

# BANYUHAY

Oxfam Pilipinas Annual Report  
April 2022 - March 2023



**OXFAM**  
Pilipinas

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## IN FOCUS: CELEBRATING PRIDE

### MAXIMIZING RESOURCES

### OUR PARTNER AFFILIATES

### OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

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Times are changing and this is our response.

*BANYUHAY*, a word play on "bago" (new), "anyo" (form) and "buhay" (life), reflects Oxfam Pilipinas' metamorphosis and journey towards building a just and equal future for all.

#### About the Cover:

Members of the Pawak Saguiran Golden Ladies Producer Cooperative harvest turmeric crops which will later be produced into turmeric powder for selling.

Being part of the women-led cooperative, women in the community have a source of income that helped them and their families find relief from economic hardships. For most of them, they were able to support their children's studies through their income from turmeric powder production.

Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas

# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



**192,480**

people we directly worked with in our portfolios



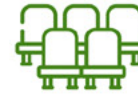
**166,430**

people reached by our humanitarian response



**90,000**

women and girls empowered



**42,000**

people attending our events and campaigns



**16,000**

people with disabilities engaged



**368**

organizations influenced by our campaigns



**30**

partners



**14**

projects and initiatives implemented across portfolios



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year highlights key milestones for Oxfam Pilipinas. Marking 35 years of Oxfam's work in the Philippines, it ushers the first year of implementation of our new country strategy. And it heralds our full transition to a national organization.

During this period, many things shifted. The country was recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Economists lauded the 7.2% GDP expansion<sup>1</sup> in 2022 as the fastest growth rate since 1976. The national elections selected a new set of government officials.

But it was also a period where negative conditions persisted. Poor Filipinos remained highly vulnerable to disasters and conflict. Around 2.9 million Filipino men and women<sup>2</sup> went to bed hungry every night. The disparity between the rich and the poor continued to widen. We seemingly survived the worst of the pandemic but its negative impact on the poor and vulnerable lingered and highlighted the gross inequalities in our society.

Against this backdrop of shifts and stagnation, Oxfam Pilipinas was changing internally. We took many bold steps to transform our identity consistent with Oxfam's localization ambition. Such steps ensure that Oxfam Pilipinas will continue to advocate local leadership while maximizing its global network to facilitate innovation.

As we face the future, we remain shoulder-to-shoulder with our partners to build more resilient communities, to challenge discriminatory policies and harmful social norms in the pursuit of gender justice, and to provide life-saving support to those who need it most during disasters.

We will bring with us our accumulated experience and respect for local knowledge. We will continue to learn from our failures so we can do better next time. And we will carry on our commitment to fostering partnerships with communities, with fellow civil society organizations, with women's rights groups, with donors and with government.

This annual report pays tribute to all our partners and to the countless individuals and communities with whom we had the privilege of collaborating on projects under one shared vision.

**It is a testament to what we have achieved and an assurance of what we can achieve in our journey towards a just and equal future.**

**Erika Geronimo**  
Executive Director  
Oxfam Pilipinas



# CHAPTER 1

## 35 YEARS OF OXFAM'S

## WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES



In Brgy. Umiray, General Nakar, Quezon Province, Maricar Eranista has worked as a Barangay Health Worker for the past 13 years. She is part of the Super Typhoon Noru Emergency Response of Oxfam Pilipinas and partner Community Organizers Multiversity (COM).

Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas



For 35 years in the Philippines, Oxfam lived the dream of a world free from poverty and injustices. We acted and continue to act to create an equal future for all, where no one gets left behind in the pursuit of progress.

This journey started in July 1988. We responded to emergencies such as the Baguio earthquake, the Mt. Pinatubo eruption, the Negros famine, and many devastating typhoons such as Haiyan. We then supported local organizations to push for land security and to uphold the rights of farmers, fisherfolk and indigenous peoples whose voices have been marginalized. Together with our partners, we supported livelihood programs, especially enabling fair trade for small producers. A decade later, we moved to uphold the right to universal education and healthcare, and to ensure that people had enough food on their tables.

In 2008, the reality of climate change compounded the problem of poverty. Standing with our partners, we called for action to address the impact of climate change on Filipinos. The call for climate action was imperative as we doubled our efforts in responding to more severe weather events such as typhoons Ondoy, Sendong, Pablo and Yolanda as well as other emergencies and made sure that we met the needs of affected communities. We responded not only to weather disasters but also conflicts such as the Marawi crisis and the Zamboanga siege.

In 2014, our programs evolved, driven by Oxfam's values and our desire to improve the lives of Filipinos. Our country strategy led us to converge in Eastern Visayas and Mindanao through our Economic Justice, Rights in Crisis, and Conflict Transformation programs. Such initiatives allowed us to implement more meaningful support to our communities and to seek more accountable and transparent governance from duty-bearers.



Gender justice consistently remained at the heart of what we did throughout the last three decades. Our programs helped build women's transformative leadership, improved their prospects for economic empowerment, promoted their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and recognized the value of their unpaid care and domestic work. We advocated the elimination of all forms of discrimination such as gender-based violence and child, early and forced marriage.

More recently, we implemented projects to enable just and people-centered energy transition as part of our emerging climate justice work. We also effected a paradigm shift in responding to emergencies by advocating anticipatory action approaches anchored on financial inclusion in the communities' disaster risk reduction management efforts.

The foundation of our collective strength lies in the communities and people we work with. We acknowledge and recognize their agency to realize change and to build a just and more equal society.

The last 35 years have been a testament to our collective stories of resilience, strength, and hope.

This is your story.



***Click on the button to find out more!***

## OXFAM PILIPINAS: CHANGING TOWARDS AN EQUAL FUTURE FOR ALL

The period covered by this report coincides with the first year of implementation of Oxfam Pilipinas' new Country Strategy 2022-2027 (OCS). Honed by 35 years of experience and knowledge of the country, Oxfam Pilipinas works in areas where it can contribute best:

- Enhancing the capabilities of vulnerable communities to cope with external shocks such as disasters, climate change and economic disruptions through its Resilience portfolio
- Providing life-saving and anticipatory responses to affected communities during disasters and conflict through its Humanitarian portfolio
- Creating a gender-just and inclusive society through its Gender Justice portfolio

## GOING LOCAL: OUR TRANSITION JOURNEY

Oxfam in the Philippines, as a country office under Oxfam Great Britain, is transitioning to Oxfam Pilipinas, an independent local organization and Oxfam International affiliate. We are now governed by a Board of Trustees composed of eminent members of Philippine civil society organisations (CSO).

