (rice and viand) among family members; c) Combining two meals in one (brunch or “altang”); d) Kept children in bed until noon (to skip breakfast); e) Buy poor quality but cheap rice variety; f) Coffee for breakfast and snacks (children & adults). It must be noted that in spite of all these efforts, many children of the women who were consulted still needed to ask for extra food from their neighbors.

### Specific Issues Faced by Women in Food Production

Women remain “invisible” as food producers—farmers, fishers, workers, making them invisible in programs that support food production. Less than 30 percent of the women in agriculture and fisheries benefit from support services like credit, seeds, training, technology and extension support. More than half of the workers in the rural areas are doing unpaid work. They have little access to sustainable income and livelihood. They experience multiple burden and work, eg. 23 percent of the women farmers who already have their own lands still need to

work in other farm lots to augment their income.

Unsafe sources of food and water. Longer working hours (11-16 hours per day) for work in vegetable raising, livestock, vending, services.

### Property Rights Issues of Women

Women’s access to and control over land are the important to fully develop their role in food production and also crucial determinants in accessing other resources as well as their participation in decision-making at the household and communities. The Philippine Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law though not without its limitations is not a priority program by this administration and the past. Landlord resistance prevail and widespread land conversions are being experienced. There are agrarian reform cases that have not been resolved in favour of the farmers, lasting 16-20 years. We have members who have nine cases filed against them by the landlord because the women are fighting for their land. Women are not recognized as Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries so from the start of processing of land distribution, women are often excluded. Government data show that women agrarian reform beneficiaries comprise 37.5 percent of the total ARBs (2013).

Women fishers are also invisible as they are not considered involved in fishing. Official data state that there are less than nine percent women fishers nationwide (BFAR). Women fishers are involved in looking for capital, preparing food for those who go to sea to fish, mend nets, sell the fish catch or do all sorts of things to ensure that the family have food to eat specially when there are low or no catch.

Indigenous communities continue to be threatened of inaccessibility to food and water and displacement because of the widespread mining activities that target their ancestral domains.

### **What We Ask For**

There should be comprehensive program at the local and national levels that will ensure food self-sufficiency program as safeguard against dependence on food

importation. Women's participation in the crafting a masterplan for food security should be ensured. There should be state support to women's access to sustainable agriculture and community based coastal resource management.

The State should implement its laws on women such as Magna Carta of Women with Section 20 Food Security and Productive Resources and provide timely and accurate data on the status of its implementation. Another important law is the CARPER and its provision on the right of rural women. Priority should be given to the passage of a National Land Use Act that ensures perpetual protection of lands dedicated to food production. Active organizing of women in the communities (as partners of men in ensuring food self-sufficiency) should be supported by government.

*\* Statement read by Rebecca Miranda of the National Rural Women Coalition*

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### 2. Children

The Philippines is a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 24 thereof contemplates the right of children as “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health.”

To this end, the country has existing laws that are geared towards addressing and improving children’s nutrition. These are Executive Order 51, or the Philippine Milk Code; Republic Act No. 10028, or the Expanded Breastfeeding and Promotion Act; and Republic Act No. 7600, or the Rooming-in and Breastfeeding Act of 1992.

The Philippines is also the 51st country to join the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, a unique movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. It unites people—from governments, civil society, the UN, donors, businesses, and researchers—in a collective effort to improve nutrition. The Philippine Coalition of Advocates for Nutrition Security (PHILCAN, Inc.), a coalition of organizations with programs, projects, and interventions on nutrition, pushes for and supports the membership and engagement of the Philippine government with the SUN Movement.

Fortunately, mortality rates among infants and children have steadily decreased since 1990, which is an indicator of



A child from an Ati Tribe in Boracay

the ability of families as well as the government to provide for their basic health and nutrition needs. While the national data on mortality have been promising, especially in the NCR and Central Luzon, regions such as Eastern Visayas, MIMAROPA, CARAGA, and Northern Mindanao have lagged behind. This demonstrates that while effective health care programs are under way, regional gaps in access remain a problem.

Gains in access are likewise difficult to sustain in the future given the declining number of health professionals in government medical facilities.

The Nutrition Barometer, a 2012 study by World Vision and Save the Children found the country's political and legal commitment to children's nutrition as 'emerging,' while its financial commitment as 'frail.' The 8th National Nutrition Survey betrays the critical challenges and constraints in the formulation and implementation of policies and programs. From 2008 to 2013, Filipino children were found to be malnourished, underweight, and to have stunted growth.

With the considerable number of children in extremely poor families, there may be many who do not meet the daily nutrient requirements. Smaller children in these conditions who are too vulnerable to diseases may not survive the first five years of their lives, according to available data.

To further underscore, figures from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute

(FNRI) show that one out of five children aged zero to five is considered underweight for that age in 2011. Although there has been a modest decline within the past two decades, a decrease of 0.33 percent points annually is low compared to the rate needed to achieve the MDG target of 13.6 percent, or 1.65 points each year. The current rate shows that that the country will likely not meet its MDG target. Disparities in malnutrition across regions are also evident.

The prevalence of climate-related disasters in the Philippines may also exacerbate these conditions. Based on data on Haiyan-affected populations gathered by the National Nutrition Cluster which was activated to support the national government's emergency response, an estimated 2.94 million individuals have been at risk of undernutrition, including about 320,000 boys and girls aged 0-59 months and up to 210,000 pregnant and lactating women as aftermath of the supertyphoon.

Clearly, the Philippine situation warrants more urgent action by government to address the challenge of sustaining good nutrition in times of disasters; to cite as an example, the reported distribution of formula milk in evacuation centers which ignored previous assessments conducted by the Nutrition Cluster that showed that only eight percent of infants were dependent on infant formula, while 78 percent exclusively breastfed (infants less than six months). A Regional memorandum was issued (RM 2011-04)

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to reaffirm the no-donation policy for breast milk substitutes and products covered by the Milk Code.

The Cluster through international humanitarian organizations like Action Against Hunger (ACF) and Save the Children, have also organized, trained, and deployed breastfeeding support groups and established breastfeeding-friendly spaces.

There are also policy constraints, with various Senate and House bills on nutrition still pending in Congress, while proposals threatening to water down the Philippine Milk Code have also emerged.

With nutrition programs devolved to local government, the functions of the Municipal Nutrition Action Officers (MNAO) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) are hardly maximized as their tenure coincides with the mayor's term. In certain cases, appointments made to these positions have been political in nature and based on personal relationships rather than professional merit.

The situations discussed above frustrate the effective enjoyment and realization of the right to adequate food of Filipino children.

### 3. Persons with Disability (PWDs)

PWDs are another vulnerable group when it comes to their enjoyment of the right to adequate food. First, in times of calamity or natural disaster, they are denied access to relief goods allegedly because they are not registered voters of the typhoon-

stricken municipality. What the local government fails to consider, however, is the practice of PWDs of forming small cooperatives designed for home-based work as source of income. Hence, there will be times where a member of one barangay has to go to another barangay where the cooperative is based. Indeed, this is rather an unfortunate circumstance for the PWDs to be in considering the politically-motivated decisions of local government units during relief distribution and choosing only the registered voters therein as qualified recipients of relief goods.

During relief distribution, PWDs are still being required by the local government to go to the distribution centers to personally receive the goods. While PWDs must certainly be given equal treatment as any other person, the same cannot apply during relief distribution. Given the physical difficulty that PWDs have to contend with in lining up and the not so remote possibility of a stampede, it would be unjust for the local government officials to subject PWDs to such stressful physical environment in claiming their relief goods.

Also, there is not much access to market places anymore. Rather, roads are now being replaced by big supermarkets which are not PWD-friendly.

It is true that PWDs are given access to basic services just as anyone else. While this may initially appear harmless, the problem lies at the irregularity of these services. For instance, in places where the supply of water is highly irregular, PWDs

are rendered more immobile and have to wait indefinitely at the expense of their livelihood and rest period.

### E. Climate Change

Climate change poses threat to the right to food. For the past five years, numerous typhoons such as Pepeng (2009), Sendong (2011), Pablo (2012), Habagat (2012; 2013) have had negative impacts on the country's food security. Damages to agriculture have amounted to over P5 billion for Pepeng, P300

million for Sendong, Php4 Billion for Pablo and Php2 Billion for Habagat. This succession of strong typhoons had been precursors of Yolanda, the super typhoon which not only took more than 6,000 lives, displaced over 800,000 families, and destroyed property costing over Php35 Billion, but also set back agriculture in affected areas in unprecedented terms. The damages have been estimated at Php17.321 Billion, with an additional damage in crops including the devastated areas' main products, rice and corn, worth Php7.277 Billion.<sup>30</sup>



Farmers in Yolanda-damaged areas of Leyte lost Php612 Million worth of rice produce. From the usual 147,000 metric tons of rice production in said province, production plummeted to a measly 129,367 metric tons; each kilogram of rice had cost Php17 in the past. Corn production, which until Yolanda had been experiencing an increase of 3,000 metric tons per year, drastically slowed down due to the typhoon, adding to the damage some Php32 Million worth of crops.<sup>31</sup>

Father and child survivors of Yolanda

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Yet super-typhoons are not the only threats to food security posed by climate change. Droughts also devastate, mainly threatening the water supply with reduced stream flow, declining groundwater leading to insufficient irrigation and thus total crop loss.<sup>32</sup>

These droughts, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA), have also become more frequent with every season, as illustrated by the 2010 drought which put more than 16 provinces under the state of calamity, as billions of pesos were lost in agriculture. PAG-ASA and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) have found that every one degree mean temperature increase would mean 10 percent loss in crop yield. This 2015, while we are at a critical stage of 0.87 degrees temperature increase, PAG-ASA has forecasted that El Nino is set to hit the Philippines, which would mean another substantial blow not only to domestic water supply, such as for drinking, but also to the agricultural sector and subsequently, food production.

The marine ecosystem, where 60 percent of total protein intake of Filipinos comes, is also among those

significantly affected by the climate crisis. Warming temperature adds to the acidification of the ocean, which in turn adversely impacts marine life and marine resources.<sup>33</sup> According to a study by the World Bank on the acidification of seas in the Southeast Asian region, a 150 percent acidification rate is most likely to occur by 2100, which would devastate food production and security, not just in the Philippines but in Asia. Small fishing communities are unable to cope with these conditions, an added problem to the competition posed by large-scale foreign fishing vessels that have seen their incomes dwindle. With the poverty that comes about from these circumstances, dangerous and destructive fishing practices by communities also abound as desperate measures.

Ultimately, these crises brought about by climate change are aggravated by “mal-development” projects like aquaculture, mining, and coal projects in agricultural and coastal areas. Ironically, the more businesses such as these thrive, the more community/local livelihoods vanish, and with this, food production critical to the survival of the community members.

## Right to Food Before Want of Profit: The Climate Crisis and Food Security

The Philippines shares in the plight of most developing countries in the South with regards to their immense vulnerability to the effects of climate change. One of the most pressing problems brought about by the changing climate is the threat it poses on the right to food. The climate crises exacerbate the circumstances provided by a deteriorated agricultural system, owing to ineffective government policies, destructive development policies, and dominance of corporate interests.

