

APRIL  
2020

# QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

1ST QUARTER 2020

UNITED NATIONS  
POPULATION FUND

## UNFPA SALIENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE 1ST QUARTER OF 2020

*This report summarizes the achievements, challenges, and plans of the UNFPA Country Office in the Philippines covering 01 January to 31 March 2020 to respond to the unique needs of Filipino women and girls.*

The first quarter of 2020, the beginning of the last decade towards the achievement of Agenda 2030 including the SDGs, witnessed significant game-changing developments in the Philippines and in the world. While the country office just began implementing its response to the series of earthquakes in Mindanao, the Taal Volcano erupted in January 2020, affecting nearly 460,000 people within the 14-km radius from the island. In the same month, the country announced its first case of COVID-19. As WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic and as the number of confirmed cases in the Philippines quickly escalated from just 3 cases on 01 March to 2,311 cases on 31 March 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte declared a National State of Health Emergency and eventually called for an "Enhanced Community Quarantine" in several areas across the country in March 2020, including Metro Manila.

With these developments, UNFPA in the Philippines continues to support the unique needs of Filipino women and girls through a humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus approach and adjusts its activities to respond to the demands of the pandemic while minimizing the health risks of its staff, partners, and communities. More than ever, the county office aims to strengthen its partnership with 13 organizations and government agencies to realize UNFPA's core mandate of delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled.





## CROSS-CUTTING AREA INCLUDING ACTIONS ON COVID-19

### PROCURED AND DONATED 258,826 PIECES OF BASIC PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

for the protection of frontline health workers, particularly those who are providing maternal health, family planning, and gender-based violence (GBV) response services, from the COVID-19 infection risk.

### SUPPLIED 1,130 EAR SCAN & NON-CONTACT THERMOMETERS

mainly for the almost 500 Filipino repatriates of MV Diamond Princess for their regular monitoring of signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection and to minimize the exposure of the country's health workers.

### CONTRIBUTED 100,000 SURGICAL FACE MASKS

(through the **UNFPA Emergency Fund**) for the protection of frontline health workers, particularly those attending to pregnant women in the maternity wards, at a time when there is a supply runout of surgical masks.

### DONATED 3 MEDICAL TRIAGE TENT FACILITIES

(through the **Multi-Year SRH and GBV Prepositioning Project** in partnership with the **Government of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**) to DOH-supported hospitals namely: Sta. Ana Hospital, Lung Center of the Philippines, and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in early April.

### PROVIDED 500 HYGIENE KITS (DIGNITY KITS)

(through the **Multi-Year SRH and GBV Prepositioning Project in partnership with DFAT/Australia**) to Sta. Ana Hospital on 3 April to help ensure the well-being of the women and girls of reproductive age, as well as the pregnant women admitted in the hospital. 100 kits were also provided to the Provincial Health Team Office of Quezon Province, through the DOH Center for Health Development - CALABARZON, on 17 April.

### SUPPORTED DOH IN GATHERING SENTIMENTS OF THE PEOPLE ON FAMILY PLANNING & COVID-19

(through the **UNFPA Innovation Fund**) during the pandemic with the Big Data innovation project, which could be used to inform the crafting and dissemination of risk communication materials.

*Upon the request of the Department of Health (DOH), UNFPA is one of the first to support the emergent and urgent need to reduce the spread and mitigate the impact of COVID-19. As of Q1, UNFPA has provided a total of PHP 12,443,941.61 (USD 227,376.62) worth of donations for health workers and hospitals in coordination with DOH.*

*UNFPA ensured that Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights is incorporated in the United Nations COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan.*

*It also provided technical assistance to the Health Cluster and Crisis Communication Cluster in developing the BARMM Contingency Plan on COVID-19.*

## Outcomes

# SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

- **Launched an online platform** (through the Business Action for Family Planning (BAFP) initiative in partnership with the **UN Foundation / UN Fund for International Partnerships**) targeting employees and reach more women and men with correct family planning information. It also incorporated health reminders on how to prevent COVID-19 infection. A total of 32,738 unique individuals have visited the site since January.

- **Promoted DOH and WHO materials and produced social media cards, in English and Tagalog, on COVID-19** prevention control, risks and impact to women and young people through the different social media channels.

- **Co-organized with DOH the Regional MISP-SRH Coordination Team** (through the **UNFPA Emergency Fund**) for the Taal Volcanic Eruption humanitarian response.



- **Provided technical assistance to DOH** (through the **UNFPA Emergency Fund**) in developing the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) Algorithms for Safe Motherhood, Family Planning, ASHRiE, GBV and STI/HIV.

