

# The Awardees



# The MUNICIPALITY OF BALILIHAN, BOHOL



Utilizing a holistic approach to prevent hunger and malnutrition, the Municipality of Balilihan in the Province of Bohol activates its Countryside Action Program (CAP). The program is a social development strategy that is anchored on man's basic needs and puts premium on health, nutrition, and sanitation among the seven (7) sectoral concerns of the local government. CAP is a collaborative and integrated effort of the local government unit, line agencies, non-government organizations or people's organizations and the mass base working hand on hand to effect change and development. CAP is focused on man/person and improvement of his quality of life in an atmosphere of peace and equality. It is considered as an effective tool to deliver basic services efficiently and effectively to the Balilinhons especially those who are in rural areas.

As its contribution to the program, the Balilihan Municipal Nutrition Committee (MNC) is tasked to cater to the nutritional needs of the townspeople from planning to implementation and monitoring of related nutrition program and projects targeted largely to infants, preschool children, and school children. The program includes a fruit tree planting activity to ensure food security and a nutrition civic action and free clinic project. To combat overnutrition and promote a healthy lifestyle, the MNC has also organized Zumba dance workshop.

While simple in approach, the key to the success of Balilihan's nutrition program implementation which has decreased its stunting rate from 12.2% in 2019 to 5.7% in 2022 is all about strong coordination between members of the MNC and the cooperation of stakeholders.



# The MUNICIPALITY OF ENRIQUE VILLANUEVA, SIQUIJOR



Considered the smallest town in the province of Siquijor, the Municipality of Enrique Villanueva in the Province of Siquijor has been consistent in ensuring that services reach to all its constituents. For the Municipal Nutrition Committee (MNC), the COVID-19 pandemic does not hinder the nutrition program implementation, rather it has served as a challenge for the MNC to devise new ways to ensure the continued delivery of nutrition services.

With the aid of its very active health and nutrition network, the MNC along with its 14 Barangay Nutrition Committees regularly monitors the nutritional status of children through house-to-house visits with strict observance to health protocols. To ensure that the community has access to a continuous and cost-free supply of nutritious food, the nutrition committee encouraged and enabled households to have backyard gardens. Municipal and barangay level nutrition program implementation is monitored by the MNC virtually. In the same way, the MNC also regularly meets to innovate strategies to address emerging challenges brought about by the pandemic through effective policymaking and evidence-based nutrition initiatives. One such initiative is the Adopt a Child Program, which includes a 120-day feeding program, which was also strengthened through firm coordination with Enrique Villanueva Police Station that greatly reduced the cases of malnutrition in the municipality.

Aside from the health burden of malnutrition, the MNC also responded to the increasing cases of non-communicable diseases particularly hypertension and diabetes mellitus through regular blood pressure monitoring and fasting blood glucose tests. The dedication and hard work of the members of MNC keep its malnutrition rate at less than 1% of date.





## The MUNICIPALITY OF GARCIA HERNANDEZ, BOHOL

Efficient and resourceful, the Municipality of Garcia Hernandez of the Province of Bohol has been a mainstay of the province's top performing Municipal Nutrition Committees for many years now. With its stellar performance, their efforts have been recognized as one of the first towns in the region to receive the 2022 Green Banner Seal of Compliance for its 2021 performance since the Central Visayas Regional Nutrition Evaluation Team has adopted the MELLPI Pro.

For a 4<sup>th</sup> class municipality, Garcia Hernandez' strength lies in its resource mobilization capacity and its flexibility in nutrition program implementation. The MNC was able to tap external bodies such as the East-Poblacion Solidarity Association (EPSA) and the Philippine Mining Service Corporation (PMSC) Bohol Plant for additional resources to help them fund the nutrition program. To institutionalize private sector's support to the program, the Garcia Hernandez MNC has signed memorandum of agreement with said companies.

Efficiency in program implementation is another strength of Garcia Hernandez MNC has portrayed. The LGU was able to provide nutrition services to its constituents especially those in the vulnerable age groups while going around with the COVID-19 protocols. With a variety of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive programs, the very capable nutrition committee was able to deliver better nutrition information to help change food and nutrition behavior of the community for the better. They are also able to influence its townspeople to maintain a healthier lifestyle, provide healthy food options via food security programs, and deliver health and nutrition services to children and their mothers.



