**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PHILIPPINES**

**1. Please elaborate on measures taken by national, federal, provincial or local governments to ensure persons are protected from the virus at their home or place of living:**

1. **Has your country declared a prohibition on evictions? If a prohibition was declared, indicate its legal basis and how long it will last. Please specify if it is a general prohibition and if it also applies to persons living in informality or in informal settlements. Is the prohibition of evictions restricted to tenants or mortgage payers who have been able to pay their rent or serve their mortgages, or broader?**

Yes, Republic Act No. 11469, otherwise known as Bayanihan to Heal as One Act. It outlines the emergency powers granted to the President effective from 24 March 2020 for three (3) months unless extended by Congress.

There are two provisions applicable to housing and encompassing across all economic sectors. Section 4.aa “implements a minimum of a thirty (30)-day grace period for payment of all loans, including but not limited to salary, personal, housing, and motor vehicle loans, as well as credit card payments, falling due within the period of the enhanced Community Quarantine without interests, penalties, fees, or charges.” This has been further reiterated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Section 4(aa) of RA 11469.

Likewise, Section 4.bb provides for “a minimum of thirty (30)-day grace period on residential rents falling due within the period of the enhanced community quarantine, without incurring interests, penalties, fees, and other charges.”

Whereas, the Department of Trade Industry released the guidelines on residential and commercial rents, MC No. 20-12, for non-enforcement of evictions. Section 7 provides that no eviction may be enforced due to failure to pay the residential or commercial rent within the thirty (30)-day period after lifting of ECQ/MECQ/GCQ.

Furthermore, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) , through its mandate of general supervision over Local Government Units has issued a Memorandum Circular (MC) 2020-068 to respond to and address the impact of COVID-19 on affected areas and vulnerable communities, including informal settler families (ISFs). The MC directed all LGUs to postpone all demolition and eviction activities during the community quarantine and ensure that all homeless families/individuals within their jurisdiction are properly accommodated.

1. **If no general prohibition on evictions was declared, please indicate how many evictions have taken place, the number of people affected, and the specific details of time, location and reasons.**
2. **Have any measures been taken to ensure that households are not cut-off from water, heat or other utility provision when they are unable to pay their bills?**

Another authorized power of the President granted by RA 11469 was to “conserve and regulate the distribution and use of power, fuel, energy and water, and ensure adequate supply of the same.”

Utility regulatory offices has urged privately-owned utility companies to ensure the supply of electricity and water during pandemic.

The government also ordered the moratorium on the payment of electric, water, telephone and other bills in areas under enhanced community quarantine.

For water, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) said that water concessionaires in Metro Manila will resume meter reading in June 2020 and will be allowed to serve disconnection notices by August and September 2020.

**2. Please provide any information about other legal or financial measures aimed to ensure that households do not lose their home if they cannot pay their rent or mortgage payments? Have any other tenant protection measures been adopted in response to the pandemic?**

The Department of Trade and Industry issues Memorandum Circulars (MC No. 20-12, 20-29, 20-30) to provide guidelines on the powers laid out in by RA 11469.

**3. What measures have been taken to protect persons living in informal settlements, refugee or IDP camps, or in situation of overcrowding from COVID-19?**

As the government continues to combat the pandemic in the country, the poorest of poor remains the most badly hit and bear the burnt brought about by the pandemic. Consistent with the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act” the government provided financial help for 18 million Filipino families whose lives were greatly affected by the lockdown due to COVID-19. This is where the Social Amelioration Program comes in under the management of the Department of Social Welfare and Development where 18 million families identified to be most vulnerable to the economic shock brought about by the COVID-19 situation received grant form the government for 2 months during the ECQ period.

Moreover, DILG directed LGUs to provide financial and non-financial assistance to relocated ISFs in resettlement communities in response to the COVID-19 situation under MC 2020-090.

**4. What measures have been taken by authorities to ensure that migrant and domestic workers housed by their employers continue to have access to secure housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath? If migrant workers left their place of work to return to their place of origin, what measures were taken to ensure their right to housing?**

"The Hatid Probinsya” (travel assistance) initiative of the government is a short term humanitarian effort to helps transport thousands of stranded individuals - migrant workers, students, construction workers and tourists - who are unable to return to their provinces when the government imposed a lockdown on Luzon in March to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus

**5. Have any measures been taken to provide safe accommodation for persons in situation of homelessness? If yes, how many persons were housed, in what form, where and for how long? How will it be ensured that persons provided with temporary accommodation will have access to housing after the crisis?**

The LGUs have converted basketball courts/covered areas as interim housing facilities for homeless families/individuals during the ECQ. Some organizations, establishments and individuals offered shelter for homeless people as well as frontline workers during the quarantine.

For frontline workers, Office of the Vice President opened a dormitory located in Quezon City. Metro Manila LGU signed Executive Order No. 17 providing 531 rooms in total from three hotels (Hotel Sogo, Eurotel and Town and Country Hotel ) for health workers and frontliners.
 **6. Can you provide examples of any other measures taken or planned by national, federal, provincial or local Governments in your country to protect the right to adequate housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath?**

The “Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa” or BP2 (Back to the Province, New Hope) program of the government, headed by National Housing Authority General Manager Marcelino Escalada Jr, seeks to decongest Metro Manila and promote more robust regional development. It sees it as a "long term" solution because it aims to decongest Metro Manila to reduce the impact of future pandemics. Balik Probinsya beneficiaries are people who already have homes in Metro Manila but who originally came from the provinces and now want to go back.

To encourage city dwellers to return to their provinces, Sen. Bong Go who is also the Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography said that the government is currently crafting a long-term plan to create economic opportunities in the countryside and boost regional development to help returning individuals and families to start their life anew in their home provinces. He further added that the country needs to break this vicious chain of poverty and that ISFs should be given better opportunities through BP2 program.

President Rodrigo Duterte signed on May 6 Executive Order No. 114 institutionalizing the Balik Probinsya program. Under the scheme, the government provides assistance, such as transportation and allowances, to those who would like to relocate to urban or rural areas in the regions. It will also help beneficiaries with housing and in getting jobs or starting a new livelihood.