Since 2010, the Philippines has risen to being the fourth largest importer of rice in the world, accounting for four percent of the world's rice import volume. This, among other crops which are being imported at a large scale, reflects the policy of import dependence, brought about by trade agreements slanted in favor of developed countries, and which deny the country the opportunity to be self-sustaining when it comes to food production. Coupled with the failure of the decades-old agrarian reform policy to distribute lands to farmers, such circumstances discourage farmers to continue their work as

contributors to agriculture.

Adding to the burden of import-dependence is the destruction of livelihood promoted by so-called "development projects" such as mining. These projects, funded by financial institutions like the Asian Development Bank (ADB), not only contribute to the warming of the planet, but also demean and displace the livelihood of local food producers. From an existing 17 coal-fired power plants will be added 26 coal plant projects that are expected to be operational by 2020, owed to 71 coal-operating contracts awarded by the government from 2007 to 2013, despite the global movement to divest from coal. Mining for other resources such as nickel equally threaten food security in the country. In Zambales, for example, half a billion pesos, or \$12 million worth of rice, mango, and fish were lost due to the introduction of nickel mining.

These systematic blows to the agriculture sector, among others, are further exacerbated by the vulnerability of the country to instances of disaster aggravated by climate change. For the past

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five years, numerous typhoons such as Pepeng, Sendong, Pablo, Habagat have plagued food security with their impacts. Damages to agriculture amount to over P5 billion for Pepeng, P300 million for Sendong, P4 billion for Pablo and P2 billion for Habagat. This succession of super-typhoons were precursors to Yolanda, which not only took more than 6,000 lives, displaced over 800,000 families and destroyed property costing over 35 billion pesos, but also wreaked damage in agriculture adding up to 17.321 billion pesos, with an additional damage in crops including the devastated areas' main products, rice and corn, worth P7.277 billion.<sup>34</sup>

Zooming in, we find that farmers in Yolanda-distraught Leyte lost P612 million worth of rice: from the usual 147,000 metric tons of rice produced in Leyte, production plummeted to a measly 129,367 metric tons, with each kilogram of rice usually bought for 17 pesos in the past. Corn production, which until Yolanda has been experiencing an increase of 3,000 metric tons per year, drastically slowed down due to the typhoon, adding to the damage about P32 million worth of crops.<sup>35</sup>

Yet super-typhoons are not the only threats to food security posed by climate change. Devastating droughts which occur during hot seasons, threaten the water supply

with reduced stream flow, declining groundwater lead to insufficient irrigation and total crop loss.<sup>36</sup>

These droughts, according to PAG-ASA, become increasingly hotter with every season, illustrated by the 2010 drought which put more than 16 provinces under the state of calamity, with billions of pesos lost in agriculture. PAG-ASA and IRRI found that for every 1 degree mean temperature increase it would mean 10 percent loss in crop yield. This 2015, while we are at a critical stage of 0.87 degrees temperature increase, PAG-ASA has forecasted that an El Niño drought is set to hit the Philippines, which would mean another substantial blow not only to the domestic use of water supply, such as for drinking, but also to the agricultural sector and subsequently, food production.

The marine ecosystem, where 60 percent of the total protein intake of Filipinos comes from, are also among those affected by the climate crisis. Warming temperature adds to the acidification of the ocean which adversely impacts marine life and marine resources.<sup>37</sup> According to a study by the World Bank on the acidification of seas in the Southeast Asian region, a 150 percent acidification rate is most likely to occur by 2100, which would mean a devastation to food production and security, not just for the Philippines but for the whole

region. Small fishing communities are unable to cope with these conditions, not with the competition of large-scale foreign fishing vessels also threatening their income. And with the poverty that comes about from these circumstances, dangerous and destructive fishing practices from communities also surface out of desperation.

Ultimately, these crises brought about by climate change are aggravated by “mal-development” projects like aquaculture, mining, and coal projects in agricultural and coastal areas. Ironically, the more businesses such as these thrive the more livelihoods of communities and general food security are threatened. Developed countries and their counterparts in other developing countries continually and increasingly rob people from vulnerable countries of the opportunity to progress, and more importantly, their right to access food food: first by being responsible for most of the damage wrought to the earth, then by putting up profit-based projects which doom people to poverty and shortage of food.

The Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), representing diverse sectors concerned with the issue of climate justice and the adverse effects of climate change, urge the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food to consider

the following in responding to the issue of climate and food security: enabling systematic changes to the agricultural sector, which would put the need and the right for food first before profit; a more substantial reduction of emissions from Annex 1 countries, and corresponding reduction from all other countries to avoid 2 degree increase and beyond; and public financing, mainly from developed countries, for adaptation measures and damages incurred to developing countries like the Philippines—particular the impacts to right to food of communities and the people.

PMCJ also urges the delegation to join our call for the Philippine government to make the necessary policy shift away from import-dependent strategy, and development projects that are exacerbating vulnerabilities, and a shift away from false solutions, and ineffective policies, programs and projects. It is also urged to put special concern and priority for the regions most devastated by the climate crisis: to diminish their vulnerability by building capacity to rehabilitate as well as resiliency, so as food security and the fundamental right to food shall be safeguarded as we collectively respond to the demands of a changing climate.

\* Statement of Val Vibal, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice

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### F. Crisis in Mindanao

Food insecurity and hunger are prevalent in Mindanao. This southern region of the country faces serious threats to land productivity, particularly in rice production, as a result of unabated mining activities approved by government. While the agricultural sector seems to be expanding, this is mainly because of the so-called cash crops that are for export. Thus, while Mindanao is viewed as the food basket of the country, the question really is who benefits from the wealth in the basket?



A small farm in Siargao Island

## Food Security Versus Mining: Impacts of Mining on Food and Waters in the Philippines

Our sources of food are highly threatened by large-scale mining operations spread all over the country. As we speak, the country's environmental resources—its forests, agricultural lands and waters can no longer provide sustainable supply for the needs of its more than 100-million population. Simply put, there is misuse and misallocation of land and water resources in favor of extractive projects such as large-scale metallic and coal mining, logging operations, as well as

large dams and dirty-energy project such as coal-fired power plants.

### Current Situation and Several Cases

Two-thirds (2/3) of the claimed and titled ancestral domains of indigenous peoples and more than 50 percent of our protected areas (PAs) and key biodiversity areas (KBAs) are directly impacted by mining.<sup>38</sup> These areas



Woman panning for gold in Brgy. Mainit, Iligan City (Photo Credit: Catherine Atienza, Fian Philippines)

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constitute the remaining forests and watersheds of our country.

The main problem is the unclear prioritization in the use of our land resources. Our Mining Law<sup>39</sup> for instance enumerates the areas where mining is not allowed, but mining permits are still issued in protected areas, prime agricultural lands, and highly environmental critical areas and even watersheds. We only have an estimated 20 percent forest cover<sup>40</sup> only 28 percent of which or 19,340 kms closed or identified as reserves, the rest are mangroves and open areas to different activities. It is also important to highlight that we do not have a national land use policy—this is why there is no overarching policy that guides the management of our land resources.

The link to food insecurity is clear—when these large extractive and development projects acquire their permits and contracts, a set of auxiliary rights are granted to the companies, to the detriment of agricultural productivity and later on to consumers. Mining companies, for instance secure water rights, easement rights, and timber rights within their mining concessions. What this translates to is less water for irrigation, faster conversion of agricultural lands to other uses, contamination of water bodies for food sources and reduced health and nutrition indicators.

In one of our sites of struggle, in the town of MacArthur in Leyte Province, the conflict between mining and food is distinct. The area is a prime agricultural land, but dominantly coconut-based has significant rice lands, and there also is a lake there where about 120 families have successfully set-up and harvested fishes in the past 10 years. The same area was granted a mining concession but the local population resisted the mining activities, especially after a massive fish kill last March 2012, and thus mining operations were suspended. The local government and several Chinese investors then just decided to go into illegal small-scale mining that actually produced more serious negative impacts including siltation in irrigation facilities. This same community suffered the devastation of Yolanda. And they are living examples of the vicious nexus of mining + climate change + disasters.

Up north, in the province of Nueva Vizcaya, also a natural resource-rich province with existing production of high-value crops and highland vegetables including rice, corn, coffee beans and root crops. There is also a thriving citrus industry owing to the cooler temperature in the area. This same province is home to two large mining projects, one is currently in full-scale commercial operations while the other is still in its exploration stage.

The link to food insecurity is traced to the sudden reduced availability of water and the diversion of a road that added another two hours of travel for the farmers to sell their crops. The planned expansion areas of the mining projects will directly convert agricultural lands.

Two other cases that we are submitting to you this afternoon are the Zambales and Tampuan, South Cotabato Cases: Sta Cruz, Zambales is losing 8,000 tons of palay (rice) production annually worth Php 200-million pesos (US\$5M). It has an estimated loss of Php 20-million pesos (US\$ 0.5M) in fish production from three major rivers and at least Php 30-million (or US\$0.75M) in from fish production from at least 100-hectares of fishponds. This is due to four nickel mining projects. While our local activists have forced our government to suspend the mining operations, the hauling of ores continue to pollute the river and farmlands in Zambales. But sadly, it will take years for the agricultural land and fishponds to recover their productivity.

In South Cotabato, the Tampuan Copper-Gold Project for instance, will directly impact 32 percent of the agricultural lands and 75 percent of the forests, of the province. Once operational, this will be largest Copper-Gol mining project in South-East Asia. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the

project admitted that the available water sources from the watersheds are not enough to meet the water-requirements of the mining project. Currently, these watersheds provide irrigation for about 20,000 farming-households who are managing farmlands of around 40,000 hectares in the downstream provinces.

I can take the whole afternoon sharing about the impacts of mining to our lands and food sources, but the bottom-line is having and will continue to threaten our food self-sufficiency and sovereignty. Even our government cannot deny that day-to-day operations and use of explosives in mining areas cause deforestation, slope destabilization, soil erosion, crop damages, as well as polluting the water and air.

Additionally, we cannot keep silent about how the impacts of climate change will contribute to expose us to more vulnerability.

## Conclusion

What we put forward is a policy shift towards a sustainable development path where there is proper natural resources management, and where development projects are geared towards preserving and safeguarding our ecosystems. This should eventually translate to the fulfillment of our right to food.

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On our end, with three networks—SOS Yamang Bayan Network, Forest Resources Bill Network and Campaign for Land Use Policy Now! Network—and many communities, we push for the passage of three natural resource management laws—the National Land Use and Management Act, Forest Resources Act and Philippine Mineral Resources Act. These bills aim to address our environmental problems and protect the people’s rights to a thriving environment.

To conclude, we submit to your office the urgent demands of

mining-affected communities for our government to address the threats to our food security by immediately enacting these legislative measures. We hope that in the next few days of your interviews and townhall meetings, you get a good picture of our national situation and enjoin our government to realize the rights of our people—the right to food, to a healthful ecology, and overall right to a good life.

\* Presented by Jaybee Garganera,  
Alyansa Tigil Mina Coordinator National  
Coordinator



Mining in Itogon (Photo Credit: Alyansa Tigil Mina)



## CHAPTER THREE

# Recommendations

Notwithstanding the negative sentiments and experiences of various stakeholders, the reported threats to the enjoyment of right to adequate food can still be addressed. There are means to ensure that violations of human right as basic as eating adequately will be reduced, if not totally eliminated.