- **Distributed 350 maternity packs, 1,440 hygiene kits and 700 solar lamps for women with disability and pregnant and lactating women who were affected by the Taal Volcano eruption** (through the Multi-Year SRH and GBV Prepositioning Project in partnership with **DFAT Australia**). UNFPA also set-up 10 Women-Friendly Space tents as breastfeeding spaces. UNFPA supported the communities further and delivered emergency tents to expand the Batangas Medical Center's space for maternity care, protection of women and children, and triage for COVID-19. UNFPA also distributed 10,000 face masks to health care workers and 150 hygiene kits for the internally displaced people in the evacuation camps, particularly the pregnant and lactating mothers. This is in partnership with the DOH Center for Health Development (CHD) Office in CALABARZON and Batangas Provincial Health Office and Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office.

- **Enrolled 1,606 women for Cash for Health (cash voucher assistance) in disaster and conflict-affected areas in North Cotabato** with support from the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** and Lanao del Sur including Marawi City with support from the **Humanitarian Trust Fund (HTF)** and initiated cash disbursement to 80 pregnant women and 10 traditional birth attendants (TBAs) or "hilot". This incentivizes positive health-seeking behavior among pregnant women while engaging and transforming the role of TBAs from birth attendants to pregnancy trackers thereby integrating them to the formal health referral network (rather than assisting deliveries at home by themselves). Cash for Health is one of UNFPA Philippines' innovations for reducing unsafe delivery practices and increasing women's access to life-saving health interventions.

- **Supported 596 safe pregnancies/deliveries** (through the **Central Emergency Response Fund**) with 3 Emergency Maternity Tents established in Kidapawan, Makilala, and Tulunan, North Cotabato.

- **Finalized the analysis of bottlenecks to farmers' and fisherfolks' access to family planning information and services** (with support from **Global Affairs Canada**). The results will be presented to the government and stakeholders.

## GENDER AND PROTECTION AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

- **Coordinated the Rapid Gender Assessment** jointly with the National GBV Sub-cluster to document protection-related issues during humanitarian settings, including under COVID-19.
- **Co-convened with the BARMM Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) and UNICEF the sub-national joint Child Protection and Gender-based Violence Working Group** to ensure the continuity of essential life-saving protection services despite the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Initiated regular learning sessions on COVID-19** focused on CP and GBV to enhance the knowledge of working group members and to effectively mainstream protection across all COVID-19 responses.
- **Provided technical assistance to the BARMM Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) in integrating gender/GBV-related interventions in the BARMM MSSD Priorities for 2020.** In addition, UNFPA advocated for activating the helplines/hotlines in MSSD and the Marawi City Social Welfare and Development Office amidst COVID-19. Technical assistance was also provided to the Marawi CSWDO in facilitating access of GBV survivors (i.e. domestic violence cases during COVID-19) to services.
- **Disbursed Cash for Protection (cash voucher assistance)** (through the **Central Emergency Response Fund**) to 49 individuals in North Cotabato, 19 of whom are survivors of GBV and 30 are people with severe psychosocial conditions.
- **Disseminated communication materials on COVID-19 gender-based violence risk through UNFPA social media** (through the **Central Emergency Response Fund**), both in English and Tagalog, and key messages to IDPs through READi-BARMM in the Bangsamoro Region.
- **Developed the CP-GBV referral pathway for North Cotabato** (through the **Central Emergency Response Fund**) jointly with the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) and UNICEF, and supported its launch during the provincial celebration of International Women's Day.
- **Updated the existing CP-GBV Referral Pathway for Lanao del Sur, including Marawi City,** (through the **Central Emergency Response Fund**), with new helplines/hotlines and operation hours of service providers i.e. Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU), Local Social Welfare Offices, in line with the potential increase of GBV incidence during the COVID-19 community quarantines.
- **Maintained 11 Women-Friendly Spaces (WFS)** (per DSWD guidelines) in the municipalities of Lanao del Sur (Marantao, Piagapo, Marawi City) and Maguindanao (Shariff Aguak, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Mamasapano) with support from the **Humanitarian Trust Fund (HTF)**, and North Cotabato (Makilala, Kidapawan, Tulunan) with support from the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** and **Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**. A total of 270 women and young people served as volunteers in preventing and responding to GBV in evacuation camps and transitional shelters in the three provinces mentioned. 180 served as WFS facilitators, receiving Cash for Work and reaching 8,515 women and adolescent girls and 2,341 men and boys through information sessions on IDP rights, VAWC laws, SRH and GBV referral pathways that the facilitators themselves conducted; and
- **Conducted Training on Business Planning Workshop and Livelihood Skills** With assistance from **Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**, 120 WFS facilitators and 30 women with disabilities in the municipalities of Lanao del Sur (Marantao, Piagapo, Marawi City) targeted for livelihood projects