This transition, or "banyuhay" (transformation), is deeply rooted in our vibrant past as a country program spanning 35 years. Our desire to stand with our fellow citizen activists and help reinvigorate the local civic space enable us to push Oxfam's strategic ambitions in the Philippine context. We believe that local communities should wield the power to shape their own narratives and influence their futures.

Encouraged by the positive findings of an independent review of our Strategic Partnership Model, we will continue to have the interests of local communities at the heart of what we do by designing and implementing locally led programs and campaigns.

This means that Oxfam Pilipinas will persist in its role as advocates of local leadership while optimizing its global links to aggregate and broker innovation. We will continue to co-create humanitarian response approaches that allow mutual learning and innovation. We will promote diversity in our partnerships to effect more impactful work on gender justice, while improving our inter-portfolio collaborations to bridge our resilience and humanitarian efforts.

Together with our partners in the grassroots communities, the youth, civil society, government, academe and the private sector, Oxfam Pilipinas moves forward to improve the lives of women, men, boys, girls, indigenous peoples, people of diverse SOGIESC, persons with disabilities and the elderly who are disproportionately affected by political, economic, and social inequities in the Philippines.



***Click on the button to find out more!***



# FOSTERING GENUINE AND LOCALLY LED PARTNERSHIPS

This report is a salute to our partner organizations and communities who have dedicated their expertise, networks, resources, and experiences to help improve the lives of every Filipino.

We are grateful to our partners with whom we have actively worked from April 2022 to March 2023:

AGREA Agricultural System International, Inc.

Al-Mujaadila Women's Association, Inc.

Angat Bayi, Inc.

A Single Drop for Safe Water

Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation, Inc.

Climate Tracker Asia, Inc.

Community Organizers Multiversity, Inc.

Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government, Inc.

Davao Medical School Foundation -  
Institute of Primary Health Care

Exodus from Child Labor to Integration, Play,  
Socialization and Education

Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, Inc.

Friendly Care Foundation

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Southeast Asia

Initiatives for Development and Empowerment  
through Alternative Legal Services, Inc.

Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia

Jhpiego Philippines

Manila Observatory

Mayon Integrated Development Alternatives  
and Services, Inc.

The Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center,  
Friends of the Earth

People's Disaster Risk Reduction Network, Inc.

Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan  
sa Kanayunan, Inc.

Renewable Energy Transition Institute

Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panlegal

Sentro para sa Ikaunlad ng Katutubong Agham  
at Teknolohiya, Inc.

SIAD Initiatives in Mindanao Convergence  
for Asset Reform and Regional Development, Inc.

Sibog Katawhan Alang sa Paglambo, Inc.

United Youth of the Philippines-Women, Inc.

University of the Philippines - Center for Women's  
and Gender Studies

Women Engaged in Action on UN Security  
Council Resolution 1325

Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights



Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas



Photo: Kenneth Bernard M. Hizon/Oxfam Pilipinas

# CHAPTER 2

## OUR STRATEGIC

## AMBITIONS

Roconsalem Amer, president of the Pawak Saguiaran Golden Ladies Producer Cooperative, proudly holds their newly harvested turmeric crop. The Golden Ladies, as they described themselves according to the golden color of the turmeric powder they produce, continue to prove that empowered women empower other women.

Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas

# We Help Build Resilient Communities



Agrea Foundation

Women are the first to plant, to harvest, to cook, to serve but the last to eat, after making sure their families have eaten.

**The partnership we have with Oxfam Pilipinas on empowering women urban farmers made the women the core, center and front of the mission.**

The Women Food Producers Association (WFPA) - Payatas, Quezon City is a concrete testament where the women are well taken care of in making sure that their wellbeing is a priority, they are educated, equipped with skills and provided with a healthy environment where they experience a deep sense of belongingness and camaraderie.

Together with Oxfam Pilipinas, we were able to build this group of 200 women who are dignified, empowered and motivated to solve the hunger and malnutrition issues in their community. They become local champions and leaders on inspiring other women to take the lead in making change at the grassroots level while at the same time influencing policies in their local government. These women are taking ownership of accessing their basic human right - the right to healthy nutritious food straight from their backyard.

On behalf of AGREA, I am grateful to this partnership that happened in the midst of the pandemic when everything was uncertain. Truly an intentional program we work together with the women when it is difficult to dream, to see hope and light. We celebrate this kind of meaningful collaboration that creates greater impact.



**Cherrie De Erit Atilano**

Founding Farmer/President & CEO  
AGREA Agricultural System International, Inc.

The impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic exposed long-standing gender and economic inequalities in Philippine society. Often, it is the poorest of the poor, women and the marginalized who are most negatively affected and who recover the least from external shocks.

Our programs involve addressing the myriad causes and contributing factors behind such risks. These include recurring power inequalities that unfairly expose poor people and marginalized groups to negative vulnerabilities.

Oxfam Pilipinas works to create more resilient communities. We collaborate with community organizations and non-government organizations (NGOs) to enable communities to become active stakeholders in crafting their own disaster contingency and preparedness plans, to safeguard their livelihood assets and to make sure that no lives are lost.

**We define resiliency as**

**“Increasing ability of women and men to realize their rights and improve their well-being despite the risks that affect their lives and the slow on-set disaster, incremental climate change that weaken their coping mechanisms”.**



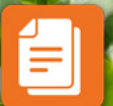
# INVOLVING COMMUNITIES IN PLANNING FOR DISASTERS

Hazards such as typhoons and earthquakes negatively impact those without access to services that will help them adequately prepare and quickly recover from disaster risks.

Through our partnership with Sentro para sa Ikaunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya, Inc. (SIKAT) under the Strengthening Harmonized Action for Disaster Risk Reduction, Preparedness

and Early Recovery (SHARPER) project, we have been encouraging the meaningful participation of women, the youth, the LGBTQIA+ community, the elderly, and persons with disabilities in Eastern Samar in planning for disaster response and recovery in their communities. In doing so, we have been able to identify their nuanced and distinctive needs in preparing for disasters.