The following proposed reforms and recommendations are divided into two: (a) national, i.e., overarching reforms that cover the entire Philippine populace; and (b) issue-based reforms, or those that are specific to the interests and collective experience of certain groups of stakeholders.

### A. Proposed National Policy

#### 1. At the Level of Legislation (Congress)

If any reform were to be made to ensure the immediate realization of the right to adequate food, a good start would have to happen in Congress.

On February 3, 2014, House Bill No. 3795, or the Zero-Hunger Bill, was filed in the House of Representatives. The proposed measure is now pending before the House Committee on Human Rights.

In a nutshell, the Zero-Hunger Bill aims to lay down a comprehensive framework for the right to adequate food by harmonizing provisions of existing laws, thereby clarifying the scope and content of said right. It also aims to establish standards for compliance, as well as principles that would shape the process of realization and help prohibit violations of the human right.

HB 3795 sets a target to achieve “zero hunger” in ten years. In the same period, it aims to increase to 50 percent of prime agricultural areas in every region as lands devoted to food production to meet the target.

The bill also provides for the creation of the (1) Commission on the Right to Adequate Food; (2) Inter-Agency Council on the Right to Adequate Food; and (3) an Integrated Monitoring System in all government agencies at all levels to facilitate and ensure the realization of this right immediately.

In the Senate, a counterpart bill was filed on February 24, 2014; it is now pending with the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

To ensure the quick passage of the proposed law, members of Congress who can serve as “champions” or advocates of

the House and Senate bills are needed. To this end, the endorsement of the UN Special Rapporteur would be a great incentive for the Philippine government, particularly the legislators, to “prioritize” the enactment of the intended law.

## **2. At the Level of Implementation (Executive)**

Aside from putting the right to adequate food in the legislative agenda, the Philippine government, particularly the executive department, must articulate its own national food policy, with the full and active participation of all actors concerned, especially those most vulnerable to hunger. The adoption of a national food policy must be made independent of the legislative efforts to pass into law the Zero Hunger Bill. After all, the right to adequate food is already contained in Philippine laws, but are scattered piecemeal in various provisions and executive issuances. Hence, the articulation and implementation of a national food policy would not require an enabling legislation.

The UN Special Rapporteur can engage the relevant executive agencies, such as the Department of Budget and Management, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Social Welfare and Development. A clarificatory and exploratory discussion with them would help if only to ensure that these departments have their interests aligned with respect to food security. This way, the executive department, as the one responsible for implementing the law, would get pressure from the outside and

take seriously the hunger situation in the Philippines.

The talks can be initiated with the help of the National Food Coalition (NFC). The NFC was launched in 2012 to respond to the growing hunger and impoverishment in Philippine society. Its objective is to push the government to establish a coherent legal framework that recognizes and protects the right of every Filipino to adequate food.

The NFC is composed of more than 70 organizations and federations with more than 10,000 members coming from the different sectors of civil society. Its steering committee is led by FIAN Philippines and the Peoples Development Institute (PDI) together with the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (Philrights), and Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao (AFRIM).

## **3. At the Level of Adjudication (Judiciary)**

Alongside the enactment and implementation of a human rights law promoting the right to adequate food, redress mechanisms must also be made available in case of violations of the right. This is where Philippine courts come in, which under the Philippine Constitution, are under the direct supervision of the Supreme Court.

The UN Special Rapporteur can conduct an official meeting with the Philippine Supreme Court and engage the magistrates on the promotion of human rights. While legislation is within the

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province of Congress, the Supreme Court also has rule-making power under the Constitution for the "...protection and enforcement of constitutional rights" and "pleading, practice and procedure in all courts." For instance, during the time of former Chief Justice Reynato Puno, the Philippine Supreme Court promulgated A.M. No. 07-9-12-SC, or the Rule on the Writ of Amparo, at the height of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances. It was also during former Chief Justice Puno's time when A.M. NO. 08-1-16-SC, or the Rule on the Writ of Habeas Data, was adopted as remedy for those whose right to privacy in life, liberty or security was being violated. Both these legal instruments show that the Supreme Court, if motivated from within, has the capacity to be instrumental in the protection and promotion of human rights by putting in place redress mechanisms. The same can be done with respect to the realization of the right to adequate food in the country.

### B. Reforms Proposed by Specific Stakeholders

#### 1. Strict Enforcement of Land Rights

To promote and realize the property and cultural rights of indigenous people over their ancestral domains, the government, particularly the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, must be more vigilant in implementing the IPRA. The NCIP must not favor the interests of private corporations such as mining companies. This can be done by

ensuring that the FPIC of the indigenous community is obtained through genuine means rather than through coercion or indirect pressure. It is also the obligation of local governments to assist by providing basic services to the community in the ancestral domains so that private companies and other groups cannot take advantage of the situation of the indigenous group.

The UN Special Rapporteur can present to the NCIP the grievances of the indigenous tribes and seek steps that have been undertaken to remedy the same. It would also help if the UN Special Rapporteur can ask for a formal dialogue with the local governments and explore how the latter can help in preventing the unlawful ejection of indigenous groups from their ancestral domains or against the persistent trespassing of private corporations into these lands.

As for the landless farmers, the agrarian reform program must be effectively and fully implemented. Foremost of the concerns that need to be addressed is the involvement of the military and the police in the extrajudicial killing and/or harassment of vigilant farmers and defenders of lands. Their involvement is partly not surprising, though, as Philippine history is replete with stories of how the military has been used to protect vested interests of the elite, in particular the land-owning class.

The UN Special Rapporteur can coordinate with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to verify these serious allegations of human rights

violations by the military and police. If possible, official and documented reports can be made available to the UN Special Rapporteur about these killings and harassment, and where they are most rampant.

Furthermore, the UN Special Rapporteur can also have an official dialogue with the President, as the commander-in-chief of the military, and the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government as the supervisory agency of the police, to discuss these violations. It would be best if both parties would be present together with the respective chiefs-of-staff or a high-ranking officer from the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police. The heart of the discussion must be the role of the military and the police in ensuring respect for human rights alongside their mandated duty to protect territorial integrity (for the military) and to promote peace and order (for the police).

The UN Special Rapporteur can ask from the four parties if a commitment can be formally entered into, which they can sign as clear gesture of support for the right to adequate food, a necessary component of the right to life, especially of the landless farmers.

If need be, the UN Special Rapporteur can also relay to the international community the grievances of the hapless farmers with respect to their lands and harassment by landlords, aided in many cases by the security forces of

government. Understandably, redress mechanisms within the State must be exhausted before lodging a formal complaint before international bodies. Hence, at the very least, international human rights bodies, such as the UN HRC, CESCR or regional human rights groups must investigate these reports of human rights abuses. The objective is to make the military and the police realize that they cannot commit human rights violations with impunity. The ultimate hope is for them to disengage from the landowners who use them as private security forces.

All these are geared towards the Philippine government realizing that without access to and control of land by the tillers themselves, there can be no right to food, not only for the farmers, but for the entire Filipino population.

## **2. Government Assistance to Smallholder Agriculture**

Small farmers express support for the Food Security and Rice Sufficiency Program and Food Staples Self-Sufficiency Roadmap of the Department of Agriculture. However, there are now debates between the Department of Agriculture and the National Economic and Development Authority over the rice importation quota, which should have ended in 2014. The DA argues for another five-year extension which would mean that the country will continue to limit the volume of rice it imports as a measure to protect its rice industry and achieve rice self-sufficiency; while the NEDA argues for the lifting of

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the quota in favor of 40 percent tariff protection and pave way for greater rice importation.

The UN Special Rapporteur can help by communicating to the government, particularly the Department of Agriculture, that the small farmers can help the government achieve its desired rice self-sufficiency. However, to do this, the small farmers need the support of government in the form of subsidy, equitable allocation of lands, and other support services such as the provision of seeds and construction of farm-to-market roads. Furthermore, the small farmers want the government to know that they oppose the policy of liberalization and deregulation of the agriculture sector.

Like other laws, the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) is imbued with good intentions, but these intentions must be transformed into implementation. AFMAA was passed—effective in 1997 to modernize Philippine agriculture and fisheries and increase the productivity of farmers and fishers to allow them to compete in local and foreign markets.

The proposed National Land Use bill must also be enacted into law. The objective of the proposed measure is to protect irrigated or irrigable areas like watersheds. This way, rice production is ensured consistent with the desired self-sufficiency program of the government.

Finally, a proper balance must be struck between national economic gains and

food security for the people, especially in the rural areas. While cash crops serve the interests of the government for now, the long-term implications of prioritizing this as economic goal, such as unintended consequences on food security, must be seriously addressed by the Department of Agriculture.

As regards the artisanal/municipal fisherfolk, the UN Special Rapporteur is urged to call on the cooperation of other UN member nations and relevant national agencies in the promotion of sustainable fisheries management. One way to achieve this is to ensure ecological protection as well. A sensitive list of products and resources that are proven to be threatened or over harvested must be drawn up. Commodities in the sensitive list should be exempted from tariff reduction in multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations and should be given protection during spawning period. Some examples are the small pelagic species in the Philippines, such as roundscad, mackerel, sardines, and anchovies, among others.

The UN should also consider harmonizing Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries with international trade policies, such as those by WTO-GATT and similarly mandated organizations.

For the artisanal fishers' community, a well-managed fishery guarantees sustainable trade. For this reason, UN

member nations are urged to support and pursue community-based coastal resource management (CBCRM). Small-scale fisheries are sitting directly on two-thirds of the resource base. Small scale fisheries have market potential if resource rent is taken into account in the market.

To address the negative environmental and social impacts of aquaculture and its expansion in coastal communities, UN member nations and relevant agencies must encourage Good Aquaculture Practices (GAPs), as irresponsible aquaculture affects capture fisheries management. There should be a combination of state regulation and market discipline in attaining a socially responsible, environmentally sound and economically viable aquaculture industry. Therefore, priority should be given to vulnerability assessments, adaptation, and mitigation financing and support to coastal communities.

The UN Special Rapporteur is urged to communicate with the other UN member nations and relevant agencies to address the issue of reducing human threats to corals, mangrove areas, sea grass beds, estuaries, living shorelines, and others. In this regard, the prior and informed consent of the coastal community must first be secured and socio-environmental impact assessments conducted before so-called "coastal/fishery-related development" projects can be set up. Illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing (IUU) in the Southeast Asia Region must be prohibited in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the

Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the UN-FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the UN Charter, and Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.

### **3. Social Protection of Urban Informal Sector**

Social protection is defined as "all initiatives that: (1) provide income (cash) or consumption (food) transfers to the poor; (2) protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks; (3) enhance the social status and rights of the excluded and marginalized."<sup>41</sup> There are many social protection instruments that enhance food security, namely input subsidies, weather and health insurance, public works programs, targeted food subsidies, and conditional cash transfers. As regards input subsidies, the UN Special Rapporteur is urged to endorse to the government and the Department of Social Welfare and Development the shift to sustainable agriculture as advocated by the FAO. Such type of agriculture respects the soil and does not deplete it. It is also ecologically-friendly because not too much water is required, as opposed to agricultural practices or systems promoting the use of pesticides. Weather-index based insurance can work (there are a few cases in the Philippines to substantiate this), provided that farmers are sufficiently trained and informed through accompanying financial literacy programs.

