



Republic of the Philippines
 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
 Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education
 Cotabato City



Office of the Minister

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
 Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. 650
 Series of 2023

RELEASED

BY: Haron
 DATE: 25 AUG 2023
 TIME: 10:10 AM
 Ctrl No: 2023-08-140

TO : **DR. ALMA M. ABDULA-NOR**
 Schools Division Superintendent, Maguindanao del Norte Division

ATTENTION : **DR. ZENaida TOMAS**, Adopting Supervisor Kabuntalalan North District
DR. EF D. MIDTIMBANG, Adopting Supervisor Kabuntalalan North District
DATU SHAKKUR NIKKO S. ABDUL, RN, Nurse In-Charge

FROM : **MOHAGHER M. IQBAL**
 Minister

SUBJECT : **JOINT UPDATING AND BRIEFING MEETING OF HELEN KELLER
 INTERNATIONAL TO MLGU OF KABUNTALAN AND SCHOOLS DISTRICT**

DATE : August 24, 2023

1. This has reference to the letter of Helen Keller Intl. dated August 18, 2023, requesting a joint updating and briefing meeting to the MLGU of South and North Kabuntalalan and schools district piloted of their study on "**Assessment of Vitamin A status among schoolchildren living in high-risk area of the Philippines**".
2. In this connection, the Maguindanao del Norte Schools Division, particularly the Kabuntalalan District, is hereby directed to provide support by attending and participating in the above-mentioned activity.
3. Attached are the communication letter of Helen Keller Intl. and Department of Education OUOPS No. 2023-03-7054 Memorandum for your reference.
4. Should you have concerns or other inquiries, kindly contact Ms. Gizeel Amera I. Ali, MBHTE HNU Chief, at mobile no. 0915-358-0473
5. For information and compliance.

Republic of the Philippines
 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
 Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education
 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION
 Office of the Minister
RELEASED
 By: Haron
 Date: AUG 25 2023
 Time: 10:15 AM
 Control No: 2023-08-140

By Authority of the Minister
MOHAGHER M. IQBAL:


HARON S. MELING
 Deputy Minister





704 Pablo Ocampo St
Malate Manila 1004
02 8708 9340

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18 August 2023

HON. MOHAGHER M. IQBAL
BTA Member and Minister
Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

RECEIVED

Noted
22 AUG 2023
P: 11PM

ATTN: Gizeel Amera Ali, HNU-HEAD;
Noraida Pabillan, SBFP Focal;
Dr. Alma Mangansakan Abdula-Nor, Schools Division Superintendent of
Maguindanao II;
Dr. Zenaida Tomas, Adopting Supervisor of Kabuntalan North District;
Dr. Ef D. Midtimbang, Adopting Supervisor of Kabuntalan South District;
Bai Priscilla S. Sinsuat, RN;
Mellany G. Ebus, RN;
Maricar B. Wahab, RN;
Datu Shakkur Nikko S. Abdul, RN

Dear Minister Iqbal:

Greetings from Helen Keller International!

Our study team is looking forward to meeting you and your team next week in the joint updating and briefing meeting we are organizing with the Provincial Governor of Maguindanao del Norte on August 23, 2023 (attached copy of the coordination letter sent earlier).

As we are maximizing our field visit in Maguindanao Del Norte for the necessary social preparations ahead of the proposed research collaboration with the province and BARMM officials, our team would like to take the opportunity to reconnect with the MBHTE Schools Division Office (SDO) of Maguindanao II as well as the district heads/adopting supervisors of North and South Kabuntalan and consult them about the potential activities once we are finally endorsed to conduct the research collaboration with the MBHTE and the provincial government.

In this regard, we would like to seek permission from your good office to conduct these consultation activities while we wait for the official endorsement of the MBHTE that is currently undergoing further review. Below are activities we hope to conduct next week:

Date/Time	Activity Agenda	Participants
August 24, 2023 8AM-10AM	Updating and consulting meeting with MLGU of North Kabuntalan and Schools District of N. Kabuntalan	MLGU officials of N. Kabuntalan; Dr. Zenaida Tomas, Adopting Supervisor of Kabuntalan North District; Assigned School Nurse/s; School Heads/TICs of the following: ➢ Tumaguinting ES ➢ Manampen ES ➢ Libungan ES
August 24, 2023 1PM – 2:30PM	Updating and consulting meeting with MLGU of Kabuntalan and Schools District of S. Kabuntalan	MLGU officials of Kabuntalan; Dr. Ef D. Midtimbang, Adopting Supervisor of Kabuntalan South District; Assigned School Nurse/s; School Heads/TICs of the following: ➢ Butilen PS ➢ Katidtuan ES ➢ Bagumbayan ES ➢ Langeban PS ➢ Lower Taviran ES