# REGIONAL OUTSTANDING

## Barangay



**BRGY. BOYOG PROPER, BALILIHAN**



**BRGY. BUDLAAN, CEBU CITY**



**BRGY. DAO, TAGBILARAN CITY**



# REGIONAL OUTSTANDING

## *Municipal Nutrition Action Officer*

Resourceful, brilliant, and very dedicated, this year's Regional Outstanding Municipal Nutrition Action Officer, Dr. Enriqueto L. Acenas hails from the Municipality of Garcia Hernandez of the Province of Bohol.

Borne from Dr. Acenas' brilliant mind is one of the Garcia Hernandez' Municipal Nutrition Committee (MNC)'s banner program: the Adopt a Barangay Project which is a joint undertaking of the MNC and the Philippine Mining Corporation wherein the company regularly provides food stuff which is used in the barangay feeding activities. The program also includes a Free Medical and Dental Clinic where the company would provide the medicines while the RHU, the needed human resources (doctor, nurses, midwives).

Other than resource generation, Dr. Acenas also excels in influencing LGU plans and policies to contribute to nutrition outcomes. His technical assistance to the Sangguniang Bayan has enabled a better policy environment for nutrition program implementation in the Municipality of Garcia Hernandez. As a hands-on MNAO, he enjoys doing advocacy activities and monitoring to check on his Barangay Nutrition Committees and Barangay Nutrition Scholars.

One of the long serving Nutrition Action Officers in the region, Dr. Acenas has been appointed as MNAO in 1998. As testament to his years of long service, Dr. Acenas was able to help his municipality remain in the top 10 best performing municipalities of Bohol Province for years and was instrumental for the town's winning the 2021 Green Banner Seal of Compliance, one of the first to receive said award in the region since the MELLPI Pro was adopted in 2019.



### **MNAO DR. ENRIQUETO L. ACENAS**

Regional Outstanding Municipal  
Nutrition Action Officer

# REGIONAL OUTSTANDING

## *Municipal Nutrition Program Coordinator*

Having spent solid seventeen (17) years as Municipal Nutrition Program Coordinator (MNPC) in the Town of Balilihan, Bohol Province, the 2021 Regional Outstanding Municipal Nutrition Program Coordinator, Ms. Charisma G. Tagsa, has the passion and dedication that enabled her to be an effective facilitator of her town's nutrition program implementation.

Ardent on her task of ensuring good health and wellbeing of children and mothers, she facilitates the activation of her Municipal Nutrition Committee (MNC). As coordinator, she spearheads the implementation of relevant programs and activities with proper planning engaging the community in every step of the way. Together with her MNC, she has established the "Nutrihut" and inspired the BNS in addressing the nutritional needs of children thereby reducing malnutrition particularly underweight and stunted growth.

To realize her plans efficiently and effectively, she makes certain that the municipal budget is desirably in place as she likewise maintains rapport with her clients and people closely working with her.

Through her commitment, perseverance and hard work, LGU Balilihan has become a recipient of various commendations from the National Nutrition Council bringing honor and pride to the town and its people.

MNPC Tagsa also serves as the Treasurer of the Bohol MNPC Association since year 2014 which only proves of her impressive technical, finance, and social skills and integrity in making business decisions.

**MNPC CHARISMA G. TAGSA**  
Regional Outstanding Municipal  
Nutrition Program Coordinator



# REGIONAL OUTSTANDING

## Barangay Nutrition Scholar

Spending almost two decades in service as Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS) in her community in Barangay Bool, Tagbilaran City in the Province of Bohol, BNS Juanita R. Hinay or simply “Nenet” is not a stranger to the nutrition program. She has spent years as the president of the Tagbilaran City BNS Association on top of managing her barangay’s nutrition situation. Having started in 2003, she has not let the pandemic dampen her passion for nutrition and is instrumental in ensuring that her Barangay Nutrition Committee (BNC) continued to be active throughout the different levels of community quarantine.

Innovative and always on her toes, this is BNS Nenet’s 2nd stint for the Regional Outstanding BNS award and deservedly so, as she has a well-maintained record keeping system. She does not only meticulously document her BNC’s nutrition efforts and monitors its impact on the children in her barangay, but her documents are also very transparent, a testament of how resources are generated and utilized making her a cut above the rest.

To raise fund for the barangay’s nutrition program which often still finds itself wanting, BNS Hinay has started selling iodized salt and plastics (through the BNC Material Recovery Facility) as income generating project.

While BNS Nenet admits having faced more challenges in the recent years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, she says “BNSs must always find ways (to deliver)”. And her efforts are not in vain as Brgy. Bool has maintained a 1% stunting rate from 2019 until 2022.

