

# ON THE WALL



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## UN-Habitat steps up support to help Marawi respond to COVID-19



UN-Habitat turns over the first batch of personal protective equipment and disinfectant supplies to the city government of Marawi as part of its COVID-19 Response As We Rebuild Marawi. PIA ICIC



UN-Habitat Project Manager Warren Ubongen explains the various components of the COVID-19 response project.



TFBM Field Office Manager Asec. Felix Castro expresses appreciation to UN-Habitat for helping not just in rebuilding Marawi but also in the strengthening of the city's response against COVID-19. PIA ICIC

MARAWI CITY - The United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat) has launched its COVID-19 Response As We Rebuild Marawi Project to help the city government of Marawi respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

UN-Habitat turned over the first batch of personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectant supplies to the city government Monday, April 27, to highlight the launching of the project.

The three-month emergency response project aims to address the spread of COVID-19 as it continues to threaten the most vulnerable sectors of Marawi, particularly those internally displaced families living in transitional shelter sites.

"Marawi City is one of the most vulnerable cities right now because of the disasters that it has experienced. Two years ago, the Marawi siege happened and most of its people are still reeling from the devastation and displacement," said UN-Habitat Project Manager Warren Ubongen.

Funded by UN-Habitat's Global Emergency Fund, the project will be implemented in partnership with the city government of Marawi, Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM), and the Marawi Sultanate League.

**Emergency response and recovery**  
The provision of PPEs and disinfectant supplies is just one of the components of the

project.

"Maglalagay din tayo ng mga hand-washing facilities sa mga key areas lalo na sa Sagonsonan at Boganga, yung dalawa nating transitory shelter sites," Ubongen said.

[We will also install hand-washing facilities in key areas especially in Sagonsonan and Boganga, our two transitory shelter sites.]

The project also intends to address food security and nutrition through the operation of satellite markets and mobile stores, as well as the promotion of small-scale vegetable growing at the households and community levels.

"Sinusubukan namin together with TFBM and the city government na e revive yung market ng Sagonsonan at Boganga, plus come up with a mobile market upang puntahan yung mga remote areas para may access yung mga tao sa basic goods lalo na sa pagkain," he added.

[We are trying, together with TFBM and the city government, to revive the Sagonsonan and Boganga markets, plus come up with a mobile market to go to remote areas so that people can have access to basic goods especially food.]

City Mayor Majul Gandamra, in one of the project coordination talks, expressed his appreciation of how the project supports the call for minimizing the need for resi-

dents to venture out during the community quarantine by addressing food insecurity at the household level through the satellite markets and mobile stores.

**Long-term resilience**

The project also involves building up the resilience of the city government to respond to various challenges through capacity development support in strengthening and enhancement of its Incident Command System.

"Marawi has encountered a lot of disasters and we have to strengthen the capacity of the city government to respond. We are coordinating with the CDRRMO, and we will see how they can be trained to respond to any kind of disaster," Ubongen added.

**Continued support to Marawi**

Ubongen assured that UN-Habitat's rebuilding Marawi project will continue.

He said the COVID-19 response project complements its existing project - Rebuilding Marawi Through Community-Driven Shelter and Livelihood - as it will tap the livelihood cooperatives it has organized in the operation of the satellite markets and mobile stores.

"Mahal namin ang Marawi. They have accepted our help here, tatapusin natin itong pagrebuild ng Marawi," said Ubongen.

[We love Marawi. They have accepted our help here,

we will finish our rebuilding Marawi project.]

Ubongen also asked for understanding from the IDPs for the delays in the rebuilding project. "It will take time and sacrifices. If you want to build back better and safer, you have to sacrifice something," he cited.

Meanwhile, TFBM Field Office Manager Assistant Secretary Felix Castro expressed gratitude to the UN-Habitat.

"Tayo ay nagpapasalamat sa UN-Habitat na patuloy na tumutulong hindi lang sa rebuilding ng Marawi kundi pati na sa pang araw-araw na pangangailangan ng mga taga Marawi," he said.

[We are grateful to UN-Habitat for continuing to help not only in rebuilding Marawi but also in the daily needs of the Marawi people.]

Castro also called on the IDPs to cooperate in the fight against COVID-19.

"Kahit may protective gears tayo, kung hindi pa rin sumusunod, ay hindi natin matalo ang COVID. Kaya nating malampasan ito kung tayo ay magtutulong-tulong," he further said.

[Even if we have protective gear, if we still do not follow, we cannot defeat COVID. We can overcome this if we all cooperate.]

He added that IDPs can help by practicing social distancing, washing their hands regularly, and staying at home. APB/PIA ICIC