



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA

Tanggapan ng Punong Lalawigan

Bojie-Rodito Opportunities

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR SMALL FARMERS

Tel. No. (078) 323-2598

**BRO LUSOG (Laban sa Undernutrition, sa Sakit, Obesity at Gutom) sa Barangay
Program**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Malnutrition, and in particular protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) in young and growing children have become one of the serious health problems in Isabela. Malnutrition is regarded as a complex outcome with multiple causation. It can have adverse effects on the physical and mental development of growing children. Malnutrition remains a serious obstacle to child survival, growth and development in the Province of Isabela. This scenario prompted the Isabela Provincial Government to conceptualize a program to address it. Thus, the birth of BRO LUSOG Program which was launched on July 3, 2015 during the Farmers Congress held in San Agustin, Isabela as the 13th component of BRO-Small Farmers Assistance Program of the Provincial Government.

The program is implemented for six months in all the barangays of the different municipalities of Isabela. Within the six month-period, each undernourished child whose weight is validated by Isabela Provincial Health Office (IPHO) Nutrition staff is expected to receive nutritionally-balanced meal with the use of "Gourmix", a cereal food enrich with nutrients such as rice, white corn mixed, texturized vegetable protein and other essential vegetables (malunggay, ground munggo and turmeric ginger). With its high level of protein, anti-oxidant properties and excellent nutritional values, this Supplemental Feeding Program will ensure that malnourished children will receive proper nutrition along with their regular meals. The Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development (PSWD) is responsible for the distribution of "Gourmix" used in feeding at the Barangay Health and Day Care Centers.

Cognizant of the fact that the success of this program lies in the concerted efforts of a number of provincial offices, along with the IPHO and PSWD, during Farmers Congress, the Offices of the Provincial Agriculture and Veterinary (PAIWI program) distribute different vegetable seedlings and chicks respectively, to enrolled families believed to help sustain the nutritional needs of these children as sources of vitamins, minerals and protein.

Finally, identifying poverty as one of the causes of malnutrition, if not the main, another component of the program is the Nutrition Subsidy of P3,000.00 as a monthly assistance of P500.00 for the six-month period upon satisfying the BRO LUSOG Program requirements.



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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The BRO LUSOG aims to solve the problems of malnutrition among 0 to 5 years old by rehabilitating their nutritional status through feeding programs, financial subsidy and provision of backyard vegetable gardening, livestock and poultry raising in all 34 municipalities and two cities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since April 27, 2017 to December 2017, a total of 2,116 children were enrolled from the 12 municipalities visited by the Farmers Congress Team as stipulated in Table 1.

Table 1

MUNICIPALITES	NUMBER OF ENROLEES
1. Cordon	196
2. Sta. Maria	182
3. Benito Soliven	266
4. Cabatuan	150
5. San Agustin	95
6. Jones	82
7. Delfin Albano	135
8. Reina Mercedes	195
9. Roxas	396
10. Tumauni	216
11. Ramon	100
12. Luna	103
TOTAL	2116

IMPACT

The program entails a gradual but dynamic rehabilitation of the nutritional status of these children. Nevertheless, this early, it is worth noticing that the weight is improving as exemplified in the reports submitted by some of the municipalities, wherein, a significant number of children are already gaining weight (Table 2). Moreover, observations such as increased in appetite, activity and alertness among these children are expressed by parents. Clinic visits due to sickness are likewise reduced.



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Table 2

MUNICIPALITIES	Number of Enrollees	Number of PSC gained weight	Number of PSC rehabilitated
1. Cordon	196	113	55
2. Sta. Maria	182	25	100
3. Benito Soliven	266	8	99
4. Cabatuan	150	10	15
5. San Agustin	95	49	37
6. Jones	82	39	43
7. Delfin Albano	135	11	33
8. Reina Mercedes	195	70	63
9. Roxas	396	198	103
10. Tumauini	216	128	44
11. Ramon	100	50	30
12. Luna	103	50	33
TOTAL	2116	751	655

SUSTAINABILITY

In order to ensure the viability of this noble program, with a thrust of uplifting the nutritional state of these vulnerable but helpless children, the Isabela Provincial Government has allocated a budget of P65M to finance all its components. In like manner, the parents of these children are enjoined to cooperate with their Barangay Health and Nutrition Worker and regularly bring their children to their health centers for weight and health status monitoring. Proper, tender, loving care by parents and by the community must also be emphasized and rendered. Certainly, a lifetime commitment of every Isabeleño!



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Municipalities	Number of Enrollees	Number of PSC gained weight	Number of PSC rehabilitated	Number of Beneficiaries given Vegetable Seeds/Seedlings	Number of Beneficiaries Given Chicks (PAIWI ni BRO)	Number of Beneficiaries Given Financial Assistance(500/month)
1. Cordon	196	113	55	196	100	-
2. Sta. Maria	182	25	100	182	100	-
3. Benito Soliven	266	8	99	266	-	-
4. Cabatuan	150	10	15	150	100	-
5. San Agustin	95	49	37	95	95	-
6. Jones	82	39	43	82	34	-
7. Delfin Albano	135	11	33	135	100	-
8. Reina Mercedes	195	70	63	165	100	-
9. Roxas	396	198	103	396	100	-
10. Tumauni	216	128	44	216	100	-
11. Ramon	100	50	30	100	100	-
12. Luna	103	50	33	103	-	-
TOTAL	2116	751	655	2116	929	

Prepared by: **HENEDINA S. CABRERA**
BRO-LUSOG COORDINATOR

REYNIA C. ANDRES
ASST. BRO-LUSOG COORDINATOR

Noted by: **MANUEL S. ACIERTO**
HEAD, BRO-FAP Office