



Head Secretariat

● ZEP Lead Convenors Meeting ●

The meeting held on June 23, 2017 opened discussions on the general updates at the coalition level, major developments of the thematic clusters, and the next steps in undertaking the work of expanding the reach of CSOs in implementing poverty reduction programs.

The tentative date for the ZEP General Assembly and Learning Session was set on November 29, 2017. This will be attended by the lead convenors, local implementors and support organizations, representatives of ZEP beneficiaries.



● Livelihood Interventions in Antipolo ●

Last June 16, 2017, PEF participated in the convergence meeting of different stakeholders for the ZEP priority IP community in Antipolo. In this meeting, the community development plan that was crafted by the IP tribe was presented to various stakeholders. Assisi Development Foundation, together with other stakeholders like SMART, LGU of Antipolo, Center for Conservative Innovations and PEF committed to taking on specific roles in executing the community plan.



● Local Convenor for Cebu ●

The Education Cluster welcomes the Coalition for Better Education (CBE) as local convenor for Cebu. CBE is composed of various education stakeholders in the province, including the academe, students, parents, as well as government, non-government, and business organizations committed to the vision of creating empowered learning communities. CBE plans to introduce ZEP2030 and engage local stakeholders during its General Assembly in August.



● Area Visit for Validation and Profiling ●

The Health Cluster will be conducting its LGU validation visits to Rapu-Rapu, Albay and Puerto Princesa City, Palawan within the 3rd quarter. The factors considered for prioritizing barangays as focus areas are: (a) geographically-isolated and disadvantaged areas in Puerto Princesa City, and (b) barangays with the highest concentration of families belonging to indigenous peoples groups in Rapu-Rapu.

The profiling tool which will be used in Rapu-Rapu is the modified PPI survey form adopted by the ZEP Coalition. The tool which will be used in Puerto Princesa is the ICM HH profiling form. The common data that will be reported to ZEP will be culled out from both sites.

At present, a work plan is being developed to specify the commitment of cluster members and various approaches in working with LGUs.



Educational Assistance to Students in Sablayan and Kabankalan City

Starting this year, ADF has partnered with Edmund Rice Foundation (ERM) to provide nutritional support and a portion of school supplies to 300 elementary students in Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental. In line with ERM's Sustainable Community Development Program, this support aims to lower the incidence of malnutrition and improve the students' attendance in school.

Meanwhile Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, parents wish to ensure the safety of their children on the way to school. Most junior and senior high school students usually walk to school for one hour traversing unsecured dirt roads. They have sought transportation assistance from ADF to hire motorcycles as a more efficient way of going to school. In addition, meal allowance will also be provided to these students to help them stay motivated to attend school.

Fundamentals of Cooperatives Workshop

As part of their community plan to implement livelihood projects, the representatives of ZEP families of the Matigsalug tribe attended the workshop on June 6-8, 2017 in Sitio Contract, Marilog District, Davao City. The workshop conducted by the National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCO) focused on strengthening the entrepreneurial capacities of community members in livestock and vegetable production.

Convergence Meeting in Antipolo City

The Consolidated Action Plan of the Dumagat-Remontado community in Sitio San Ysiro, Brgy. San Jose was presented to the Local Government of Antipolo City on June 16, 2017. In support to the partnership, the LGU of Antipolo agreed to include the consolidated action plan in the annual investment plan of the city. The City Planning Development Office of Antipolo also pledged to assist in implementing special community development projects.

Family/Community Visioning and Planning Workshop in Kalinga

On June 19-22, 2017, ADF conducted the workshop attended by the representatives of 300+ families of the Kalinga Tribe in Brgy. Cagaluan, Pasil. This was made possible through the partnership between ZEP PHS and the Apostolic Vicariate of Tabuk led by Bishop Prudencio Andaya, CICM. At present, Bp. Andaya is the head of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

The community plan highlights the priority needs identified by families such as major repair works of the hanging bridge, educational assistance for high school and college students, sustainable livelihood opportunities, and continuous supply of medicines in the barangay health stations. In order to move these plans into action, the IP barangay officials and the parish priests have volunteered to do the ground work in their respective areas.