

# Food and Livelihood Security of Marginalized Communities in the Philippines and Indonesia

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Poverty and  
hunger is a  
reality in this  
world.



# Food Security

“when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” – *USAID 1992*

# Livelihood Security

“adequate and sustainable access to income and other resources to enable households to meet basic needs” – *Frankenberg, 1996*

# Resettlement Sites

Philippines



Relocation  
Sites



## Socio-economic conditions of resettlement sites

- Generally slum dwellers/squatters from the National Capital Region (NCR) or from poor provinces in the Philippines
- Low income; no permanent jobs; usually underpaid
- With poor living condition – poor housing condition, poor water supply, no regular supply of electricity
- Low educational attainment of household heads
- Low enrolment rate of school age children

## Socio-economic conditions of resettlement sites

- school and market are too far from the relocation site
- high cost of transportation for children to go to school
- inadequate jobs for mothers
- poor social services: day care centers are not available; health centers are far from the relocation sites
- The customary meals consist of boiled rice together with a small amount of fish and vegetable and occasional meat.

# Upland People – Philippines





# Indigenous People – Philippines



# Characteristics of Upland People in the Philippines (Watson, 1995)

- ⦿ The poorest among the poor
- ⦿ Earn less than any other group of Filipino people
- ⦿ The least educated - rarely finishes grade school
- ⦿ The lowest paid or even unemployed
- ⦿ The least healthy
- ⦿ The most neglected in agricultural development of all the people in the Philippines.



# Livelihood Activities of Upland Dwellers

- Slash & burn farming
  - Hired labour
  - Gathering of forest products
  - Charcoal production
  - Hunting
  - Fishing
  - Cottage industry (handicraft making)
- There is out-migration during lean months to buy rice and other needs.

# Food Sources of Upland Dwellers *(Solimen & Gayao, 2004)*

- Cereals (rice and corn)
- Roots and tubers
- Vegetables
- Legumes
- Fruits
- Mushrooms
- Fish, meat, shellfish
- Edible insects
- Beverages

- mostly found in Sweden farms, forests, ricefields and backyards: available seasonally or year-round if cultivated.



# Mangrove Dwellers - Indonesia



# The Mangrove Dwellers

- Generally similar ethnically to the inland populations
- Their socioeconomic systems are primarily focused on subsistence activities (including both agriculture and fishing) and some are primarily commercial (including agriculture, fishing and forestry).

# Summary of Livelihood and Household Security

	<b>People in Relocation Sites</b>	<b>Indigenous People in the Philippines</b>	<b>Mangrove Dwellers</b>
<b>Source of income</b>	Food vending, construction works, factory laborers, trading (selling goods)	Slash-and-burn farming, handicrafts making, hunting, small-scale mining	Fishing, Sand mining, Charcoal making, Illegal logging
<b>Way of coping</b>	They eat less food, and sometimes they fill hunger through drinking water	They just eat what is available in their community	They eat cheaper, less nutritious food
<b>Actions done for improvement</b>	Coordination of various government institutions	Launching of Indigenous People Rights Act (IPRA) that ensures land security	Improvement of mangrove plantations

“In my experience, poor people are the world’s greatest entrepreneurs. Every day, they must innovate in order to survive. They remain poor because they do not have the opportunities to turn their creativity into sustainable income.”

– *Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize Awardee –  
Founder, Grameen Bank*