### **BNS JUANITA R. HINAY**

Brgy. Bool, Tagbilaran City  
2021 Regional

Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar





# PROVINCIAL OUTSTANDING

## *Barangay Nutrition Scholar*

Optimism is a strong trait that has enabled this Provincial Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar Nenita P. Molina shines from the rest of her contenders. A native of Barangay Mahayag, San Miguel, Province of Bohol, this relatively new BNSs (appointed in 2019), her enthusiasm for the nutrition program and in serving her community is very commendable.

With the support of her Barangay Nutrition Committee (BNC) and under the guidance of the San Miguel Municipal Nutrition Committee, BNS Nenita facilitated the conduct of at least 4 meetings in 2021 in the midst of the pandemic and even ensuring that a meeting be held just before TY Odette hits Central Visayas in December 2021. As a Bachelor in Science in Hotel and Restaurant Technology graduate, she has used her educational background in providing nutrition service to her community.

BNS Molina's enthusiasm has influenced her community with most of the mothers being highly cooperative in nutrition education activities as such the barangay's IYCF support group has continued to thrive. In her advocacy work, she makes sure that mothers are well updated about their children's nutrition status and often gives small doable tips and guiding messages during child growth monitoring days.

This enthusiasm also mobilizes her BNC as they are well-informed about their roles and given updates of the results of the committee's efforts regularly.

### **BNS NENITA P. MOLINA**

Brgy. Mahayag, San Miguel  
Provincial Outstanding Barangay  
Nutrition Scholar – Province of Bohol





## **“ARK OR ADVANCEMENT FOR RURAL KIDS” LA LIBERTAD, NEGROS ORIENTAL**

Enabling communities to provide well balanced and nutritious food for their children while enticing the youth to continue their education is the core strategy of the Advancement for Rural Kids (ARK). This is a social impact organization that first started by co-investing in school lunches that got students back to school, made them healthy and became a source of income for the community since all ingredients were sourced from the residents.

Having started three years ago, ARK was able to give birth to Feed Back – a community wide vegetable exchange that invites families to farm in their backyards and contribute three (3) of their favorite vegetables in exchange for their fair share of over 20 vegetables given by their neighbors. The municipality of La Libertad in the Province of Negros Oriental has the largest number of partner communities for ARK which is a testament of the strong municipal and barangay partnership and the “tunga-tunga” spirit that fuels Wave 5 and 7 in La Libertad.

In the municipality of La libertad, Wave 5 Barangays and its Barangay Councils including Barangay Cangabo, Elecia, Kansumandig, San Jose, South Poblacion and Talayong lead the charge towards food security. Wave 5 triumphed over the pandemic and typhoon Odette and finished strong. They secured 1,933 families or 97% of their target and 100% of at-risk families in their communities. Not lagging are the 9 Wave 7 Barangays and their Councils including Barangay Aniniaw, Aya, Busilak, Cantupa, Eli, Guihob, Manghulyawon, Maragondong and Martilo. These nine (9) barangays created diversity and abundance in their communities as they exchanged over 97 thousand kilos of vegetables and fruits worth P2.3 million.

Beyond the numbers and data, what is truly inspiring in ARK is the transformation witnessed on various levels. At a time of scarcity during the pandemic, there is evidence of generosity and compassion among neighbors who share not only their vegetables but also their time and skills in agriculture. At a time of contagion and post-calamity recovery, malnutrition rates have decreased, and kids are enjoying the vegetables on their plates.





## **“INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF MICRONUTRIENT AND DIETARY SUPPLEMENTATION PROGRAM” BAIS CITY, NEGROS ORIENTAL**

While other LGUs are reeling with COVID-19 response and have difficulty in procurement of micronutrient and supplies for dietary supplementation, Bais City has already institutionalized funding for the provision of these services in the first 1000 days of life. Focusing on early detection of nutrition problems, the Bais City Nutrition Committee (CNC) has committed to prevent malnutrition specially its long-term effects such as poor mental development, weak immune system, and stunting.

In 2017, the CNC was able to pass a resolution to institutionalize a budget for the procurement of said commodities and has since helped both pregnant mothers and their children reach their caloric and nutrient needs. Resources for the nutrition program from Gender and Development fund, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation fund and other LGU fund sources were mobilized to ensure to the continued nutrition services to its populace.

Along with a strong collaboration with Barangay Nutrition Committees, the city is able to distribute nutrition goods to target groups. The City Nutrition Program Coordinator conducts barangay visitation for the promotion of key nutrition programs, projects and activities and monitoring its program implementation.