What is more commonly being promoted and implemented in many other countries is what is known as urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA). Although not yet able

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to provide enough, UPA is considered a major strategy to help ensure food security in cities. This type of agriculture covers the growing of plants and animals within and around urban centers, including “agro-parks, vertical farming, rooftop farming, aquaponics, aeroponics, and the like.” Because food supply is nearby, transport and storage costs are also minimized.

The UN has identified UPA as a key strategy in attaining the Millennium Development Goals. For example, UPA facilitates the attainment of Goal 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) by increasing nutrition levels, reducing the need to buy food, creating income through the sale of agricultural products, and employing vulnerable groups. Under Goal 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women), UPA strengthens livelihood groups and networks among women, allows for more flexible use of their time for production, increases their income and financial independence. Under Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability), UPA promotes recycling of solid waste and water, helps absorb pollution, and reduces erosion.

Farming has always been associated with rural areas, a reality which is evident in the Philippines. Agriculture is concentrated in the countryside while the urban centers serve as the market for the produce. Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that UPA has been adopted by national and local government units, educational institutions, non-government organizations, families/households, and organized civil society groups to address

food security in the Philippines. UPA here means the production of food or agricultural products within the confines of the cities, which may also include population centers in bustling towns. For many practitioners, UPA refers not merely to the growing of food crops and fruit trees but also the raising of animals, such as poultry, fish, bees, rabbits, guinea pigs, or other livestock considered edible locally. UPA advocates claim that if done on a massive scale, it can ease up the problem of food insecurity in the urban communities. It has aesthetic value as well since it can enhance the beauty of communities and homes.

As regards targeted food subsidies and conditional cash transfers, they are more problematic to implement, given the tendency for inclusion and exclusion errors, substantial “leakages” due to corruption, as well as their stopgap nature. CCTS also have social costs for women, as they are relied upon to do all the work at implementation level while the men are not expected to perform similar responsibility.

Social protection policies and programs should be coherent with and complementary to a host of other policies and programs which cover not only the social and productive sectors but also the financial sector. Macro-economic policies on trade, investments, taxes, budget, and the like should also be anchored on human rights so that they become more transformative in character. By being human rights-based, social protection instruments can also avoid the stigma of being considered mere dole outs or band-

aid solutions to the essentially systemic problems of poverty and vulnerability. Article 1 of the ICCPR and the ICESCR, which guarantees the right to internal self-determination, is foundational here.

Social protection should bring in the whole question of the “working poor,” the majority of employed people in the world belonging to the informal economy, many of whom are women. Considering that the working poor, given the global data provided by the ILO, are here to stay and are bound to increase as a result of the continuing impact of globalization on the labor market as well as various financial, environmental, and social crises besetting many countries, social protection interventions in their interest would likely not be temporary, but more long-term to ensure progressive realization of economic, social, and cultural rights. Graduating to solidarity-based sustainable livelihood is in this context important as a transition from emergency employment, a stopgap measure. Furthermore, various categories of the poor are also subject to change given the fluidity of climatic and other conditions. The working poor today can easily fall into the category of absolute or chronic poor tomorrow.

In sum, a solidarity-based community garden is a model for expanding and deepening access to and convergence of productive resources such as land, seeds, tools, labor, technology, supplies, finance, and markets in the urban setting. It illustrates a community-based supply chain where responsibilities are shared by people-managed enterprises, the

state through local government, and the private sector. Community-based interventions with support from local governments and other stakeholders have a strong opportunity to work well. They provide a glimpse of the urban future, with organized groups claiming the right to produce and consume nutritious food for themselves and their communities.

#### **4. Women, Children, and PWDs**

The UN Special Rapporteur is urged to champion and advocate the participation of women in the crafting by the government of a masterplan for food security. There should also be state support to women’s access to sustainable agriculture and community-based coastal resource management.

The State should implement its laws on women such as the Magna Carta of Women, its Section 20 focusing on food security and access to productive resources. The government should provide timely and accurate data on the status of its implementation. Another important law pertinent to the situation of women is the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program with Extension and Reform, which has a provision on the right of rural women. Active mobilization of women in the communities (as partners of men in ensuring food self-sufficiency) should be supported by government.

With respect to the right of children to adequate food, the UN Special Rapporteur is urged to advocate for the

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passage of pending bills on nutrition in Congress while safeguarding provisions of the Philippine Milk Code. Human resource for nutrition must also be institutionalized through reforms in the role of the Municipal Nutrition Action Officers (MNAO) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS). In addition, the government must implement and monitor the Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (PIMAM), promote Positive Deviance Hearth (PDHearth), and improve budget and transparency to sustain the gains of nutrition programs while monitoring and correcting the gaps.

The UN Special Rapporteur is likewise urged to recommend to other organizations the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Alliance in the Philippines and the recognition thereof by the government as a partner in the promotion of children's right to adequate food. The government must also facilitate training and advocacy to enhance disaster preparedness programs that better address children's nutrition, and implement key interventions to support Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices during Emergencies (IYCF-E).

IYCF-E exemplifies the importance of active engagement between government and non-government actors. These include the establishment of mother-baby friendly spaces to foster familial and social support; facilitate the provision of service and delivery of key messages; skilled breastfeeding counselling and support; complementary feeding counselling and supplements.

The latter may consist of basic food-aid commodities from general rations with supplements of inexpensive locally available foods, micronutrient fortified blended foods, and additional nutrient-rich foods in supplementary feeding programs. There should also be provision of appropriate feeding for eligible infants with no possibility of breastfeeding; communication and education aiming for behaviour change via established linkages with existing breastfeeding mother support groups within and in nearby affected areas; and ways for addressing HIV and infant feeding.

With respect to PWDs, the UN Special Rapporteur is urged to recommend to the government, particularly the local government units, to reconsider existing policies on relief distribution and to take into account the welfare of PWDs. Voting requirement must be dispensed with in the allocation of relief goods. Distribution plans must be devised to ensure that relief goods reach the victims who are rendered immobile by their physical condition rather than forcing these same victims to go to the distribution centers themselves.

### **5. Environmental Reforms and the Pursuit of Climate Justice**

With respect to addressing environmental issues, the UN Special Rapporteur is urged to consider the following in responding to the issue of climate and food security. One, systemic changes to the agricultural sector must be made such that the need and the right for food be made

first before profit. Two, emissions from Annex 1 countries must be substantially reduced even further, and corresponding reduction from all other countries to avoid two-degree increase and beyond. Three, public financing, mainly from developed countries, must be in place for adaptation measures and damages incurred to developing countries like the Philippines, particularly the impacts to right to food of communities and the people.

The UN Special Rapporteur is also urged to join the call of Philippine civil society groups for the Philippine government to make the necessary shift away from policies on import-dependent strategy, development projects that are exacerbating climate change vulnerabilities, false solutions, and ineffective policies, programs, and projects. It is also urged to prioritize the regions most devastated by the climate crisis, so as to diminish their vulnerability by building their capacity to rehabilitate and for resiliency.

## **6. Finding Lasting Solution for Mindanao**

Understandably, because of the current security situation in Mindanao, a personal visit by the UN Special Rapporteur may not be practical at the moment. However, to still address the problems being experienced by the people living there, the UN Special Rapporteur is urged to, at the very least, call on national line agencies and departments to act towards achieving equitable resource access, distribution

and enjoyment in Mindanao. As already explained, the problems of land grabbing, environmental degradation, and extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances similarly happen in and affect Mindanao.

## **7. Seed Conservation**

With respect to seed conservation, the UN Special Rapporteur is urged to support the immediate signing and promulgation of the proposed executive order by the Philippines providing for the collection, characterization, conservation, protection, and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. At the local level, local government units must be encouraged to promote sustainable agriculture through the adoption of organic farming practices and establishment of seed banks to conserve and manage farmer-bred and traditional seed varieties.

Before drafting a national PVP law or before agreeing to or introducing intellectual property provisions in international trade and investment agreements, the Philippine government must undertake a comprehensive human rights impact assessment. The linkages between the formal and informal seed systems must also be improved and a differentiated approach must be applied to PVP for different users and different crops. The impact of PVP laws must be monitored at all times, with particular attention to ways in which PVP-related laws or policies impact different segments of the population.

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Seed certification also deserves a complete and comprehensive review because of its existing exclusionary provisions affecting small farmers. Farmer-developed rice varieties must be recognized so as not to deprive small farmers proper access to the market.

Finally, with respect to the issue on GMOs, Executive Order 430 and the Philippine bio-safety guidelines must be reviewed. The mandate of the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP) under the executive issuance must be reconsidered. For one, the NCBP has not been up to task in its duty to raise public awareness on the issues and

development of genetic engineering. Instead, it has concentrated its efforts on processing and approving applications of field trials of genetically engineered crops like Bt corn, Bt eggplant and golden rice. The leadership role of the Department of Science and Technology in the NCBP needs to be re-assessed in view of the flagship programs of the department that are centered on modern biotechnology. The Philippine Biosafety Guidelines should likewise be reviewed in light of recent developments in genetic engineering worldwide and the entry into force of the International Biosafety Protocol under the Convention of Biological Diversity.

## Endnotes

- 1 Art. 4 (2), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- 2 *Id.* Art. 6 (1).
- 3 5, General Comment No. 6, Sixteenth Session of the Human Rights Committee (1982).
- 4 Art. 11, ICESCR.
- 5 Art. 2, ICCPR.
- 6 Art. 2, ICESCR.
- 7 *Spouses Imbong vs. Ochoa, Jr.*, G.R. No. 204819, April 8, 2014.
- 8 *Id.*
- 9 *Secretary of National Defense vs. Manalo*, G.R. No. 180906, October 7, 2008, 568 SCRA 1.
- 10 International Food Policy Research Institute, Welt Hunger Hilfe, and Concern Worldwide, 2014 Global Hunger Index: The Challenge of Hidden Hunger, Bonn/Washington, D.C./Dublin October 2014 <http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ghi14.pdf>, accessed on February 24, 2015.
- 11 See International Food Policy Research Institute's website: <https://www.ifpri.org/publication/2014-global-hunger-index-data>.
- 12 <http://www.fao.org/docrep/018/i3434e/i3434e.pdf>, accessed on February 24, 2015.
- 13 See Social Weather Station, Fourth Quarter 2014 Social Weather Survey: Hunger falls to 17.2% of families; Moderate Hunger 13.2%, Severe Hunger 4.1%, January 26, 2015, <http://www.sws.org.ph/>.
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- 16 *Id.*
- 17 Habito, C. *Economic Growth for All*, Philippine Daily Inquirer, June 26, 2012.
- 18 8, General Comment No. 12, Twentieth Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1999).
- 19 2, Art. XII, Phil. Const.
- 20 *Cruz vs. Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources*, 400 Phil. 904 (2000).
- 21 *Id.*
- 22 *Id.*
- 23 *Id.*
- 24 *Id.*
- 25 Bello, et.al, (2014) *State of Fragmentation: The Philippines in Transition, Quezon City: FES and Focus on the Global South*.
- 26 The international treaty is a comprehensive agreement on the promotion of food security through the seed conservation, exchange, and sustainable use of the global plant genetic resources as well as the fair and equitable sharing of the use of these resources. For more information, download <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0510e/i0510e.pdf>
- 27 Data from the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (2008).
- 28 SEAFDEC data.
- 29 PSA, 2014, as cited by Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan/ National Rural Women Coalition, "Women and the Right to Food", February 20, 2015.
- 30 Figures provided by the NDRRMC Report on the respective typhoons.
- 31 Figures provided by the NDRRMC Report on Yolanda.
- 32 As presented by PAGASA in the International Workshop on Drought and Extreme Temperatures: Preparedness and Management for Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry.
- 33 PMCJ statement for Fisherfolk day 2014.
- 34 Figures provided by the NDRRMC Report on the respective typhoons.
- 35 Figures provided by the NDRRMC Report on Yolanda.
- 36 As presented by PAGASA in the International Workshop on Drought and Extreme Temperatures: Preparedness and Management for Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry.
- 37 PMCJ statement for Fisherfolk day 2014
- 38 PAFID, 2007 and HARIBON, 2006
- 39 RA 7942 or the Philippine Mining Act of 1995
- 40 Forest Management Bureau or FMB, 2010
- 41 Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler, 2004, as cited by PATAMABA Statement.