Fifteen women's groups operating in the provinces of Leyte and Samar have drafted a women's disaster risk reduction (DRR) and local humanitarian leadership (LHL) agenda which they hope to share and advocate with decision-makers both at the local and national levels.



# PROMOTING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

A resilient community means having access to nutritious and affordable food.

For a long time, persistent hunger was a reality to poor communities such as Barangay Payatas in Quezon City. This community was known as Metro Manila's garbage dump site. With the help of the Food Hives Nourishing Cities Program, Oxfam Pilipinas and AGREA trained **200** urban poor women members of the Women Food Producers Association to engage in urban farming.

There are now several pockets of land, which used to be garbage landfill sites, that have been converted into viable gardens of fruits and vegetables for household and commercial consumption. Such conversion has garnered the attention of the Quezon City government. The women's association has been included in the Quezon City Task Force on Food Security database which tracks communities with high levels of hunger and lists urban food producer's groups who can respond.

Paying it forward, the women's association from Barangay Payatas together with other farmer groups from Nueva Ecija and Marinduque, are now encouraging other women farmers in their respective communities to replicate the project's success.

Urban farming was a big change for me as a mother and a woman who was not taught to be a farmer. It really feels good that I have food to harvest now.

With no knowledge on farming in the past, Josie Reyes, also known as Beng, is now able to harvest the fruit of her urban gardening labor, a skill she gained through the Food Hives Nourishing Cities Program. She is now able to provide food on the table for her family and neighbors, especially during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Photo: April Ann Bulanadi / Oxfam Pilipinas



*Click on the button to find out more!*

# VALUING UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK

The burden of unpaid care and domestic work (UCDW) often limits women to engage in economic and social activities which hamper their opportunities to improve their well-being.

Our consistent campaigns have now made care work more visible in government's development planning. Partner local governments are now adapting enabling care policies.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has committed to incorporating questions around UCDW in national household and labor sector surveys.

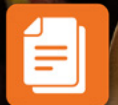
Through projects like Investing in Women, we contributed to addressing gender norms surrounding UCDW especially at the height of the pandemic. Learning processes among stakeholders jumpstarted conversations around women's

breadwinning capabilities and the recognition of shared responsibilities between sexes. Advocacy campaigns through social media facilitated online interaction, gaining support and engagement from the BPO industry, social influencers, legislators, decision-makers, and urban millennials.



William Daep eats lunch together with his family, while also feeding his son. He is a project participant of the WE-Care Project in Salcedo Town, Eastern Samar.

Photo: Jed Regala/Oxfam Pilipinas



Click on the buttons to find out more!

# ENSURING JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

Energy is a key economic driver that boosts livelihoods, especially among growing economies in the Southeast Asian region. Inequitable access to energy diminishes the abilities of communities to be more resilient.

Oxfam Pilipinas is campaigning for public policy and investments to ensure that the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy (RE) benefits the poor and the vulnerable.

This policy campaign is brought to the ASEAN level, in recognition of the Southeast Asian region's contribution to the global efforts of reducing carbon emissions and scaling up sustainable energy interventions. Together with Oxfam in Vietnam and Oxfam in Indonesia, we convened and established the Asia Network for People's Energy (ANPE). ANPE shall influence public policies, government actions and investments at the ASEAN level in ensuring a transition grounded on inclusive and just energy transition (JET) principles.

We encouraged local governments to invest in community-based renewable energy systems to create more sustainable communities.

In June 2022, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) office in Oriental Mindoro signed a memorandum of agreement with Keep Hope Alive, an Oxfam Pilipinas JET partner. Such agreement secured national government support for renewable energy initiatives, paving the way for increased public investments.

Advocacies by partner SIKAT has spurred the Dolores Municipal government to make disaster resilience a priority. The local government has integrated RE-related interventions in their local DRR management plans. Barangay leaders have engaged with SIKAT and Solar Solutions, a private sector solar power technology developer, to explore renewable energy system designs for their communities. Inter-barangay learning visits expanded the knowledge and appreciation of barangay officials on RE and JET.

The paradigm shift has begun.



The solar powered streetlight serves as the navigational guide for fisherfolk at sea as well as additional protection measure that allows the community to walk on a well-lighted street at night.

Photo: Jonard Sabejon/Sentro para sa Ikaunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya

**The light is visible from a distance. Even when it is dark, we know it is Hilabaan island because of the light.**

**It serves as our guide when coming back**



**Click on the button to find out more!**





# We Help Save Lives During Disasters and Conflict

**A journey with the people takes a thousand steps  
and a heart overwhelmed with passion.**

In 2022, our work in the Community Organizers Multiversity (COM) reached from south to north and the east. Barefoot, we served communities in Abra, Polilio and Siargao Islands aside from our regular work areas in Central Mindanao. It was a mission to remember, serving people of diverse tribes needing life-saving humanitarian and development interventions.

In all these, we were accompanied by our long-time support partner Oxfam Pilipinas who journeyed with us every step of the way. Oxfam tirelessly joined us in our walk, not just providing slippers and water for our transect pace but sharing in our plans and vision, listening to our thoughts, feeling our limitations and celebrating our successes.

Oxfam is not just our resource partner but a learning and development colleague sharing our passion for serving the most vulnerable communities. Our journey reflects Oxfam's commitment for a "Patás na bukas" for which we also aspire. It was a year of fruitful partnership, and we will remain committed sharing in the collective mission. **Salam-at-Padayon.**

In Solidarity,



**Ka Evhoy Villaruel**  
Coordinator,  
CO Multiversity sa Mindanaw

Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas

## We Help Save Lives During Disaster and Conflict

When lives are at stake, we ensure that no one gets left behind.

We work with partners who have development presence in affected areas and who can quickly deliver humanitarian response. A much broader effort is enhancing the capabilities of various actors such as local governments, non-government organizations and the private sector to deliver timely, inclusive, and appropriate humanitarian aid during emergencies. We establish mechanisms and pursue policies within the nexus of development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding initiatives.

Oxfam Pilipinas makes sure that it remains humane, neutral, impartial, and independent. We extend life-saving services to those who are in most need. We aid the most vulnerable by providing food, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), mental health and psychosocial interventions, gender-based violence referrals, and protection.