Since the start of the pandemic, the provision of these commodities has cushioned the increase of malnutrition in the LGU. The availability of Lipid Based Nutritional Supplements in the barangay help reduced the prevalence of malnutrition in the city and it suits to the present situation where social distancing is required because a preschooler is given 30 sachets in a month not like the traditional supplementary feeding program where a preschooler needs to be at the feeding site every day.

Such efforts enabled the city to improve the nutrition situation with a wasting prevalence of 8.8% in 2017 to 3.7% in 2021 despite the challenges of the pandemic. Its first 1000 days program has proved to be effective as it drastically reduce stunting from 23.6% in 2017 to 10.59% in 2021





## “LSI – BALIK PROBINSYA PROGRAM” SIATON, NEGROS ORIENTAL

While the Balik Probinsya program has been implemented throughout the country, the nutrition-sensitive tweak that the Municipality of Siaton, Negros Oriental has initiated, provides a definite impact on food security in their community, especially to those who have just gone back to the province. The unplanned movement of this population has lost the affected people’s jobs and livelihood which posted a potential threat to their nutrition status and that of their families.

At the height of the pandemic, the municipality was on top in shouldering the traveling expenses of their community members who were stuck in urban centers. The local government of Siaton headed by its Local Chief Executive Hon. Cezanne Fritz H. Diaz with the Municipal Council extended their support to Siatanons who were unable to come home due to the COVID-19 crisis. The “Locally Stranded Individual-Balik Probinsya Program” offered free transportation of affected population from Cebu or Manila to Siaton,

Aside from the transport assistance, the municipality also provided them with opportunities to earn a living upon their return. Livelihood programs in the form of seed capital were provided by the municipal social welfare and agriculture offices. They were also given free tilapia fingerlings and vegetable seeds thru the town’s Sustainable Livelihood Program that to date benefited more than 800 members from different SLP associations.

The project helps ensure food security to the population and has thus helped mitigate malnutrition during the pandemic. The initiative enabled the municipality to halt its wasting prevalence pre-pandemic level at 2.9% in 2021.





## “MANAPLA: MAKUGIHONG MGA NANAY SA BARANGAY PLANAS” BRGY. PLANAS, GUIHULNGAN CITY

Investing on empowering mothers to prevent malnutrition in the community, the Barangay Planas in Guihulngan City has organized “MAkugihong mga NANay sa Barangay PLANas” (MANAPLA). Composed of mothers in the community, the organization mainly ensures that women, especially those with malnourished children or are breastfeeding are provided with the right nutrition information and given enough support as they raise their children and nurture their families.

Initially a breastfeeding support group, the organization that only aims to help address malnutrition through exclusive breastfeeding, proper complementary feeding, it had bloomed to give its members additional income to be able to access more food for their loved ones. It is with this goal that the Barangay Nutrition Committee collaborated with the Provincial Agriculture Office to further strengthen the vision and goals of the group.

With this new collaboration, member-mothers are not only taught good nutrition for themselves and the members of their households but are also trained on how to prepare nutritious meals, snacks and refreshing drinks for their loved ones. These foods and refreshments also serve as income generating project for them. Some of the mothers were already selling the nutritious goodies that they prepared during one of the lecture and demonstration spearheaded by the Provincial Agriculture Office. Their products include delicious and nutritious taro chips, camote doughnut, vegetable salad and many more. They also concocted healthy beverages like cucumber and “galay” (camote tops) juice which would surely quinch your thirst.





## “NUTRIJOY FOOD ON WHEELS”

TOLEDO CITY, CEBU

To address the ever-growing concern of hunger and malnutrition in the COVID-19 pandemic, the Toledo City Nutrition Committee (CNC) spearheaded by its Chair Hon. Mayor Marjorie P. Perales came up with a solution to address hunger of the city residents especially young children coming from food insecure and nutritionally challenged barangays. The LGU has launched the NutriJoy on Wheels Feeding Program which makes use of a mobile kitchen to reach all thirty-eight (38) barangays of the city.

With an allocated budget of Php 250,000.00 and an additional Php 500,000.00 from the mayor’s special fund, NutriJoy on Wheels lives up to its name by bringing joy and ensuring that communities are well-fed, and malnutrition is prevented. The mobile kitchen delivers quality nutritious meals to Toledohanons through the efforts of professional cooks and aided by Barangay Nutrition Scholars.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, also the program gave nourishment to more than 20,000 children in the city. It has helped address the problem of acute malnutrition in the locality from 3.6% wasting prevalence pre-pandemic in 2019 to only 2.7% in 2022. Despite the relaxation of health protocols in the recent months, the program is still found to be relevant because of the impending food crisis and brewing economic unrest.