# ANNEX 1

## Powerpoint Presentations

### Towards the Creation of a National Food Framework Law in the Philippines



National Food Coalition  
81 Marasalin St., Sakatuna village  
Davao, Davao City, Philippines



**Towards the Creation of a National Food Framework Law in the Philippines**

By:  
Aurea G. Mical-Teves  
Convener, National Food Coalition  
President, RAN Philippines  
President, FDI

#### National Food Situation



2013 – Philippine Economy grow by 7.2%  
**BUT** → 40 Richest Filipinos accounted for 70% of the country's GDP  
(Habito, Economic Growth for all, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 26 June 2012)



**The Food Situation in the Philippines**

#### Poverty Line

2011 - National Government Statistics Office Lowered the Poverty Level in February 2011 to PhP7,017.00 monthly from PhP7,953.00 for a family of 5 (from \$1.20 to \$1.06 per person per day for food and non food expenses)  
(The lowering of official poverty line, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 10 February 2011)



#### Situation of Hunger in the Philippines



Philippines ranks 28th in the world in global hunger prevalence. (Global Hunger Index)  
around 41% or 8.8 million Filipino households considered themselves food poor. (SWS Survey)  
An estimated 15.6 million Filipinos were considered undernourished from 2011 to 2013. (FNRI)

#### Result of Lowering Poverty Line

"In Lowering the poverty threshold, the government reclassified 5.4% of all families of about 1 million families from poor to non-poor"  
(Majar Mangahas, Head of Social Weather Station)

The lowering of poverty line reduces the number of poor by 5.3 million without really improving the poverty situation. Thus, the proclamation of the government that the hunger situation has improved in 2014 is highly questionable.



### Malnutrition



**National Nutrition Survey (FNRI), 2013** Number of underweight children 0-5 years slightly dropped from 20.2% in 2011 to 19.9% in 2013

Wasting (Low weight for height indicator) Rose from 7.3% to 7.9% in 2013. The FNRI said those suffering from severe wasting were nine times more at risk to mortality compared to those with mildly wasting or well-nourished children.



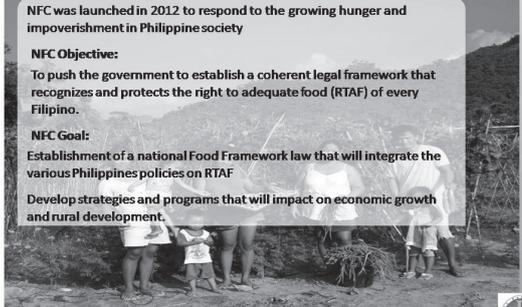
### The National Food Coalition (NFC)

NFC was launched in 2012 to respond to the growing hunger and impoverishment in Philippine society

**NFC Objective:**  
To push the government to establish a coherent legal framework that recognizes and protects the right to adequate food (RTAF) of every Filipino.

**NFC Goal:**  
Establishment of a national Food Framework law that will integrate the various Philippines policies on RTAF

Develop strategies and programs that will impact on economic growth and rural development.




### Assessment of the Philippine Legal Framework (PLF) Governing on the RTAF

- \*There is no explicit recognition of the right to adequate food in the Philippine Constitution, thus resulting in a weak Philippine legal framework on RTAF;
- \*The lack of a national food policy to serve as overarching framework to address hunger results in an incoherent, non-complementary and even conflicting Philippine legal framework;
- \*The national budget does not reflect the obligation to eradicate hunger, thus causing issues of poor performance in implementation of laws;
- \*The national human rights institutions contribute little to redress breaches of the right to adequate food due to tremendous imposition with regard to civil and political human rights violations and to limitations in their mandates;
- \*The law-making processes leave much to be desired;
- \*Government and public awareness of the right to adequate food is lacking;
- \*There is weak implementation of laws and policies and there is a lack of government support to agriculture, fisheries and agrarian reform;
- \*Conflicting policies cause crises in program planning and implementation;
- \*There are no safeguards to cushion the negative effects of food price volatilities.



### The NFC steering committee:

Led by FIAN Philippines and the Peoples Development Institute (PDI) together with the Philippine Human Rights Information Center (Philrights) and Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao (AFRIM).

Composed of more than 70 organizations and federations with more than 10,000 members coming from the different sectors of civil society for a multi-sectoral approach needed to solve problems of hunger.



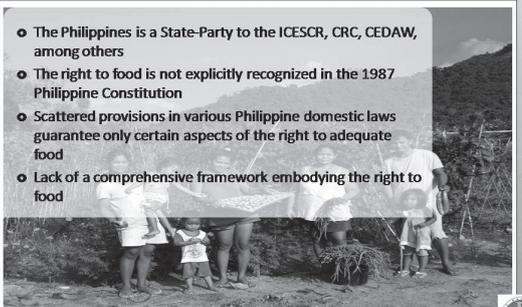

### Recommendations:

1. Adoption of a national food policy, with the full and active participation of all actors concerned, including those most vulnerable to hunger.
2. Using the national food policy to rationalize the legal framework governing food by synchronizing laws, addressing contradiction in policy objectives correcting flaws and ambiguities, repealing laws that obstruct the realization of the RTAF, aligning the budget to the national food policy, enhancing the mandates of the national human rights institutions and improving the process of law making.
3. Capacity development on the RTAF, and the promotion of RDA for the establishment and implementation of the national policy governing the RTAF for all and to monitor the state's HR accountability.



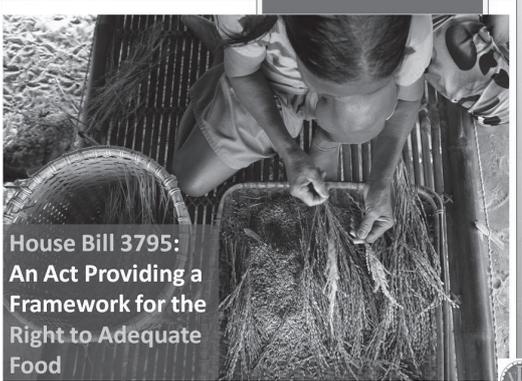

### Philippine Context

- o The Philippines is a State-Party to the ICESCR, CRC, CEDAW, among others
- o The right to food is not explicitly recognized in the 1987 Philippine Constitution
- o Scattered provisions in various Philippine domestic laws guarantee only certain aspects of the right to adequate food
- o Lack of a comprehensive framework embodying the right to food





National Food Coalition

House Bill 3795:  
An Act Providing a Framework for the Right to Adequate Food

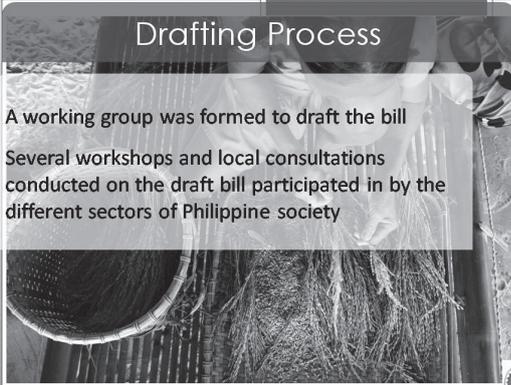


## The Right to Food

### Drafting Process

A working group was formed to draft the bill

Several workshops and local consultations conducted on the draft bill participated in by the different sectors of Philippine society



### House Bill 3795: An Act Providing a Framework for the Right to Adequate Food

HB 3795 is founded on the following principles:

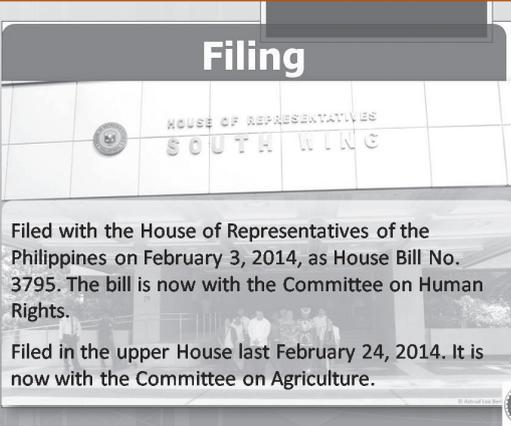
- **Participation** (Paglahok)
- **Accountability** (Pananagutan)
- **Non-discrimination** (Kawalan ng Diskriminasyon)
- **Transparency** (Malayang impormasyon)
- **Human dignity** (Dignidad)
- **Empowerment** (Pagbibigay kapangyarihan)
- **Rule of Law** (Panuntunan ng Batas)



### Filing

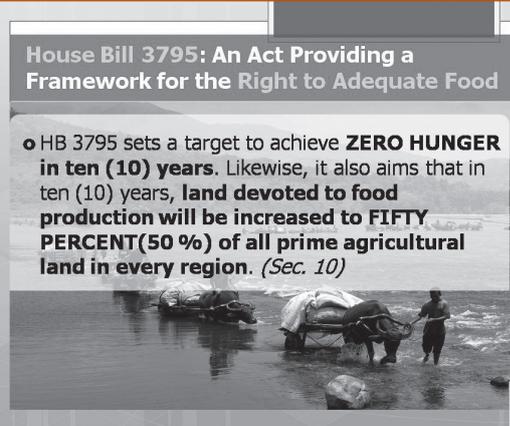
Filed with the House of Representatives of the Philippines on February 3, 2014, as House Bill No. 3795. The bill is now with the Committee on Human Rights.

Filed in the upper House last February 24, 2014. It is now with the Committee on Agriculture.



### House Bill 3795: An Act Providing a Framework for the Right to Adequate Food

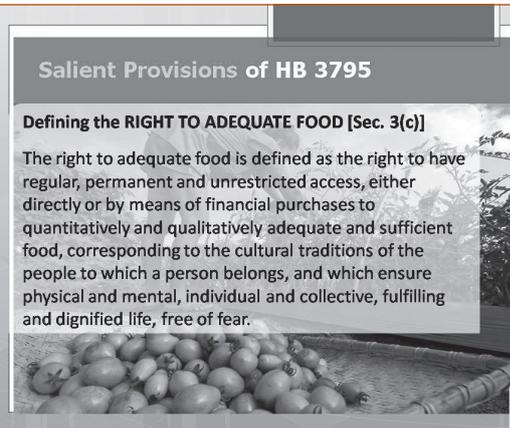
- HB 3795 sets a target to achieve **ZERO HUNGER in ten (10) years**. Likewise, it also aims that in ten (10) years, **land devoted to food production will be increased to FIFTY PERCENT (50 %) of all prime agricultural land in every region.** (Sec. 10)



### Salient Provisions of HB 3795

#### Defining the RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD [Sec. 3(c)]

The right to adequate food is defined as the right to have regular, permanent and unrestricted access, either directly or by means of financial purchases to quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and sufficient food, corresponding to the cultural traditions of the people to which a person belongs, and which ensure physical and mental, individual and collective, fulfilling and dignified life, free of fear.