We have developed our internal humanitarian systems and capabilities to such a degree that we are able to provide timely and effective assistance whenever and wherever needed. And we stay long enough so that communities are better prepared for the next disaster.

**“We are also grateful that the staff of Oxfam and COM made the great effort to visit our community to see for their own eyes how our lives are and how we survive daily.**

**It was the first time for some of us to see outsiders, and the knowledge that there are people who cared about whether we live or die during and after calamities meant so much to us.”**

Ronaldo “Kaban” Penamente Piston (far right), member of the Dumagat Tribe, on receiving the PhP 3,000 multi-purpose cash assistance

To support the communities affected by Super Typhoon Noru, Oxfam Pilipinas and its partner Community Organizers Multiversity (COM) trekked for 12 hours from the barangay proper to the Dumagat community to distribute PhP 3,000 multi-purpose cash assistance .

Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas



*Click on the button to find out more!*

## SAVING LIVES THROUGH

## EMERGENCY RAPID RESPONSE

Our actions have made a difference to the lives of **181,195<sup>3</sup>** individuals who were provided with life-saving and early recovery assistance in the aftermath of **seven** disasters from April 2022 to March 2023:

- Super Typhoon Rai (Odette)
- Super Typhoon Noru (Karding)
- Severe Tropical Storm Nalgae (Paeng)
- Abra Earthquake
- Cotabato City Flooding
- Kidapawan City Flooding
- Davao De Oro Earthquake

## GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS COVERED

8

local humanitarian  
partners

8

provinces

34

cities/  
municipalities

202

barangays



Below is a summary of our humanitarian and emergency interventions in collaboration with partner governments, organizations, and communities:

## REACH PER SECTOR<sup>4</sup>



food security  
and livelihood

**20,020**  
individuals



water, sanitation  
and hygiene (WASH)

**27,880**  
individuals



shelter

**73,700**  
individuals



protection

**61,549**  
individuals



health and  
nutrition

**8,055**  
individuals



disaster risk reduction  
and management

**3,519**  
individuals



risk  
communications

**11,450**  
individuals



education in  
emergency

**3,634**  
individuals



anticipatory  
action

**49,325**  
individuals

## SEX, AGE, DISABILITY

## DISAGGREGATED DATA

**30,957**

boys below 17 yrs old

**31,909**

girls below 17 yrs old

**48,868**

men 18-59 yrs old

**49,236**

women 18-59 yrs old

**16,154**

people with disabilities

**7,007**

elderly

**83%**

of total funds are allocated  
and managed by NGO partners

158,309,701.7 PhP out of  
189,921,169.9 PhP total funding

*Conversion rate as of March 2023*



Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas

# ENABLING COMMUNITIES TO COPE THROUGH ANTICIPATORY ACTION

A key pathway to building resilient communities is providing them with the tools and the science to project the impact of disasters. This knowledge is then used to develop and implement mitigating actions *before* a disaster strikes.

Oxfam Pilipinas has been learning from the activation of its anticipatory actions (AA). Each time, we refine our approach to anticipatory assistance to help the most vulnerable, hazard-prone families to prepare for a disaster.

We combine science-based risk forecasting with the community's knowledge of hazards to map the extend and nature of a disaster impact.

If we are able to describe the potential impact of disasters on communities, we are able to provide pre-emptive assistance, usually in the form of cash that households may use to buy whatever they need to prepare for a disaster. The availability of anticipatory cash, in-kind assistance and AA services has significantly reduced the adverse impacts of typhoons and floods.

We are now seeing a positive and emerging interest among our local government partners, most of them now integrating AA in their programs.

In Cotabato City, the anticipatory process alerts were activated twice, following the joint endorsements by the local government through the city DRRM officer and the SUPPA BARMM consortium. Anticipatory cash assistance was released five days before flood waters rose in Cotabato City.



A project participant of the SUPPA BARMM Project uses her iAFFORD card loaded with the anticipatory cash assistance to buy necessities in preparation for the impending flooding.

Photo: Jordan Taha/People's Disaster Risk Reduction Network

AA also helps preserve livelihoods assets when disaster strikes. Such actions include insurance registration through the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), installation of community-based livestock evacuation, retrofitting of flood-proof livestock storage, formation of community savings groups that generated savings used to mitigate the impact of hazards, and flood-proofing of personal belongings and important documents. We helped **8,866** individuals in Cotabato and Kidapawan Cities for this purpose.

Through our capacity building interventions, around **85%** of the community and LGU partners improved their awareness and knowledge of disasters. At the same time, life-saving support was extended to **6,160** individuals from the 1,232 households who received anticipatory cash assistance in Cotabato and Kidapawan cities. Currently, partner local governments in Cotabato City, Kidapawan City and Eastern Samar are modelling and actively advocating the anticipatory action approaches to other local government units and their community members.

# BETTER LIFE WITHIN REACH: SUPPORTING INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Oxfam Pilipinas and our partners responded to several humanitarian crises brought about by natural and human-induced hazards. In Maguindano, flooding, landslides and armed conflict displaced 43,943 individuals or 8,789 families. Shortly after, a 7.0-magnitude tremor hit northern Philippines in mid-2022 which damaged more than 25,000 homes, affected 463,290 people, and forced 3,116 people to reside in temporary shelters.

Our humanitarian team sprang into action to respond to both disasters. Under the REACH 3 project, we provided life-saving assistance to **18,342** individuals or 3,668 households.

We provided food assistance to 8,820 individuals while 8,020 individuals had improved WASH access through the installation or rehabilitation of WASH facilities in Maguindanao and repair of water sources and distribution lines in Abra. WASH committees were set up and trained to operate and maintain the facilities, ensuring sustainability and promoting good community hygiene practices.

A total of 2,451 individuals in Abra received shelter assistance during their temporary displacement. Of this number, 450 individuals (whose houses were rendered uninhabitable due to damage from the earthquake) received core shelter, which they helped design and construct. But the earthquake not only damaged houses but also schools. In response, eight temporary learning spaces were built with the support of school officials, ensuring continuous learning for the children.

