

**Rural Resilience and Transformation in Asia (Post-Pandemic):
Challenges, Pathways, and Investments**
13th AsiaDHRRA General Assembly
4 July 2023, Via Zoom
PhilDHRRA- HIGHLIGHTS OF OPERATIONS/ PERFORMANCE
(2021-2022)



From 2021-2022, what was your organization’s
MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT** in terms of:

I. Empowering Rural Peoples' Organizations (RPOs) in delivering effective services to their

- 10 Network members are engaged in projects and programs related to asset reform and rural development reaching 4,958 beneficiaries in 129 communities. Activities include PO organizing and strengthening, assistance to tenurial rights, advocacy campaigns, etc.
- 16 Network Members implemented Natural Resource Management/Agri Aqua/Coastal Resources Management projects in 110 communities reaching about 3,285 beneficiaries (upland and lowland farmers, indigenous peoples or IPs, and fishers). Through these projects, the communities are provided with organizational development and technical training, hands on technical assistance, mentoring and coaching.
- 11 Network members implemented Enterprise Development Projects reaching around 602,912 beneficiaries (upland and lowland farmers, IPs and fishers) covering a total of 110 communities. Interventions include micro finance, promoting agro-enterprises and collective marketing, rice and coffee consolidation, credit facility support to cooperatives, processing, and marketing of agri-products.
- 405 RPOs are engaged in local governance projects and programs reaching around 4,658 beneficiaries in 60 communities. PhilDHRRA and its Members provide the capacity building of these RPOs and provide mentoring and coaching activities.
- 12 Network members have implemented programs on disaster risk reduction and management reaching 11,693 beneficiaries in 166 communities. Member’s assistance included distribution of cash and relief goods to the typhoon victims.

- 15 Network members are implementing programs related to the provision of basic social services reaching 7,864 beneficiaries in 65 communities. Interventions include educational sponsorship/scholarship, community extension, training of health volunteers, construction of potable water systems, infrastructure support for IPs' education program, child sponsorship and primary health care. A member is also working on a project on Family Violence Prevention and Management.

II. Leading priority Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (RDPE) agenda at the national, regional & global spheres

(Discuss your key policy advocacy work and results so far. Discuss as well if there are any public and/or private program that you were able to access or take part of.)

PhilDHRRA's policy advocacy on rural transformation in the last two years focused on three thematic areas – 1) asset reform and rural development, 2) climate resiliency and adaptation, and 3) participatory local governance.

a. Asset reform and rural development

- Philippine Action Plan for Family Farmers (PAP4FF)

PhilDHRRA has participated in various consultations and workshops in the drafting of the Philippine Action Plan for Family Farmers (PAP4FF). The PAP4FF is a national action plan that will mobilize all relevant institutions from the key sectors towards an overarching goal of "Masaganang Ani, Mataas na Kita at Marangal na Buhay ng Pamilyang Magsasaka" ("Abundant Harvests, High Incomes and Dignified Life of Family Farmers").

- Knowledge Learning Management for Policy Engagement

Since 2021, PhilDHRRA acted as the Secretariat for the Agricultural and Rural Development Knowledge and Policy Platform (ARDKPP), which organizes the annual KLMPE. The event brings together smallholder farmers and fisheries nationwide to share and engage the government agencies for policies that will improve the livelihood and well-being of the farmers/fishers/Ips/women.

The KLMPE has already pushed forward 28 policy recommendations to different government agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian Reform. Policy recommendations were about resource tenure improvement, agri-enterprise development, climate resiliency, youth in agriculture, gender, and ICT/digital agriculture.

- Position papers on House Bill No. 10582 and 2125

Over the last two years, PhilDHRRA was able to participate in committee meetings of the House of Representatives Committee on Rural Development on two proposed bills. The Network was able to submit two position papers on House Bill (HB) 2125 - An Act Promoting Rural Financial Inclusion and Literacy. Approved by the House on 2022-01-17, transmitted to the Senate on 2022-01-24 and received by the Senate on 2022-01-24. The bill (SBN 1294) is still pending at the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development. And House Bill (HB) 2125 - A Resolution Enjoining the Expression of Solidarity of the House of Representatives through the Committee on Women and Gender Equality in the Observance of the United Nation's International Day for Rural Women Every 15th of October Annually.

b. Climate resiliency and adaptation

- Responsible Agricultural Investments (RAI)

In collaboration with FAO and AsiaDHRRA, PhilDHRRA is working on the empowerment of women and youth for them to better engage in Responsible Agriculture (RAI). In 2021, we facilitated the conduct of a study on Youth in Agriculture and presented this study in a Forum

participated in by young farmer leaders in the Philippines. After this forum, the young farmer leaders who are members of the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Magsasakang Kabataan pushed for their advocacy on the passage of the Magna Carta of Young Farmers.

Mapping of women and young farmers organizations engaging in RAI was conducted and a learning needs assessment of these groups was likewise done. A training on RAI was conducted participated in by representatives from the Cooperatives, Farmers Organizations and Non-government Organizations (NGOs). A dialogue with other stakeholders involving the government and private sectors was convened where representatives of the women and young farmers organizations presented their issues and concerns.

- Zero Extreme Poverty Philippines 2030 (ZEP 2030)

PhilDHRRA is the lead convenor of the agriculture and fisheries cluster of the ZEP 2030 movement. As lead convenor, the Network is tasked to see through the achievement of the agenda set in 2017 by farmers and fishers. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the movement shifted to localize its approach. Local conveners were organized and, PhilDHRRA in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme have organized local convenors in San Fernando City and the province of Bohol.