### House Bill 3795: An Act Providing a Framework for the Right to Adequate Food

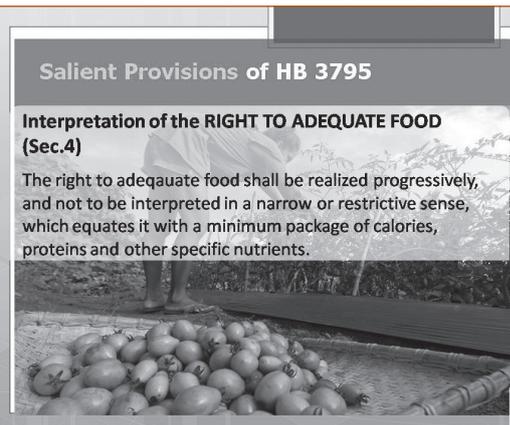
- HB 3795 is a **comprehensive framework law** that will not only harmonize provisions of laws related to Filipinos' right to adequate food but would (a) **allow to clarify the scope and content of the right**, (b) **establish standards for compliance**, (c) **lay down principles to shape the process of realization**, and (d) **prohibit violations of the right to adequate food**.



### Salient Provisions of HB 3795

#### Interpretation of the RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD (Sec.4)

The right to adequate food shall be realized progressively, and not to be interpreted in a narrow or restrictive sense, which equates it with a minimum package of calories, proteins and other specific nutrients.



**Salient Provisions of HB 3795**

**Freedom from Hunger (Sec. 6)**

Every person suffering from hunger or undernutrition, or at risk of suffering from hunger or undernutrition is entitled to a minimum amount of food.



**Lobby Work in Congress**

**Training on Lobby Work**

20 selected PO Leaders both men and women, were trained on how and what to lobby in Congress

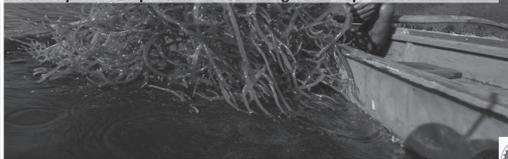


**Salient Provisions of HB 3795**

**Regular, reliable and timely delivery of minimum amount of food. (Sec.15)**

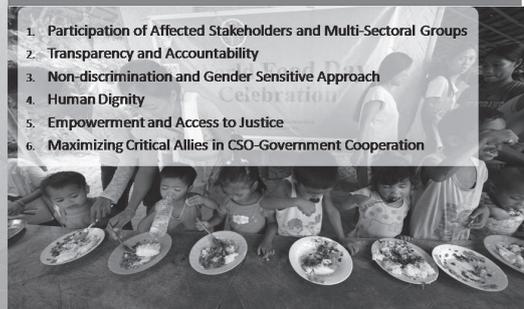
Implementing rules and regulations will be adopted setting the minimum amount of food.

Inclusion in the National Appropriations Law the allocation of resources necessary for the implementation of the right to adequate food.



**Mechanisms for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Government Relations**

1. Participation of Affected Stakeholders and Multi-Sectoral Groups
2. Transparency and Accountability
3. Non-discrimination and Gender Sensitive Approach
4. Human Dignity
5. Empowerment and Access to Justice
6. Maximizing Critical Allies in CSO-Government Cooperation



**Salient Provisions of HB 3795**

**Rationalization of Policies (Sec. 26)**

Existing policies, laws, decrees, executive orders, memorandum orders, memorandum circulars, administrative orders, and ordinances will be rationalized in accordance with the right to adequate food.



**What do we need to do to Pass this Measure?**



- Consolidating the "CHAMPIONS" in Congress and Organizing the other interested Congressmen.
- Continuing training of advocates in lobby work and communications
- Multi-sectoral approach in legislative engagement
- Establish networks with allies in the media and the Church
- Continuing lobby work in Congress and Senate

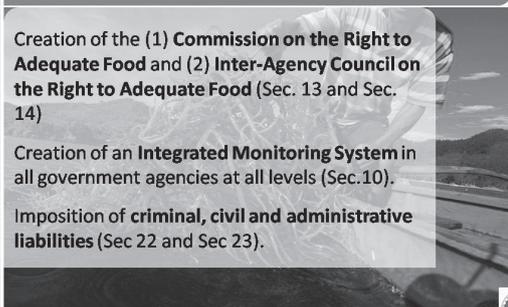


**Salient Provisions of HB 3795**

Creation of the (1) **Commission on the Right to Adequate Food** and (2) **Inter-Agency Council on the Right to Adequate Food** (Sec. 13 and Sec. 14)

Creation of an **Integrated Monitoring System** in all government agencies at all levels (Sec.10).

Imposition of **criminal, civil and administrative liabilities** (Sec 22 and Sec 23).



**What do we need to do to Pass this Measure?**

- Creative activities that will spark the interest of legislators and stakeholders (photo exhibits in Congress, poster-making in schools and communities) and will popularize the Right to Adequate Food campaign
- Provide 'tokens' to policy-makers in the form of plates containing our message
- Further enhancement of the Campaign Plan



# Ang Lawa ay Buhay at Kabuhayan ng Maralitang Mangingisda -MAPAGPALA



Ang Lawa ay buhay at kabuhayan ng Maralitang Mangingisda -MAPAGPALA

## Issue 2. Ferryboat Station



Laguna Lake: 91,000 hectares, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest lake in Asia, 34% contribution of fish supply in Metro Manila



## Issue 3. Dredging

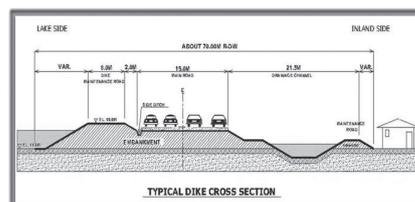


## ISSUES KAUGNAY SA ACCESS SA KARAPATAN SA SAPAT NA PAGKAIN

Issue 1: Lake Fishcarrying capacity/illegal fishpens (18,000)



## Issue 4. RingRoad dike



**Issue 5. Source of Drinking Water of Metro Manila (Maynilad, Manila Waters , 1 Million cubic meters of H2O/daily)**



**Karapatan sa Sapat na Pagkain at mga Mangingisda**

- Laguna Lake Conservation (Development) Authority Bill
- Sustainable Livelihood Program
- FISHERFOLK SETTLEMENT, etc.

-maraming salamat po !

# The Child's Right to Food

## The Child's Right to Food



**NGO Coalition CRC**  
Convention on the Rights of the Child

### GAINS

- Mortality rates among infants and children has steadily decreased since 1990, which is an indicator of the ability of families as well as the government to provide for their basic health and nutrition needs.
- under-five mortality went down from 80 in 1990 to 30 per 1,000 live births in 2011. Infant mortality also decreased from 57 to 22 per 1000 live births. In view of the current pace of progress in infant and under-five mortality, the country is seen to be on track towards achieving the MDG targets.



July 2014 paper by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS)

### Philippine government measures

- Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2011-2016: the "provision of equal access to development opportunities across geographic areas and across different income and social spectrum, which will ensure that economic growth and opportunities translate to poverty reduction."
- Laws: Executive Order 51 or the Philippine Milk Code, RA 10028 or the Expanded Breastfeeding and Promotion Act, and RA 7600 or the Rooming-in and Breastfeeding Act of 1992.

However, consistency and sustainability remain crucial.

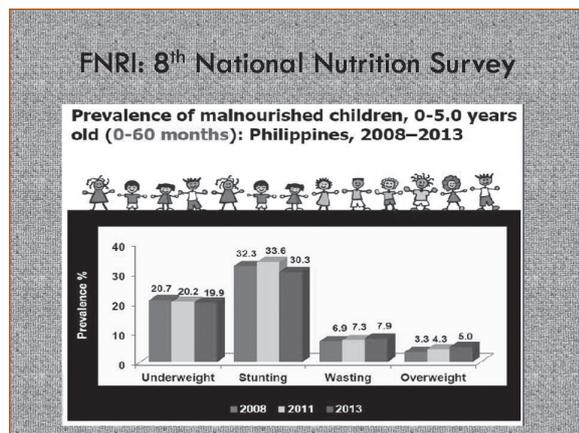
- The Nutrition Barometer, a 2012 study by World Vision and Save the Children found the country's political and legal commitment to children's nutrition as 'emerging,' while its financial commitment as 'faint.'
- regional gaps in access remain problematic.
  - Mortality rates among infants and children in Eastern Visayas, MIMAROPA, CARAGA, and Northern Mindanao lag behind.

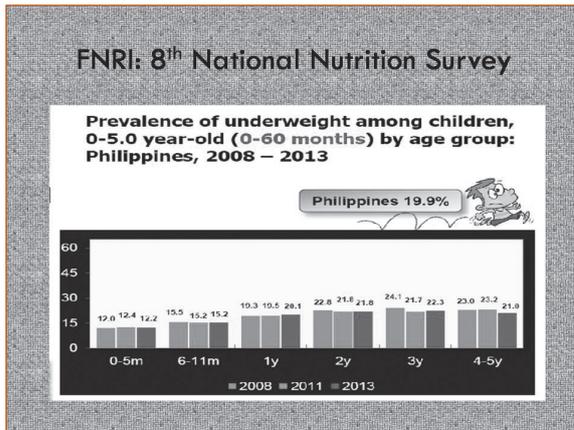


### Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Movement

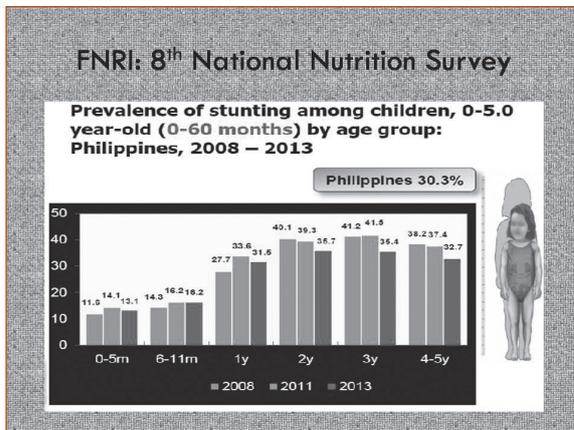


- The Philippines is also the 51st country to join the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Movement
- a unique Movement founded on the principle that all people have a right to food and good nutrition.
- unites people—from governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, businesses and researchers—in a collective effort to improve nutrition.