Often overlooked as a need, we provided Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) in seven partner municipalities in Abra and Maguindanao, allowing 1,231 individuals access to consultations with mental health specialists and psychosocial support sessions with trained facilitators. Along with protection-related services such as capacity-building on their legal rights in relation to gender-based violence and counseling to victims of gender-based violence and those who experienced trauma due to the tremor in Abra, we conducted community-based psychosocial support sessions (PSS). With this effort, we assisted **2,548** individuals, including children and the elderly.



Dianne and Jojo, together with their daughter, pose inside their newly built core shelter as part of the REACH 3 Project's Abra Earthquake Response. Their house was totally damaged when a 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit their province.

Photo: Cristy Gastones/Oxfam Pilipinas

I now feel more safe and comfortable with the core shelter provided to us, especially when it's only me and my daughter left at home.

# ADVANCING LOCAL HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

Harnessing the agency of communities to act and respond is integral to humanitarian work. Together with our partners, we broker collaboration among local governments and community leaders to improve the way they respond to emergencies. We influence the local disaster risk reduction policies and programs of partner communities to ensure they are more inclusive.

Oxfam Pilipinas recognizes the significant role of women in local humanitarian leadership. We supported Bayi, Inc. in convening multiple learning exchange initiatives among women leaders. Their lived experiences and perspectives help shape more gender-responsive humanitarian actions.

In May 2022, Oxfam Pilipinas supported 15 women's groups and civil society organizations in Leyte and Samar to draft a women's DRR and local humanitarian leadership agenda, enabling women to lead and be part of preparedness and response actions before, during and after emergencies.

**We are proud because we are not just women.**

**It feels good that I am now a barangay responder. Most of the time, people expect only men to help with such things.**

Ritchen Concilles, a youth leader in the island barangay of Corregidor in Surigao del Norte province, shows a tie knot that she learned from the Basic Life Saving and Water Search training. This activity is part of the Feminist Local Humanitarian leadership project of Oxfam Pilipinas and partner Sentro para sa Ikauunlad ng Katutubong Agham at Teknolohiya, Inc. (SIKAT).

Photo: Erielle Esturas/Oxfam Pilipinas



**Click on the buttons to find out more!**





# Creating a More Just, Gender-Equal and Inclusive Society

Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas



Women Engaged in Action on 1325 (WE ACT 1325), a network of peace, human rights and women organizations, has been striving since 2010 to make women peace and security initiatives more effective, accountable and collaborative. In this endeavor, WE ACT 1325 has found its most sustained partnership and support with Oxfam Pilipinas.

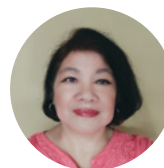
**Oxfam has journeyed with us in the implementation of a series of projects that engaged women in communities on strengthening their participation and leadership, particularly in the Bangsamoro transition.**

With the painstaking aspects of project management, we have somehow learned from each other the harder realities of nurturing principles like inclusivity, autonomy and accountability. Overall, working together has been easy based on a shared commitment to women empowerment.

Most recently, WE Act 1325 and Oxfam carried out a timely project of widespread consultations that resulted in civil society agenda highlighting the role of women and girls in their diverse and intersecting identities for advocacy in the new National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security.

Greater challenges lie ahead on implementation, and so we are truly grateful for the continuing good partnership with Oxfam Pilipinas!

Maraming salamat at padayon!



**Karen Tañada**  
Executive Director  
Women Engaged in Action on 1325

Oxfam Pilipinas remains steadfast in advancing the rights of women, girls, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community and in shifting norms towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

We collaborate with women's rights organizations (WROs) and women leaders to address harmful gender stereotypes, provide accessible reproductive services, advance women's leadership, and participation in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and governance, and enhance women's economic capacities.

We envision a future where people, regardless of gender identities, sexual orientation, and expression, are free from all forms of inequality, violence, and discrimination.

**"I learned that as a woman, I should be able to decide how I spend the money I earn.**

**I learned that these financial decisions should not be solely decided by the husband."**

Salima Mamayo, member of the Pawak Saguiran Golden Ladies Producer Cooperative, on how earning and managing their own income also allowed her to assert her position in the household.

Salima Mamayo holds the grated turmeric, the golden produce that provide economic opportunity for the women members of Pawak Saguiran Golden Ladies Producer Cooperative.

Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas



# CREATING SPACES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Creating Spaces project was a five-year, multi-country initiative aimed at reducing violence against women and girls and the prevalence of child, early and forced marriage in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines. In the Philippines, Oxfam worked closely with organizations such as Al-Mujadilah Women’s Association (AMWA), United Youth of the Philippines–Women (UnYPhil–Women), Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and Philippine Legislators’ Committee for Population and Development (PLCPD) to tackle the social norms change in the Bangsamoro region.

The Impact Evaluation Report published in November 2022 showed that change was possible if there were concerted, strategic and sustained efforts to shift local behaviors and if the development of national and subnational laws was influenced positively.

The project helped increase the awareness and confidence among women and girls. Women leaders emerged as influencers within their communities. The youth was at the forefront of peer influencing work through various school-based interventions. With the help of UnYphil–Women, around **1,000** youth leaders became advocates for change, utilizing platforms at national and community levels to wield influence.

Through the project, women and girl survivors of violence gained access to services. In an outcome survey, almost **50%** of the respondents confirmed that they learned about local services through their participation in the project. Gender-based violence watch groups led by women and girl leaders were established in the project communities to monitor incidence of VAWC and to provide peer support for survivors. Improving access to income-generating activities helped build economic independence among women and girl survivors of violence and child, early and forced marriages. At present, Oxfam Pilipinas is advocating for the full implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Law with the release of the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Violence against women and girls is a

## GLOBAL SILENT PANDEMIC



**ONE IN FOUR FILIPINO WOMEN**  
age 15–49 years old  
experienced physical,  
emotional or sexual violence  
by their husband or partner.

Source: Philippine National Demographic and Health Survey 2017

**CHILD MARRIAGE IS A SPECIFIC FORM OF VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS, WHICH HAS DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES.**



Girls who become child brides are more likely to drop out of school, suffer health shocks and experience other forms of violence.

## END CHILD MARRIAGE NOW



*Click on the button to find out more!*

## CLAIMING SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Oxfam Pilipinas envisions a future where everyone has access to sexual and reproductive health services free from discrimination or stigma.

