

September 2020

Since the first quarter of the year, PDG work/intervention to its community partner Peoples Organization was challenge by Covid-19 pandemic. Community lockdown/enhance community quarantine was imposed by the government to the the whole country last March up to the middle of June. By this time, movement of the people was restricted and only one person per household were provided with quarantine pass and were allowed to go out of their residence to buy basic necessity like food and medicines. Curfew hours were implemented from 9:00 pm until 4:00 am to all people except for the health workers and public transports were suspended. Due to this circumstances, We (PDG) don't have any choice but to adjust to the situation to be able to continue our services to the community by maximizing the use of digital communication (cellphone) and social media like Facebook to conduct strategizing and updating with the community PO leaders. In some areas wherein PDG community organizer and staff resides like in Kabankalan City, Hinigaran, Binalbagan and Hinobaan we were able to conduct face to face meeting with a limited number of leaders and were able to assist/ facilitate in the lobbying activities to access government support (financial and food packs) during lockdown.




In the middle of June, total community lockdown was lifted and change to a more lighter community quarantine and people are now allowed to go out of their houses (except for minors and senior citizens) we immediately conducted community visits and assessments thru small group discussion to grasp the situation and gather feed backs and came up with appropriate action to address the current issues and concerns of the communities.

Issues at hand and what we are doing right now:

- The Anti-Terror Law and the militaristic approach of the government in addressing the pandemic by deploying military and police personnel was not only to implement/ impose health protocol but also to intensify surveillance and intimidate those who are vocal critics of the government anti-people program and policies. On our part to address the current situation, conducted internal assessment and external scanning of possible threats and scenario and beefed up our security measures/protocols especially after the killing of Zara Alvarez to continue our commitment to the community we serve.
- A possible hunger pandemic will be inevitable the near future. This will come to worse if the government will fail to find a concrete solution to the bloating numbers of Locally Stranded Individual returning from the capital cities that loses their jobs plus more than a hundred of thousand returning Overseas Filipino Workers who also displaced from work abroad. These numbers of people will results to huge number surplus labor in the rural communities and increase the unemployment in the country due to massive closures of establishment/companies.

Starting last August 2020, a special project "Food Production" was implemented by PDG to its partner PO's that covers 32 communities of which includes 14 communal farm as a target beneficiaries. PDG had already distributed assorted vegetable seeds to 640 families to promote a Bio-Intensive Gardening for local consumption. Along with this, we also delivered 1,500 kilograms of rice as food for work program to support their communal farm work and individual gardening/production of vegetables and herbal supplements.

This project also aims to revolve/ produce more seeds to share in the community and in the neighboring villages.

		
<p>PDG staff sorting vegetable seeds for distribution</p>	<p>Members of MAGHIMAKASTA Association during rice support distribution</p>	<p>BAKAS association Women Committee collectively working on their communal herbal and vegetable garden</p>

Along with these initiatives, a communal Income generating project could play a significant part to bring income to the association and members from its produce and rental income. One strategy of PDG is to focus more on providing assistance and guidance to Peoples Organization communal facility/project management to be more viable and income generating. Below are the brief updates of the project with Quinoa from 2017 to 2019.



Quinoa 2017 project in Barangay Tuyom, Cauayan, Negros Occidental a multi-purpose building that serves as a meeting place of TUSFA Association. Since 2017 after project was turned-over to the association, the multi-purpose building has been useful to the members because not only it provides venue for their monthly meeting but also serves as a processing area for women. The building was also used as a venue for the conduct of Peoples Organization coordinating body and Inter PO leaders meeting. The other half of the building was used as an organic food and herbal supplements processing that generates additional income to the women and mothers in the community.

*** (Picture was taken during the monthly assessment of women committee of TUSFA Association)*

Quinoa 2018 project a multi-purpose building for MAGHIMAKAS-TA Association in Barangay Talaptap, La Castellana.



The multi-purpose building that is being used as a venue for the organizational activities of the association and also used for the processing of their surplus vegetable (squash noodle) and herbal (ointment) project led by women committee.

*** (picture was taken during the rice distribution as a support/food for work in their vegetable and herbal garden.)*

Quinoa 2019 project at Sitio Bino, Barang Orong Kabanklan City, a pre and post harvest facilities for rice farming that was facilitated by the group for KASMABI Association.



A a motorized land cultivator and rice thresher commonly managed by the Association not only benefited the farmer members of KASMABI Association but also the other neighboring Associations who lends the facility at a reasonable rental fee. According to the members, this project greatly helps their farming activities because they can easily use it when needed.