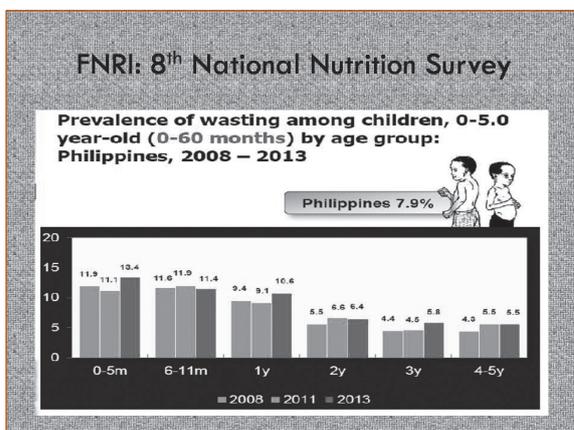




With nutrition programs devolved to local government, the functions of the Municipal Nutrition Action Officers (MNAO) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) are hardly maximized as their tenure coincides with the Mayor's term. In some areas, Mayors appoint relatives to the post who are not even nutritionist by profession.

**THE PREVALENCE OF CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS IN THE PHILIPPINES MAY ALSO EXACERBATE THESE CONDITIONS.**

**Adequate Food**  
Sustaining good nutrition in times of Disasters

Challenge: Distribution of Formula Milk as donation to disaster-stricken areas



Many NGOs are alarmed that the government might consider lifting the ban as companies take this opportunity to promote infant formula again as breast milk substitutes through donation in the ongoing emergency response.

- with the considerable number of children in extremely poor families, there may be many who do not meet the daily nutrient requirements. Younger children in these conditions who are too vulnerable to diseases may not survive the first 5 years of their lives

PIDS July 2014

Philippines not likely to meet its MDG target. Disparities of malnutrition across regions are also evident.

Food & Nutrition Research Institute



- Breastmilk** is considered the ideal food for the healthy growth and development of infants and young children as it protects them from infection and its consequences. While these advantages are relevant in all environments, they are more important for possibly malnourished children in the unhygienic conditions that often prevail during emergencies.



# The Right to Food

## Devastating Typhoons

- Typhoon Ketsana "Ondoy", Sept 2009 - 45,129 families/216,941 persons were evacuated to 443 evacuation centers
- Typhoon Washing "Sendong", Dec 2011 - A total of 131,618 families/698,882 persons
- Typhoon Haiyan "Yolanda", Nov 2013

## Pasteurized breastmilk



- Women that encountered breastfeeding problems were supported with donations of pasteurized breastmilk from the Philippine General Hospital; As a result the no. of formula only fed children decreased to almost 0.

## at risk of undernutrition

- an estimated 320,000 boys and girls aged 0-59 months and up to 210,000 pregnant and lactating women.

Based on data on Haiyan-affected populations gathered by the National Nutrition Cluster which was activated to support the national government's emergency response



## Recommendations



- Pass pending bills on nutrition in Congress while safeguarding provisions of the Philippine Milk Code and promoting current laws as RA 10028 and RA 7600;
- Institutionalize human resource for nutrition through reforms on the role of the MNAO and BNS;
- Transparency & Accountability on Funds; Increase budget for nutrition
- Implement and monitor the Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (PIMAM);
- Promote Positive Deviance Hearth (PDHearth);
- Establish and strengthen the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Alliance in the Philippines;
- Facilitate training and advocacy to enhance disaster preparedness programs that better address nutrition; and
- Implement key interventions to support Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices during Emergencies (IYCF-E).

## reported distribution of formula milk in evacuation centers

September 29  
Media and Private sector, seeking the approval of the Secretary of Health to allow donations of Breastmilk Substitutes for the families in the evacuation centers

### The pressures and challenges:

September 27, 2009 Philippine Daily Inquirer:  
**Inquirer launches Ondoy relief drive**  
MANILA, Philippines – "The Philippine Daily Inquirer is launching a relief drive for the victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy," in partnership with the Philippine National Red Cross, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Assisi Foundation and the Sagip Buhay Foundation.

Donations in kind, such as instant noodles, canned goods, **formula milk**, blankets and clothes, **are urgently needed**".

## Recommendations



- Establishment of mother baby friendly spaces
- Skilled breastfeeding counselling and support
- Complementary feeding counselling and supplements
- Establishment of linkages with existing breastfeeding mother support groups within and in nearby affected areas. Encourage these mothers to volunteer in the Mother-Baby Friendly Space and invest on one-on-one counselling efforts to support a broader and sustainable behavioural change strategy

## Executive Order 51 or the Philippine Milk Code, RA 10028 or the Expanded Breastfeeding and Promotion Act

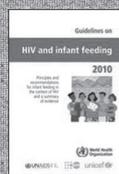


According to Section 51 of Administrative Order No.2006-0012, Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Executive Order No. 51, also known as the Milk Code, it strictly prohibits the donation of breastmilk substitutes like infant formula as it discourages breastfeeding.

## Recommendations



### Addressing HIV and infant feeding



- The country should consider formally revising the policy on HIV and infant feeding to align it with the recent developments (WHO, 2010), ensure its dissemination to all health professionals so to reduce misunderstandings and misconceptions on this sensitive issue.

# Promote and Protect Farmer Seed System For Agricultural Biodiversity and Food Security

Promote and Protect Farmer seed System For Agricultural Biodiversity and Food Security

Entry Conference: Civil Society Meeting With Dr. Hilal Elver UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food

Prepared by: Mario E. Maderazo  
Policy and Communications Coordinator

SEARCHCE

## Recognition of Farmers' Rights under the ITPGRFA

“the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions or the world, particularly those in the centers of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources which constitute the basis for food and agriculture production throughout the world”

SEARCHCE Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment

## Farmers and Seeds

- Source of agricultural input
- Food
- Livelihood
- Seed security is food security

SEARCHCE Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment

## Farmer Rights under Article 9 of ITPGRFA

- protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and
- the right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

SEARCHCE Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment

## Farmer seed system

save      sell      exchange

SEARCHCE Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment

## State Obligation to Protect, Promote and Fulfill the Right to Food and the Implementation of Farmers' Rights

Executive Order PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION, CHARACTERIZATION, CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Municipalities like Arakan and Clarin in Mindanao and Calatagan, Pangasinan in Luzon have invariably drafted local ordinances that support and institutionalize farmers' rights and the accompanying support system for their realization such as proposal to establish seed banks and seed registry for farmer-bred varieties and traditional varieties

SEARCHCE Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment

# The Right to Food

## Farmers' Initiatives that Need Support from the State



## 2.2 Quality Seeds for Farmers through Seed Certification

The Seed Industry Development Act of 1992 (Republic Act No. 7308) seeks to promote and accelerate the development of the seed industry, including the conservation, preservation and development of PGRs of the Philippines

- Cost is Prohibitive to farmers
- Government procures certified seeds ONLY
- Exclusion from market access and incentives provided by law

SEARICE Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment

## 2. Promoting Innovations and Incentives on Plant breeding and the De Facto Exclusion of Farmers.



SEARICE Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment

## 3. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and Food Availability and Access

- GMO crop like Bt Corn has significantly reduced the availability of and access of farmers to various conventional or traditional varieties
- Farmers have little or no information about the GMO crops that they are planting
- GM crops replacing native or traditional varieties in the market, farmers can no longer share or exchange seeds because GM crops are protected by patents
- Review EO 430 and the Philippine Bio-safety Guidelines

## Human Rights Impact Assessment (HRIA) on PVP Law



## Other Recommendations

House Bill 3795, also known as the Right to Adequate Food Framework Act of 2014 Filed by Akbayan Representatives Barry Gutierrez and Walden Bello, together with Dinagat Representative Kaka Bag-ao and Quezon City District 6 Representative Kit Belmonte

need to incorporate agricultural biodiversity in measures to address hunger, poverty and nutrition

## Recommendations

- undertake an HRIA before drafting a national PVP law or before agreeing to or introducing intellectual property provisions in trade and investment agreements in the area of agriculture
- improve the linkages between the formal and informal seed systems and apply a differentiated approach to PVP for different users and different crops
- inform government agencies and others involved in seed policy about their obligations concerning the right to food
- monitor the impact of PVP laws on the right to food, with particular attention to ways in which PVP-related laws or policies impact different segments of the population



# SURVIVING IN THE CITY: Food Security Concerns among the Informal and Home-based Workers Focus on Urban Communities in the Philippines

**SURVIVING IN THE CITY:**  
*Food Security Concerns Among The Informal And  
Homebased Workers Focusing URBAN  
Communities In the Philippines*

*The DATAMABA EXPERIENCE*

**URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD SECURITY**

worse among the urban poor than the rural poor.

- ❖ Food production in the city is in many cases a response of the urban to inadequate, unreliable and irregular access to food, and the lack of purchasing power.
- ❖ The urban poor certainly face a daily struggle to feed their families, and that their food and nutrition security is determined within the context of their livelihoods which encompass their capabilities, assets, and activities for making a living.



**URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD SECURITY**

- ✘ In the Philippines, major cities have increasing concentrations of poor people.
- ✘ Vulnerable groups often have fewer informal safety nets (kinship and community networks), with people living in very poor quality housing, lack basic infrastructure or service, inadequate sanitation and lack of environmental



**CLIMATE CHANGE, POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY**

- ✘ Disruptions caused by natural and man-made disasters will have an immediate impact on food supply, affecting populations in the cities, particularly the urban poor.
- ❖ Poor households are often the most vulnerable to typhoons and floods due to their socio-economic standing -- location



**URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND FOOD SECURITY**

safeguards (air pollution, exposure to toxins and wastes), amidst escalating poverty and food security.





- ❖ Food security has become a critical issue as the rate of urban poverty rises, and evidence indicates that food security and nutrition are

**CLIMATE CHANGE, POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY**

of residences in unsafe and flood-prone areas, non-typhoon/flood resistant housing materials and design, fragile and unsustainable livelihoods and economic enterprises, no savings and fewer assets, lack of food security, and proneness to illnesses because of poor nutrition, health, sanitation and hygiene conditions.





## The Right to Food

### CLIMATE CHANGE, POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY

- ✧ The informal economy households, including many women homebased workers, represent the poor who are vulnerable to natural disasters which could further threaten their lives and survival and that of their families due to the absence of or lack of access to social security and insurance as protection.



### URBAN FARMING AND THE POOR

- ✧ It puts idle land to productive use, either by paying competitive rent or through usufruct use and maintains the land in good condition for the owner.
- ✧ NGOs and MBOs like PATAMABA often act as catalyst to push for food security measures (including urban farming), with the government later seeing food security as more than just hunger relief.

### URBAN FARMING AND THE POOR

- ❖ Urban farming contributes to the health and well-being of a community by reducing hunger, strengthening access to food,



### RESPONSES TO FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS

#### ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES TO ATTAIN FOOD SECURITY IN HBW COMMUNITIES

- ❖ In the Philippines, urban farmers are more likely to be female than male.
- ❖ With insufficient income, self-production is a critical strategy for food security.
- ❖ Thus urban farming helps ensure children's access to food, enhances their health status, and contributes to empowering women.

### URBAN FARMING AND THE POOR

and improving nutrition and environmental conditions that affect health.

- ❖ Benefits offered by farming are both quantitative and qualitative – increasing food quantities reduces hunger, while improving food quality fosters better health and nutrition.



#### ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES TO ATTAIN FOOD SECURITY IN HBW COMMUNITIES

- ✧ UF has been practiced by rural and urban PATAMABA women leaders and members whose backyard gardens yield vegetables, fruits and herbs that provide fresher and healthier food produce for the family and the community.
- ❖ Production for self-consumption and trading increases the food security of the women HBWs



### URBAN FARMING AND THE POOR

- ✧ UF provides income-generating opportunities for people with low skills and little capital, as well as for people with limited mobility, including women with children and the elderly.
- ✧ Farming improves the food security of the people through increased availability and access to food, as well as increased availability of cash to purchase food.
- ✧ UF exploits unused resources in the city – wastewater, solid waste, vacant lots, bodies of water, and rooftops.

#### ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES TO ATTAIN FOOD SECURITY IN HBW COMMUNITIES

by making it possible to obtain food they could not otherwise afford to find even during bad financial times

- ❖ Majority of PATAMABA members in the urban areas engage in vegetable and herbal gardening, while livestock raising and farming are activities done in the rural chapters nationwide.



### ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES TO ATTAIN FOOD SECURITY IN HBW COMMUNITIES

- ✧ PATAMABA women nationwide continue to explore the possibilities of integrating new ways into time tested practices to address the need for alternative livelihood.
- ✧ *Tangkilian* concept remains to be practiced in their communities in view of enhancing production sustainability by making use of locally available resources, catering to basic community needs and safeguarding the environment.

### ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES TO ATTAIN FOOD SECURITY IN HBW COMMUNITIES

- ✧ In Carles, Iloilo PATAMABA chapter recently initiated the use of *Budbod Sustansiya* mixture in breads and other baked products in its bakery presently managed by the *Katin-aran Share Group Enterprise*.
- ✧ The newly organized members in Iloilo City plan to put up a center for *Budbod Sustansiya* (powdered vegetops) production cum bakery in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo (a peri-urban municipality recently elevated to a first class status) with marketing outlets in nearby urban sites.

### ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES TO ATTAIN FOOD SECURITY IN HBW COMMUNITIES

- ✧ The *Budbod Sustansiya* Project pioneered by Balingasa Chapter is one good practice that demonstrates how the concept has been carried out and replicated in local chapters.



### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

- ✧ Food insecurity, along with poverty, remain to be major challenges that we face today.
- ✧ The increasing problem of food insecurity for the urban poor has led government and development agencies to address the problems of hunger and malnutrition by instituting a range of safety net and coping strategies.
- ✧ Urban farming is among these strategies to combat hunger that is more cost-effective, more empowering, and more sustainable than providing food aid.

### ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES TO ATTAIN FOOD SECURITY IN HBW COMMUNITIES

- ✧ Through the infusion of the powdered vegetable mixture in breads and other baked products and pulvoron, the *Budbod Sustansiya project* had been replicated in Angono, Rizal (through the WISE Bakery), and in Sta. Barbara and Carles chapters in Iloilo Province.
- ✧ *Balingasa* Chapter served as supplier of the *Budbod Sustansiya* mixture during the initial stages of Angono Chapter's bakery operation.

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

- ✧ To make urban farming a reality, leaders and activists are needed to add credence, substance and momentum to a growing movement by gathering, analyzing, sharing, and creating new knowledge on urban farming.



### ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES TO ATTAIN FOOD SECURITY IN HBW COMMUNITIES



### MARAMING SALAMAT PO



# The Child's Right to Food Recommendations

**The Child's Right to Food  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

NGO Coalition CRC  
Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Recommendations** HIV AIDS World Health Organization

**Addressing HIV and infant feeding**

10 The country should consider formally revising the policy on HIV and infant feeding to align it with the recent developments (WHO, 2010), ensure its dissemination to all health professionals so to reduce misunderstandings and misconceptions on this sensitive issue.

**Recommendations**

- 11 Pass pending bills on nutrition in Congress while safeguarding provisions of the Philippine Milk Code and promoting current laws as RA 10028 and RA 7600;
- 11 Institutionalize human resource for nutrition through reforms on the role of the MNAO and BNS;
- 11 Transparency & Accountability on Funds; Increase budget for nutrition
- 11 Implement and monitor the Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (PIMAM);
- 11 Promote Positive Deviance Hearth (PDHearth);
- 11 Establish and strengthen the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Civil Society Alliance in the Philippines;
- 11 Facilitate training and advocacy to enhance disaster preparedness programs that better address nutrition; and
- 11 Implement key interventions to support Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices during Emergencies (IYCF-E).

THANKYOU!!!

**Recommendations**

- o Establishment of mother baby friendly spaces
- o Skilled breastfeeding counselling and support
- o Complementary feeding counselling and supplements
- o Established linkages with existing breastfeeding mother support groups within and in nearby affected areas. Encourage these mothers to volunteer in the Mother-Baby Friendly Space and invest on one-on-one counselling efforts to support a broader and sustainable behavioural change strategy



## ANNEX 2

# List of Organizations

### Comprising the CSO Coordinating Committee are the following groups:

- Akbayan Office of Rep. Walden Bello
- Akbayanihan: a solidarity group doing rehabilitation work of Akbayan Citizen's Action Party
- Alyansa Tigil Mina: a national network/coalition of peoples' organizations, CSOs, indigenous peoples campaigning against large-scale mining and for an alternative minerals management bill
- Centro Saka, Inc.: an NGO focusing on agriculture, agrarian, agri-trade and rural development issues
- ESCR-Asia: a network of human rights advocates and organizations which has an official membership and representation in the various UN bodies
- FIAN-Philippines Section: the Philippines office/chapter of FIAN works on right to food and food security issues
- Focus on the Global South-Philippines: an activist think tank that combines policy research, advocacy and grassroots capacity building working on issues of the commons—land, food, water and forests, trade and investments, and climate and environmental justice
- Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (Movement for National Democracy)- have small farmers and fishers constituents
- LILAK (Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights): a collective advocating for indigenous women's concerns
- NASSA-Caritas Philippines: the social arm of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and has partners in the agriculture, labor and urban poor communities
- NGO for Fisheries Reform: a coalition of NGOs and people's organizations advocating for the rights of small artisanal fisherfolks and sustainable fisheries
- PANGISDA: a national fisherfolk organization focusing on small and artisanal fisher's concerns and rights
- PARAGOS-Pilipinas: a national farmer federation campaigning for smallholder agriculture, agrarian reform, and food sovereignty/ security
- Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (National Rural Women's Coalition): the biggest rural women alliance/network in the country advocating for a comprehensive rural women's agenda—those in the agriculture, fisheries, indigenous, Moro/Muslim, and informal work.

- Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Makabayang Magbubukid (National Movement of Nationalist Farmers): a national farmers' federation advocating for national democracy and rights of farmers
  - Pambansang Kaisahan ng mga Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (National Unity of Filipino Farmers): a national farmers' federation campaigning for small and landless farmers' rights
  - Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates: a broad alliance of human rights organizations and advocacy groups
  - Philippine Movement for Climate Justice: a broad coalition in the Philippines working with vulnerable sectors and communities to campaign for climate justice
  - Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement: an NGO that have been working on rural development, agriculture, agrarian reform in the country in the last 60 years
  - Rights-Network: an NGO/collective working on small and landless farmers' issues, which includes land rights, agrarian reform, smallholder agriculture, enterprise development, and agrarian justice
  - Save Agrarian Reform Alliance: a peasant-led and NGO alliance campaigning for a just, effective and complete implementation of agrarian reform in the country
  - SENTRO-APL: a labor/workers' center working on the issues of workers in the formal sector
  - Tambuyog Development Center: an NGO working on fisheries and trade justice issues
  - Woman Health: a women-focused NGO/collective working on issues of nutrition, women's rights and reproductive health; works with youth and urban poor communities
  - University of the Philippines-Asian Center: from the academe, will be co-hosting the entry conference
  - United Nations Civil Society Advisory Committee: coordinates the 67 national and regional civil society organization (CSO) networks and CSOs that comprise the United Nations Civil Society Assembly (UNCSA).
- Core Group/Secretariat:**
- Alyansa Tigil Mina, FIAN-Philippines Section, Focus on the Global South-Philippines, LILAK, Office of Rep. Walden Bello, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates
- List of CSOs that participated at the Entry Conference on February 20, at PRRM, Quezon City**
- Farmers, Fishers and Agriculture, Agrarian, Rural Development Groups/NGOs**
1. Katipunan ng mga Bagong Pilipina (League of New Filipino Women)
  2. Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (National Rural Women Coalition)
  3. PESANTE Pilipinas (farmers from Laguna, Palawan and Occidental Mindoro)
  4. BUKAL (farmers from Central Luzon)

## The Right to Food

5. Mamamayan sa Pagpapanatili ng Lawa ng Laguna (People's Movement for the Conservation of Laguna Lake)
6. Nagkakaisang Magsasaka sa Gitnang Luzon (United Farmers in Central Luzon)
7. UNORKA (farmers from Negros Island)
8. PARAGOS-Pilipinas (national farmers' federation)
9. Makabayan-Pilipinas (farmers' federation)
10. ANIBAN Farmers' Association (farmers from Pampanga)
11. Kilusang Magbubukid ng Bondoc Peninsula (Farmers Movement in Bondoc Peninsula)
12. Aniban ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (Association of Farmworkers)
13. Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (National Confederation of Small Farmers and Fishers' Organizations)
14. Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan (National League of Rural Association)
15. Pambansang Kalipunan ng mga Manggagawang Impormal sa Pilipinas (National Alliance of Workers in the Informal Sector of the Philippines)
16. Task Force Food Sovereignty
17. Centro Saka/Alyansa Agrikultura (Alliance for Agriculture)
18. Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
19. NGOs for Fisheries Reform
20. Integrated Rural Development Foundation

21. Kaisahan, Inc.
22. Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
23. Green Convergence
24. Philippines for Natural Farming, Inc.
25. AR Now (Agrarian Reform, Now!)

### Women, Children, PWDs

26. NGO Coalition on Convention of the Rights of the Child
27. KATARUNGAN
28. ChildFund
29. Woman Health
30. Philippine Coalition on UNCRPD

### Urban Poor and Consumer Groups

31. Good Neighbors International Philippines
32. PASIG Libre (urban poor association)
33. Consumer Rights for Safe Food

### Indigenous Peoples

34. LILAK- Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights
35. Buklod ng Nagkakaisahang Tribu ng Kababaihan (Solidarity of United Women's Tribes)

### Environment and Climate Justice

36. Alyansa Tigil Mina (People's Alliance against Mining)
37. Philippine Movement for Climate Justice

### Workers/Labor (Formal-Public and Private, Informal)

38. SENTRO
39. Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (Alliance of Filipino Workers)
40. Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (public sector union)

**NGOs and Social Movements**

- 41. Focus on the Global South
- 42. FIAN Philippines
- 43. National Food Coalition
- 44. People's Development Initiative
- 45. Philippine Misereor Partnership, Inc.
- 46. Social Watch Philippines

**Human Rights**

- 47. Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates
- 48. ESCR-Asia

- 49. PhilRights

- 50. Amnesty International Philippines

- 51. Philippine Coalition for the International Criminal Court

**Party List**

- 52. Akbayan

- 53. Ang NARS Party List

**Academe**

- 54. International Institute of Social Studies in the Netherlands



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**GLOBAL**  
**SOUTH**