In the last five years, we contributed to this vision by positively shifting norms, attitudes and behavior toward sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) through the Sexual Health Empowerment (SHE) project.

For the past year alone, we reached a total of **19,360** individuals<sup>5</sup> through the local health learning sessions, peer-to-peer trainings, and advocacy. Local government units engaged by the SHE project are now providing resources to support and to sustain service delivery programs and campaigns initiated by our partners in their respective areas. Amid the alarming surge of adolescent pregnancy, we also worked with partners in influencing the development of the Adolescent Pregnancy bill currently pending in the Senate.

As a result, more individuals in our partner communities are now more aware as they appreciate the value of promoting SRHR and preventing gender-based violence in their communities.



**Click on the buttons to find out more!**

<sup>5</sup> With a cumulative reach of 70,286 individuals since Year 1 implementation of the SHE Project in 2018.

We are happy when mothers take this opportunity to go to the health center and avail of our services. The more they come, the more we feel that we have been effective in educating them about their sexual and reproductive health rights.

Alnairah Aminola, a barangay health worker from the village of Pindulunan, poses for a picture inside a health clinic in the town of Ganassi, Lanao del Sur, southern Philippines.

Photo: Basilio Sepe/Oxfam Pilipinas

A pulse survey conducted by the SHE project showed an increase in positive attitudes towards SRHR from **56% in 2021 to 61% in 2023**. The project has significantly advanced efforts to address adolescent pregnancy by fostering an enabling environment and engaging the youth to raise awareness of the issue. The 2021 Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study (YAFS5) by the University of the Philippines Population Institute showed a sharp decrease in pregnancies among Filipino girls aged 15 to 19, from 14% in 2013 to 7% in 2021.

The sensemaking workshops organized by Oxfam Pilipinas and its partners also linked more positive attitudes with the reduced incidence of gender-

based violence in the project areas and a more sustained promotion of gender equality by the community members.

Partner organizations utilized their institutional strengthening grants to increase their knowledge and capabilities in the promotion of SRHR and programming of GBV prevention. As a result, the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK) was recognized as a practitioner of gender mainstreaming best practices in the environment sector, building credibility for the GBV Watch Group strategy and the self-help group approach in women organizing.

Knowledge materials on SRHR and gender justice were developed and utilized by WROs, policy makers and allied groups. Advocacy and influencing initiatives such as the International Day of Action for Women's Health Campaign and the 18 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence were also conducted by partners to enhance SRHR promotion and VAWG prevention.



A woman carries her baby outside a rural health clinic in the town of Ganassi, Lanao del Sur, southern Philippines.

Photo: Basilio Sepe/Oxfam Pilipinas

# ENGENDERING CIVIL SOCIETY SOLIDARITY AND LEGITIMACY IN POLICY MAKING

Oxfam helped lend legitimacy to civil society organizations to actively participate in policy dialogue on women, peace, and security.

Together with WEAct 1325, we responded to the request of the Office of the Presidential Adviser of Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) to assess the 2017-2022 National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAPWPS) and in drafting the 2023-2033 NAPWPS.

We co-created an 11-point CSO agenda culled from the perspectives and experiences of 114 CSOs and groups nationwide. This effort has exemplified our feminist values, bringing the voices of a multitude of women and marginalized groups right in the heart of policy-making so that no policy is made about them without them.



A participant signs on the 11-point CSO agenda on women, peace, and security during the National Consultation of the Participatory Engagement in Assessing, Crafting, and Expanding the NAPWPS (PEACE-NAPWPS) project.

Photo: Neal Roxas/Oxfam Pilipinas

## The 11-Point CSO-WPS Agenda

1. Social reform and poverty reduction programs
2. Culture- and gender-sensitive safe spaces for the protection of women
3. Access to justice
4. Women's full participation
5. Strengthen capacities of women to respond to vertical and horizontal conflicts at the community level
6. Community-driven process
7. Rights-based approach in all government plans, policies, processes, programs, and services
8. WPS lens in disaster risk reduction and management
9. WPS lens in GAD planning and budgeting in conflict and post-conflict areas
10. Mainstream WPS perspective in all existing government programs and projects
11. Strengthen the role of CSOs in holding the government to be transparent and accountable



**Click on the buttons to find out more!**



Members of the Pawak Saguiran Golden Ladies Producer Cooperative pose with the packaged turmeric powder, their group's main product.

Photo: Vina Salazar / Oxfam Pilipinas

## RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IN THE BANGSAMORO

Oxfam Pilipinas works to achieve a culture of gender equality and diversity in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) where women become active leaders and participants in the governance and economic spheres.

Through the WELD Peace project, we contributed to making Bangsamoro institutions more supportive of increasing the participation of women and other marginalized groups in decision-making.

At the advocacy helm, AMWA, UnYPh-Women and WE Act 1325 lobbied for increasing opportunities for women's participation in the 2025 BARMM governance structure.

It's important for women to be part of consultations  
and conversations on peacebuilding and normalization  
to ensure that the welfare, experiences, and rights of  
women are not left out.

The quota for women representation in political parties and sectoral representation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Act 35 (also known as the Bangsamoro Electoral Code) increased from 10% to 30%. The Code now also recognizes the role and contribution of women in nation-building and in indigenous political structures.

Lending legitimacy to their voice and role in local governance, two women organizations now sit as members of their municipal local special bodies in Lanao del Sur, the Local Development Council (LDC) in Balindong and the Local Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children in Saguiran.

We are shifting norms around women's leadership. We enabled women leaders to contribute to crafting government policies such as on the Gender and Development Plan (GAD), the Regional Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (RAPWPS), and the revised Child Protection-Gender-Based Violence (CP-GBV) Referral Pathway. The activities of Sigay nu mga Babay (women's group) and their negotiations with local military authorities and mediation efforts have demonstrated women's role in peacebuilding.

Complementing these governance efforts is providing economic opportunities for women to benefit from enterprise chains such as the Halal industry so they can generate incomes. Our partner women's enterprises participated in the Philippine Halal Trade and Tourism Expo where they were able to earn Php60,000 through their exhibits.

More importantly, it opened more economic opportunities, allowing them to network with the government and the private sector for potential collaboration.

