



2016 World Humanitarian Day

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Action Against Hunger is urging the Government of the Philippines to deliver core commitments for IDPs in Mindanao

As of July 2016, there are over 46, 700 IDPs all over Mindanao. In the occasion of the World Humanitarian Day campaign, which aims to help people empathize with the faces of humanity in crisis around the world, Action Against Hunger reminds the Philippine government of its core commitments during the World Humanitarian Summit. In May 2016, the Philippine government expressed core commitments crucial to the future of IDPs in parts of Mindanao.

Parts of Mindanao have been the home of two of the longest running conflicts in the world resulting to displacement. In Mindanao, displacement has particularly affected the poorest and most historically marginalized indigenous peoples. Consequently, the effects of displacement in Mindanao are reflected in the following disparities: approximately half of all Mindanaoans live below the official poverty line; majority of the ten poorest provinces are in Mindanao; and the average life expectancy in Mindanao is five years shorter than the national average. Further, based on the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is the poorest region in the country with a poverty incidence of 53.4%. Maguindanao, one of the five provinces that make up the region, is considered to be one the poorest provinces with 50.4% poverty incidence. UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs Chaloka Beyani states that “the protracted conflicts and displacement in Mindanao have become a “forgotten crisis” and the internally displaced persons, neglected victims.” Conflicts in Mindanao have displaced some 3.5 million people multiple times since 2000. Their lives are marked by the constancy of instability and insecurity. Action Against Hunger reiterates some of the recommendations from the April 2016 Human Rights Council Report of Beyani IDPs on his mission to the Philippines. The report states that a political solution must remain high on the Government’s agenda and that of the international community. Support to peace process should be a high priority. Appropriate funding and resources must be provided by the Philippine government to all IDPs in an equal manner across all regions of the country. Funding must also be targeted towards strategies to achieve durable solutions for IDPs. On the other hand, return of IDPs to places of origin alone does not fulfil the obligations of the Government to find durable solutions. Even when IDPs are able to return to their place of origin relatively quickly, they require immediate and continued support from the authorities, particularly when livelihoods have been affected.

Action Against Hunger also welcomes the initiative of President Rodrigo Duterte in eradicating hunger and improving the nutritional status of the most vulnerable children. President Duterte has expressed commitment to deliver aid in order to provide nutrition for children in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao which has the highest incidence of hunger visible through stunted and malnourished children. Undernutrition is an everyday emergency which requires political will.

Action Against Hunger is calling on the Philippine government to:

- Ensure that the peace process is a high priority as well as increasing the resilience of the communities against disasters.
- Support the process for a policy on internally displaced persons which will give due attention to all forms of displacement, including conflict and development-induced displacement.
- Ensure adequate funding support to address nutrition issues in emergency and recovery phases.
- Address delays in allocation and distribution of funds and political challenges, including inadequate cooperation between national and local government which are hampering essential recovery and development processes.

Action Against Hunger remains committed to maintain and strengthen international presence in Mindanao in view of the current volatile situation in relation to the ongoing armed conflicts.