## Outcomes

# ADOLESCENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- **Developed, published and submitted the UNFPA Policy Briefs on Preventing Child Marriage and Eliminating Teenage Pregnancy** to the Philippine Senate to inform public consultations on the Prohibition of Child Marriage Bill and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Bill.
- **Provided technical assistance to the Department of Education (DepEd) to finalize the detailed lesson plans for use in the incoming school year among the revised comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) curriculum pilot sites.** In addition, the training module for teachers and CSE primer for parents and guardians were developed to equip teachers and parents with necessary knowledge, attitude, and skills to implement CSE;
- **Developed a youth governance model and accompanying capacity building modules** to address structural barriers to youth participation under the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus. UNFPA also supported the formulation of three-year local youth development plans in ten pilot municipalities in Mindanao.
- **Established three Youth Friendly Spaces (YFS) in Kidapawan City and in the municipalities of Tulunan and Makilala in North Cotabato.** Trained 60 young people to provide information sessions on Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Rights (ASRH), prevention of GBV, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in the evacuation centers for IDPs affected by the North Cotabato earthquakes. As a result, 78 ASRH sessions were conducted reaching 4,048 young people.

- **Co-convened with the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) an inter-agency mechanism** to follow up on national commitments made in the November 2019 Nairobi Summit;
- **Initiated Wave 4 data collection of the Longitudinal Cohort Study of the Filipino Child**, interviewing 2,991 households in Q1. However, further data collection had to be put on hold given the COVID-19 community quarantines. The **Philippine Government, UNFPA, and DFAT Australia** co-funded the Wave 4 study;
- **Served as resource persons in the Global Webinar on Bold Innovations** organized by the Innovations Secretariat of UNFPA headquarters and was featured in a corporate-wide video presentation.
- **Started formulating the Common Operational Data Set for Humanitarian** (with assistance from **Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**) that will enable demographic and administrative data to be used in preparedness and response action during disasters and emergencies. The team held focus group discussions with the Information Management Working Group of the UN as well as key informant interviews with national government agencies like the Philippine Statistics Authority, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Office of Civil Defense, among others.

## Outcomes

# DEMOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE

## REPROGRAMMING TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY

*The country office needs USD 7.0 million for normal development initiatives under 8CP (2019-2023) from local donors, and an additional USD 7.6 million for COVID-19 in 2020/2021.*

UNFPA CASH CONTRIBUTION	2020 ALLOCATION (USD)	UTILIZATION (USD) AS OF 31 MARCH 2020	UTILIZATION RATE
Contribution to the Government	1,734,000	928,000	53%
Technical Support to Government	3,740,000	1,495,000	40%
Total	5,475,000	2,423,000	44%

UNFPA allocated 20% of its annual budget for Q1/2020. However, following severe mobility constraints posed by COVID-19, the Country Office decided to reprogram budget allocation from travels, meetings, and other activities which required social participation or mass gatherings to instead support the government by being one of the very first to respond to the emergent and urgent needs of women and girls under COVID-19, such as the procurement of PPEs for female frontline health workers and other medical supplies. The President of the Philippines acknowledged this early contribution of UNFPA Philippines in his COVID-19 address to the nation on 30 March 2020.

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES

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*UNFPA's active participation in all critical One UN activities is contributing to the new wave of UN Reform:*

- **Supported the rest of the UN system in the Philippines in successfully organizing the first National Steering Committee meeting for the UN-Philippines Partnership Framework** for Sustainable Development (PFSD) 2019-2023 on 6 March 2020, chaired by National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary.
- **Contributed to the formulation of a joint programme for SDG Fund support with UNDP and UNICEF on "Reaping the Demographic Dividend and Managing the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19"** by Applying an Integrated National Financing Framework in the Philippines"; UNFPA assumed the Co-Chair (Alternate) for the PFSD People Pillar chaired by FAO, and the Co-Chair of the UN Operations Management Team (OMT) chaired by WFP.
- **Assumed the Co-Chair (Alternate) for the PFSD People Pillar chaired by FAO, and the Co-Chair of the UN Operations Management Team (OMT) chaired by WFP.** UNFPA is also an active participant in other inter-agency working groups such as the UN Technical Working Group on the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19, PFSD Theme Group on Youth, UN Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) grave violations committed against children during armed conflicts, UN Communications Group, UN Monitoring and Evaluation Group, and co-led the UN Operations Management Team (OMT);
- **Contributed to UN joint initiatives in Mindanao**, including the implementation of the HCT Protection Strategy for Mindanao, through the Mindanao Humanitarian Team (MHT).

## OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

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- **Successfully concluded a new partnership** with the **Government of Japan** to address the Women, Peace and Security agenda, sexual and reproductive health, and protection of women and girls from violence in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
- **Cited as one of only five UNFPA Country Offices whose Country Programme Evaluations earned a "Very Good" quality rating, among fourteen country programme evaluations** that were quality assessed in 2019. These high quality evaluations provide credible evaluative knowledge for wider use at UNFPA and among partners and is particularly important in follow up to the Nairobi Summit, as UNFPA globally intensifies efforts to scale up programmes for impact






## UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

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