We worked with women's groups to claim economic support from regional BARMM agencies and local governments. A total of **10** local women's livelihood groups were accredited with the regional and local economic bodies such as the Ministry of Labor and Employment and Cooperative and Social Enterprise Authority in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur. This legal recognition has increased their access to support services such as trainings, raw materials, and equipment.

We were able to support **403** women from **eight** livelihood groups led by women to initiate diverse income-generating projects in Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao. They have since expanded their membership and have trained more women and girls in their respective communities. An independent evaluation has shown that our initiatives continue to promote women's economic empowerment by encouraging men's support in assuming care responsibilities and in enhancing women's autonomy in the use of their income.

We pay tribute and will continue to value the essential role and capabilities of women to engender peace and development in the Bangsamoro.



Roconsalem Amer poses inside her home in Saguiaran, Lanao del Sur where they meet to discuss matters regarding their women-led cooperative.

Photo: Vina Salazar/Oxfam Pilipinas



*Click on the button to find out more!*



# CHAPTER 3

**OUR EVOLVING IDENTITY:**

**INFLUENCING FOR**

**INCLUSIVE POLICIES**

**AND CAMPAIGNING FOR**

**RIGHTS-CLAIMING**



Nana is a peer educator who uses her voice to influence young people and schoolmates in raising awareness on adolescent reproductive health and prevention of child, early, and forced marriage.

Photo: Basilio Sepe/Oxfam Pilipinas

## Policy Influencing

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**Oxfam Pilipinas is helping shift the political and social narratives in favor of the voices of women and the most vulnerable.**

We create spaces of productive dialogue between citizens and duty-bearers.

We develop social accountability mechanisms to ensure that the policies created and programs enacted carry the best interests of the most vulnerable.

We promote the passage of progressive laws that help improve the lives of the marginalized, challenge existing power inequalities and contribute to changing harmful social norms and discriminatory practices.

Marivic Dubria is the cooperative leader of Balutakay Coffee Farmers Association. She has been leading her community to produce award-winning coffee on the foothills of Mt. Apo. Dubria is among the farmer trainees of Coffee for Peace, a social enterprise and a Poverty Reduction through Social Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Coalition member. The PRESENT Coalition is an ally of the Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia and Oxfam Pilipinas, pushing for the passage of the Social Enterprise Bill in Congress.

Photo: Roy Lagarde/Oxfam Pilipinas

# LEGISLATIONS & POLICIES WE SUPPORT

## ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY PREVENTION BILL

This bill seeks to address teenage pregnancies in the country. Its provisions call for government support in providing adolescents better access to reproductive health and rights information and services. Together with our partners, we influenced the drafting of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Legislation. Eight out of our 11 recommendations were integrated in subsequent drafts.

## GENDER RESPONSIVE AND INCLUSIVE PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT ACT

Women are disproportionately impacted by crises and disasters. Policies and protocols during emergencies must integrate gender-responsive and inclusive measures to address specific and differentiated impacts of emergencies, disasters, health crises and conflicts on women and girls and the marginalized sectors.

## POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PRESENT) BILL

The PRESENT bill aims to support social enterprises in the country as a strategy for poverty reduction and post-pandemic economic recovery. It also aims to promote women's economic empowerment that will help enhance the resilience of local communities. We work with the Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA) and the PRESENT Coalition to carry out advocacy interventions. The coalition has already expanded to 50 civil society groups and social enterprises.



*Click on the button to find out more!*

# LEGISLATIONS & POLICIES WE SUPPORT

## CARE ECONOMY POLICIES

Oxfam Pilipinas and its partners promote the adoption of enabling policies for the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work by helping craft the National Care Economy Framework led by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The proposed framework is meant to align to the ASEAN Comprehensive Framework in Care Economy, which was adopted in 2021 to guide the region's collective action in addressing care economy issues.

## IMMINENT DISASTER BILL

We advocate anticipatory action in times of crises to save lives and livelihoods. The Imminent Disaster bill triggers government action and early release of cash support prior to the impact of disasters. Such policies on anticipatory action reduce the affected communities' vulnerabilities to disasters and strengthens their capacity to manage its impacts.



## LEGISLATIONS & POLICIES WE SUPPORT

### SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY & EXPRESSION, & SEX CHARACTERISTICS (SOGIESC) EQUALITY BILL

Gender justice is at the heart of what we do. Oxfam Pilipinas supports its partners who are at the forefront of lobbying for the SOGIESC Equality bill, which seeks to prohibit discrimination based on SOGIESC particularly regarding their access to education, employment, and quality healthcare. It provides protection against gender-based violence and promotes the economic, social, civil, and political rights of every individual.

### PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE LAW AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

The passage of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Law was a landmark win for young people faced with harmful norms and practices. It aligns with one of our gender justice aims of contributing to the elimination of child, early and forced marriage. The success of this policy campaign can be attributed to the solidarity, technical work, political engagement and public campaigns by Oxfam Pilipinas, in close collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), and Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK).

Oxfam Pilipinas reaffirms its support to help the government disseminate the provisions of the law and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to encourage its stronger and effective enforcement. The development of the IRR benefits from consultations with key stakeholders such as indigenous peoples, women, youth, and civil society groups from the Bangsamoro and other regions.



# IN FOCUS: CELEBRATING PRIDE

Oxfam Pilipinas recognizes the value of the queer community's potent activism and resilience in creating a future free from violence and discrimination.

We participated in Pride 2022, a celebration of diversity, resistance to discrimination and championing for social progress of the queer community.

In the Philippines, our month-long online campaign reached **1.5 MILLION** impressions and over 600,000 engagements in our online campaign done in partnership with TikTok Philippines and various local social media influencers and digital artists.

Beyond the Pride Month celebrations, Oxfam Pilipinas continues to uphold and promote the rights of LGBTQIA+ community members and contribute to creating safer spaces for them.



About the artist: Henrick V. Dulin, or HENCH (he/him), is a freelance illustrator in the Philippines. He is known for doing comics, murals, and illustrations for children's books.

## QUEERTALKPH

Pride: Allied Together



We partnered with LGBTQIA+ groups Babaylanes and Philippine Anti-Discrimination Alliance of Youth Leaders (PANTAY) and LGBTQIA+ couple Roanne and Tina to raise awareness, especially among the Filipino youth, about micro-aggressions and discrimination directed towards the LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities.