- COVID-19 Recovery Agenda for the Philippine CSO Sector

As a member of the Caucus of Development NGOs (CODE NGO), PhilDHRRA organized consultation workshops with its members and community partners to establish the civil society organizations COVID-19 recovery agenda.

PhilDHRRA affirms and recognizes the sector's critical role in addressing the historical and existing social inequalities exacerbated in a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has significantly impacted CSOs likewise, causing the sector to struggle to recover or survive, in some cases, to continue its operations, employment of its staff, and programs and services in partner communities. Hence, the CSO sector must forward its own agenda to address its needs for immediate recovery and the continuation of its development work.

c. Participatory local governance

- Co-commitment holder in the 5th National Action Plan of the Open Government Partnership

Since 2016, PhilDHRRA has been an active stakeholder on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) platform because of its programs on local governance. OGP is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

- In 2019, PhilDHRRA had an opportunity to participate in the Philippine 5th National Action Plan as co-commitment holder in partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Government. The commitment was to strengthen citizen participation in governance processes using technology. PhilDHRRA was able to engage 380 local organizations and 4,658 CSO leaders in 18 municipalities.

III. Innovating in offering value and data-driven programs & services to RDPE stakeholders towards sustainability

(Discuss the internal capacity strengthening and innovations that you have carried out to improve your services to partners and to achieve your organizational goals/targets.)

In 2021, PhilDHRRA organized two online sessions wherein members and community partners were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to adapt to the new work environment.

PhilDHRRA Members and communities were introduced to different online tools and applications to effectively communicate and collaborate with their respective beneficiaries. Members and CSO leaders

were trained on how to use and navigate Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams as well as collaboration tools such as Jamboard, Miro, and Mural. Members and leaders were also oriented on how to use presentation tools such as Mentimeter and Sli.do, that are designed to work digitally, live, and allow interaction between speakers and audience.

Aside from online tools and applications, PhilDHRRA Members and partners were also taught on how to do self-care and provide support for mental wellness during the pandemic.

Despite the restriction on mobility, PhilDHRRA was able to train 180 CSO leaders in using the KoBoToolbox for the citizen-led monitoring of various government projects and programs aimed at poverty alleviation. PhilDHRRA believes that citizen feedback is vital in the improvement of government projects and programs as well as their basic service delivery. The local CSOs were able to monitor 72 government projects and programs in 18 municipalities across Luzon and Visayas.

IV. Other key significant achievements

(Discuss if there are any other major achievements that you wish to highlight)

Affirming PhilDHRRA's sustainable and integrated area development as central strategy in achieving rural transformation, the Network has partnered with different organizations on the following projects.

- *Consolidating CSO Networks for Citizens' Engagement towards Participatory and Accountable Governance for Poverty Reduction Phase 2 (CCCE PAG-PR 2)* is a 3-year project funded by the European Union. The project aims to reinforce and build on the contribution of CCCE PAG-PR in strengthening civil society organizations' (CSOs) capacities in mobilizing effective citizens' demand for transparency, accountability, and participatory local governance in pursuit of improved service delivery towards poverty reduction in eighteen (18) municipalities/cities.

Key results are as follows:

- 16 out of 18 municipalities have established their local people's council, coalition, federation and/or network. The remaining two is still in the process of establishing their network but is working together through core groups.
 - 72 citizen-led monitoring government project/program aimed at reducing local poverty performed by 180 CSO leaders. These leaders were trained to conduct monitoring activities using technology. PhilDHRRA partnered with the Department of Interior and Local Government in the use of Development Live (DevLive). CSO leaders were also trained to conduct community-based participatory research using KoBo Toolbox.
 - 9 out of 18 CSO networks have established a social enterprise. SE component of the project was seen as the income generating activity of the local network to sustain their operations. Various challenges were faced in areas who have not developed their SE and were deemed not ready to engage in the enterprise.
 - To institutionalize engagement with different stakeholders, local policies were enacted. In 3 years of implementation, 8 empowerment ordinances, and 1 OTOP (one town, one product) ordinance were enacted and 18 CSO desk offices were established.
- *Retooling & Enriching NGOs to Enhance Work in Rural Development (RENEW) Project* is a 1-year project funded by USAID in partnership with the Save the Children. The project aims to enhance and reinforce the operations of PhilDHRRA's financial sustainability mechanisms, formulate and operationalize PhilDHRRA Strategic Plan for 2023-2027, and improve and strengthen the capacity of the PhilDHRRA Network Members.

Key Results:

- The project was able to establish the PhilDHRRA Sustainability Profile that has guided the project implementation.
- RENEW has helped in refining the PhilDHRRA Strategic Plan 2023-2027.
- As part of the sustainability as Succession Plan and Management Manual established. The manual is to be presented to the Board of Trustees for adoption.
- The project is also facilitation the enhancement and updating of the PhilDHRRA operations manual.

- *Participatory & Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in COVID-19 Recovery and Devolution Transition Planning, Implementation and Monitoring Project*, also known as the AAA Recovery Project (Anticipatory, Agile, and Adaptive) funded by the United Nations Development Programme in collaboration with the Zero Extreme Poverty 2030 coalition.

The AAA project highlighted local multi stakeholders planning that will respond to the current needs of their communities. It emphasized local convergence of different stakeholders to collectively advocate for reforms for greater impact. As a result, 15 multi-stakeholder coalition's roadmap fostering collective action in the new normal agreed on with the local stakeholders.