## “MICRO FINANCE FOR MOTHERS OF MALNOURISHED CHILDREN”

BRGY. BUDLAAN, CEBU CITY

To fight malnutrition in their community, the Barangay Nutrition Committee of Brgy. Budlaan in Cebu City implements the Micro Finance Assistance Project. The project aims to support women who have malnourished children to avail of the micro finance at a minimum of Two Thousand (2,000.00) Pesos payable for one year, interest-free. This is to encourage and help women with malnourished children in the barangay to invest into small business to earn additional income and increase their capacity to buy nutritious foods for their children.

Starting off with a seed capital of Php 56,000 from the Zonta Club 1, the project has been sustained for the last six (6) years. Through the period, the beneficiaries of this project became small sari-sari store owners, barbeque and other food stall merchandisers or small business holders in the barangay. The Budlaan Nutrition Committee with technical assistance from the Cebu City Nutrition Committee has been working with said mothers' group in this microfinancing strategy to help ensure healthy balance sheets to make their small enterprises thrive.

With the additional income for the household, women can now afford better quality food for their families preventing hunger and malnutrition. Other than that, they can now afford other basic human necessities addressing health, education and other family needs thereby providing them with better quality of life.





## “TAPPING EXTERNAL SUPPORT FOR NUTRITION PROGRAM (EAST-POBLACION SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION, PMSC)” GARCIA HERNANDEZ, BOHOL

As a 4th class municipality, Garcia Hernandez of the province of Bohol may have limited resources for the nutrition program, but it has never hindered its Municipal and Barangay Nutrition Committees in their nutrition program implementation. Resourceful to the core, Garcia Hernandez’ nutrition committee is able to tap external support for the nutrition program from organizations like the East-Poblacion Solidarity Association (EPSA) and the Philippine Mining Service Corporation (PMSC) Bohol Plant. The former covers East-Poblacion while the latter operates in eight (8) barangays of the municipality.

By having memorandum of agreements with said organizations, the Municipality of Garcia Hernandez is able to ensure that a certain proportion of their gross income is given to the local nutrition committees mainly to fund their dietary supplementation program which targets children 24-59 months, lactating mothers as well as pregnant women.

In a display of transparency which is highly appreciated by the nutrition committee’s partners, budget utilization reports have also been shared during the barangay council’s regular sessions as well as submitted to the partner organizations.

For their contribution to the nutrition program, both organizations made a difference in the ease of nutrition program implementation, expanding dietary supplementation coverage, and enabled the conduct of other nutrition and related activities. This has positively affected the community’s nutrition situation as evidenced by the decrease in the municipality’s stunting rate from 4.3% in 2019 to 2.72% in 2022.





# Best Province



**PROVINCE OF BOHOL**  
DIMENSION 1 & 3



# Best Cities



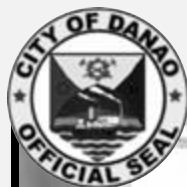
**TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol**  
DIMENSION 2, 3 & 4



**CANLAON CITY, Negros Oriental**  
DIMENSION 2 & 3



**CITY OF NAGA, Cebu**  
DIMENSION 1



**DANAO CITY, Cebu**  
DIMENSION 2

**BEST LGU per dimension of the MELLPI Pro**

## Best Cities



**BAIS CITY, Negros Oriental**  
**DIMENSION 3**



**CEBU CITY, Cebu**  
**DIMENSION 3**



**TANJAY CITY, Negros Oriental**  
**DIMENSION 3**

## Best Municipalities



**AYUNGON, Negros Oriental**  
**DIMENSION 1**



**LARENA, Siquijor**  
**DIMENSION 3**

# Best Baranqays

BEST LGU per dimension of the MELLPI PRO



**BRGY. BOOL**, Tagbilaran City  
DIMENSION 1, 2 & 4



**BRGY. DAMPAS**, Tagbilaran City  
DIMENSION 1 & 4



**BRGY. UBOJAN**, Sagbayan, Bohol  
DIMENSION 2 & 3



**BRGY. LIBURON**, Carcar City  
DIMENSION 1



**BRGY. PULA**, Canlaon City  
DIMENSION 2



**BRGY. LINOZHANGAN**, Canlaon City  
DIMENSION 3



**BRGY. NINOY AQUINO**, Canlaon City  
DIMENSION 3



**BRGY. BATINGUEL**, Dumaguete City  
DIMENSION 5