



UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM PHILIPPINES

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UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator visits RP's poorest on World Humanitarian Day 2011



Last 19 August, World Humanitarian Day, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Dr. Jacqui Badcock, visited Barangay 105 in Tondo, District 1, Manila, during a medical mission to this barangay. Barangay 105, also called Barangay "Happy Land," after the local term "hapilan," or dumpsite, is touted to be one of the poorest communities in Asia.

Dr. Badcock was accompanied by Dr. Soe, Country Director of World Health Organization (WHO), and Mr. David Carden, Head of Office, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), in her visit to the barangay, which consists of around 1000 families, most of whom are engaged in the production of charcoal out of scrap and scavenged wood.

The medical mission in Barangay 105 was organized by UNIC Manila, in partnership with the City Government of Manila; Rotary Club of Makati Uptown; and the civilian/humanitarian arm of the Philippine Coast Guard.



Dr. Badcock, with Dr. Soe and Mr. Carden, talking to women from Barangay 105

World population to reach 7 billion on 31 October *UNFPA draws attention to population issues*

The Philippines' observance of World Population last 11 July kicked off the campaign "The World at 7 Billion: Counting on Each Other," highlighting opportunities for cooperation to address the challenges posed by a growing population.

World population is projected to reach 7 billion on October 31 this year and UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, supports a series of activities to engage partners and the general public to underline the significance of this population milestone. In the Philippines, population stands at 94 million and is growing at 2.04 per cent every year.

On World Population Day, nearly 2,000 people participated in a march in Manila that aimed to draw attention to issues affecting the population, specifically poverty reduction, women's rights, opportunities for young people, reproductive health, environment sustainability, health of elderly and urban migration.

For the full story, follow this link: <http://www.unfpa.org.ph/>

For the full story, follow this link: <http://www.unicmanila.org/main/index.php?pg=events&cid=111>. For pictures, follow this link to the album on UNIC Manila's FB page: <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.227407870644153.76764.110262015692073&l=9585e5d131>



Marchers brave the rains to participate in the Purple Ribbon March for the World Population Day in Manila last July 11



7-year U.N. assistance signed, aligned with PHL dev't plan



The United Nations (UN) and the Philippine Government signed last 21 July the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) that will cover seven years starting 2012.

Signed by UN Resident Coordinator Dr. Jacqueline Badcock and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cayetano W. Paderanga, Jr., on behalf of the Philippine Government, the UNDAF 2012-2018 outlines the UN Country Team (UNCT)'s strategic responses to the development priorities of the Philippines.

Badcock said that the formulation of the UNDAF, which started as early as 2010, was a consultative process that involved government agencies, civil societies and other development partners.

"We made sure that the UNDAF 2012-2018 is partnership-based, and this will be implemented along that framework," said Badcock.

"The signing of the UNDAF 2012-2018 reaffirms the alignment of UN with the Philippine Development Plan for 2011-2016, which is the national government's blueprint for inclusive growth," said Paderanga, who is also Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

The implementation of the seven-year program has an estimated required budget of US\$368.5 million, of which US\$76.9 million are sourced from UN regular resources and the rest to be mobilized by UN.

The signing of the UNDAF 2012-2018 on July 21, 2011 was witnessed by Ambassador Leslie B. Gatan of the Department of Foreign Affairs, NEDA Deputy Director-General Rolando G. Tungpalan, Undersecretary Alicia R. Bala of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and members of the UNCT.

Overseas Filipinos Remittances for Development: Building a future back home

On 5 April 2011, UNDP and Western Union, the global leader in money transfer services, launched the Overseas Filipinos Remittances for Development: Building a Future Back Home (OFs-RED) Project with the Philippine government to tap the potential of overseas remittances for local economic development.

The OFs-RED project believes that overseas remittances taken collectively could become a powerful driver of development, with emphasis on investing in economic opportunity. On the other hand, the public policy landscape must encourage investment, and ownership of income-generating projects must lie with migrant workers and communities. The project will thus support the creation of an enabling environment to encourage OFs to save and invest. In partnership with local governments, two pilot sites will test a model that will channel collective remittances into job-generating ventures rather than the usual donations to charities, waiting sheds, or basketball courts that already abound in the country's rural areas.

OFs-RED will identify business ventures that OFs could choose to invest in. Ventures will focus on essential social services that support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There will also be opportunities for those willing to invest in agricultural businesses, including cottage industries and microfinance organizations.

These ventures will be financed by a collective remittance fund earmarked for the OF communities. UNDP will also be working to raise the national and local capacities of local governments in managing the project. OF families will learn financial literacy and the benefits of savings and investments.



L-R: Luella D'Angelo of the Western Union Foundation; Renaud Meyer of UNDP; Imelda Nicolas of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas; Rolando Tungpalan of NEDA; Gov. Imee Marcos of Ilocos Norte; and Aurelio Bartolome of the Taguig City Council

In an effort to work as one and share information among agencies, the UN in the Philippines is publishing this e-newsletter. Contributions may be sent to teresa.debuque@unic.org every 21st of the month.

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