## QUEER SPACE

Reclaiming safe spaces for the LGBTQIA+ community

We need more allies to fully recognize the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community amid the compounding challenges of the global economic recession, shrinking democratic spaces, and disinformation.



Cheng Pagulayan  
Queer Activist &  
Climate Justice Coordinator,  
Oxfam Pilipinas

## QUEER JOY

Queer joy is a positive feeling that we get from encountering signs of progress in gender equality and gender diversity.

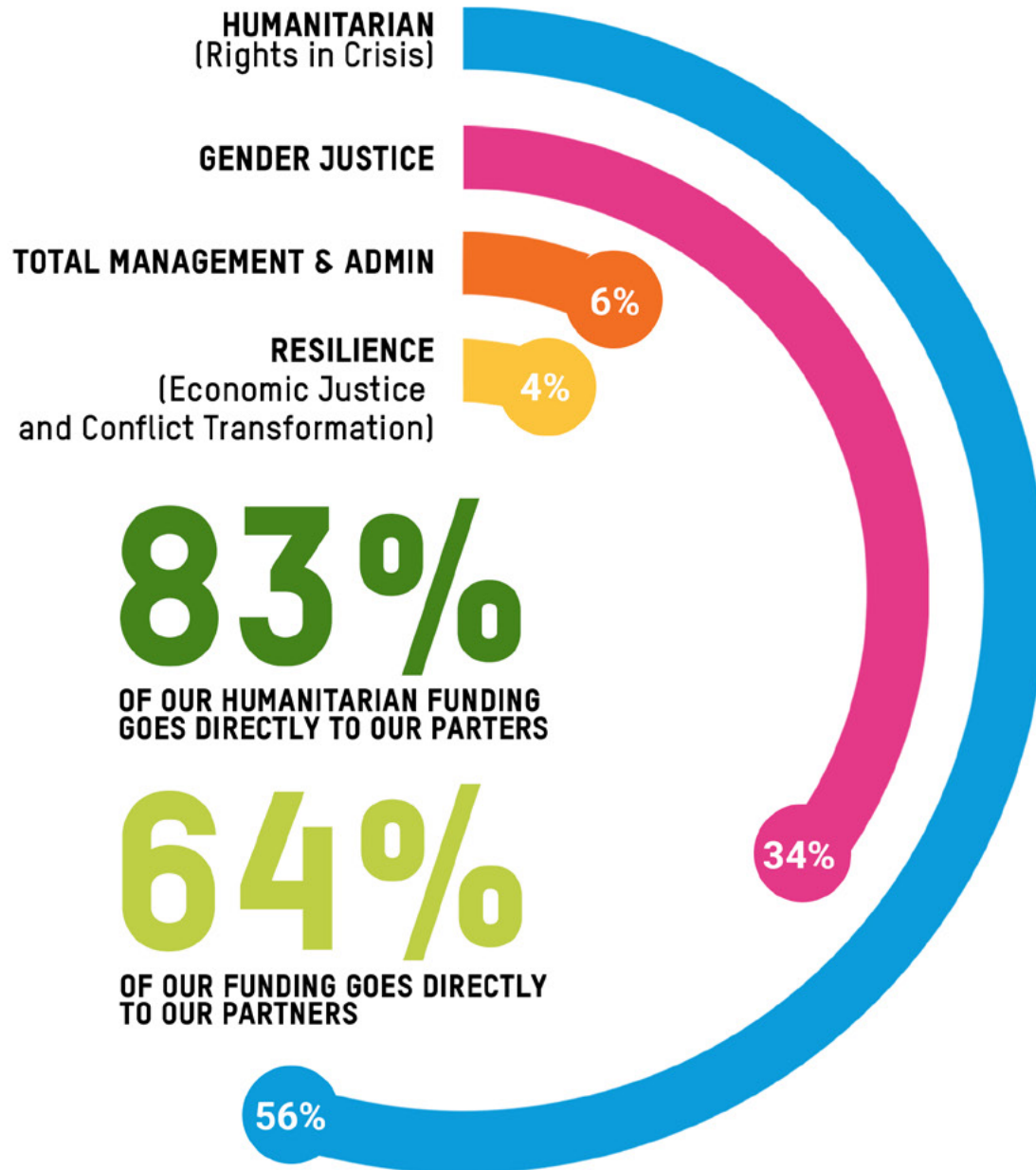
BLOSSOMING OUTSIDE OF RIGID GENDER ROLES AND NORMS  
SEEING LGBTQIA+ PEOPLE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES  
KNOWING I CAN BE MYSELF WITHOUT FEAR OF VIOLENCE  
EXPRESSING MYSELF FREELY THROUGH MY LOOK AND CLOTHES  
BEING SURROUNDED BY A DIVERSE AND POWERFUL COMMUNITY

QUEER JOY IS



Click on the button to find out more!

# MAXIMIZING RESOURCES



Oxfam Pilipinas maximizes the support we receive to ensure meaningful and lasting impact of our programs.

This fiscal year, more than 90% of our resources were allocated to our portfolios, with 56% allotted to Humanitarian, 34% to the Gender Justice, and 4% to Resilience.

## VALUE IN PHP

■ 207,114,681.89

■ 125,116,701.63

■ 22,683,075.87

■ 15,793,617.47



## OUR PARTNER

## AFFILIATES

Oxfam Pilipinas is a strategic partner of the following affiliates:

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Oxfam Australia (OAU)  
Oxfam Belgium (OBE)  
Oxfam Canada (OCA)  
Oxfam Great Britain (OGB)  
Oxfam Novib  
Oxfam Hongkong (OHK)

## OUR FUNDING

## PARTNERS

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MANAGING EDITOR:  
Rash Caritativo

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT:  
Erielle Esturas

LAYOUT:  
Neal Igan Roxas  
Erielle Esturas

CONTRIBUTORS:  
Erika Geronimo  
Jeanette Kindipan-Dulawan  
Rhoda Avila  
Leah Payud  
Ranee Cabaces  
Ted Bonpin  
Jill Magat  
Marion Cabrera  
Voltaire Alferez  
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Rina Fulo  
Patricia Lloren Tuano





# BANYUHAY

Oxfam Pilipinas Annual Report  
April 2022 - March 2023