**HELEN
KELLER
INTL**

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maitong ES ➤ Dadtumeg ES ➤ Taviran ES ➤ Kabuntalan CES ➤ Libungan ES ➤ Gambar PS
<p>August 25, 2023</p> <p>9AM – 12NN</p>	<p>Consulting meeting (PTA setup focus group discussion) with some parents from Butilen PS and Dadtumeg ES</p> <p>Proposed venue: Dadtumeg ES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School Head/TIC or Focal/Rep of Butilen PS - At least 3 parents (maximum of 5) whose kids are enrolled in Kinder and Grades 1 to 3, aged 5 to 9 years old - At least 1 teacher observer (max of 2) handling Kinder and Grades 1-3 - Assigned School Nurse/s *Helen Keller Intl to provide Van transpo from Butilen PS to the main venue in Dadtumeg ES and vice versa* - School Head/TIC of Dadtumeg ES - At least 3 parents (maximum of 5) whose kids are enrolled in Kinder and Grades 1 to 3, aged 5 to 9 years old - At least 1 teacher observer (max of 2) handling Kinder and Grades 1-3 - Assigned School Nurse/s

These meetings will include some updating about the study, discussion of the assessment process and a brief consultation on the drafted information material/primer about vitamin A and vitamin A deficiency. Helen Keller International will cover the transportation expenses of the parents who will need to commute from home to the meeting area (and vice versa). The team will also cover the snacks and drinks during these meetings.

The study titled *"Vitamin A Assessment of Schoolchildren Living in High-Risk Areas of the Philippines"* is part of the priorities under the 2022-2028 Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) Research Agenda and is *designed to inform potential study sites to evaluate the nutritional impact of the beta-carotene biofortified Malusog Rice (Golden Rice)*, a potential complementary food-based intervention to address vitamin A deficiency (VAD) in the country.

This research initiative is in coordination with the Philippines Department of Health Single Joint Research Ethics Board (DOH-SJREB), Department of Science and Technology – Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI), National Nutrition Council (NNC), the Department of Education, and the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

For over 40 years now, Helen Keller Intl has been actively working and collaborating with the Philippine Government and other development partners to deliver life-changing and scientifically proven healthcare interventions to vulnerable families in places where the need is great, but access is limited.

Should you have any concerns, please feel free to get in touch with our Communications Specialist, Patricia de Guzman, through email (L.deguzman@hki.org).

Again, thank you so much and we hope to realize the completion of this study with you and the MBHTE as our partner and collaborator as we pursue our shared vision nation-building.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Fatima Dolly R. Reario

MARIA FATIMA DOLLY R. REARIO, RND, MPH

Country Representative to the Philippines | [Helen Keller International](https://www.helenkellerintl.org)



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
OPERATIONS

OUOPS No. 2023-03-7654

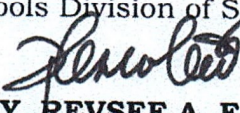
MEMORANDUM

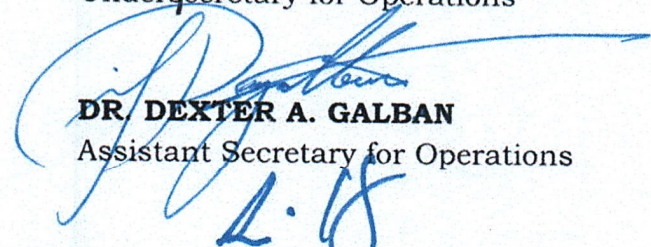
TO : **GILBERT SADSAD**
Regional Director, DepEd RO V

BEBIANO SENTILLAS
Assistant Regional Director, DepEd RO V

WILLIAM E. GANDO, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent
Schools Division of Sorsogon

BERNIE C. DESPABILADERO, Ed.D.
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Schools Division of Sorsogon

FROM : 
ATTY. REVSEE A. ESCOBEDO
Undersecretary for Operations


DR. DEXTER A. GALBAN
Assistant Secretary for Operations

FRANCIS CESAR B. BRINGAS
Assistant Secretary for Operations

SUBJECT : **ENDORSEMENT OF STUDY TO BE CONDUCTED BY HELEN
KELLER INTERNATIONAL IN REGION V**

DATE : **7 JULY 2023**

This is reference to the letter of the Helen Keller International (HKI) to the Department of Education (DepEd), dated 2 June 2023 regarding their request for updating of DepEd endorsement and representative to the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the nutritional evaluation of Golden Rice in the Philippines.

As part of the Department's support and commitment to HKI's initiative, we would like to respectfully endorse to your good office the conduct of HKI's study entitled "**Assessment of vitamin A status among schoolchildren living in high risk areas of the Philippines**" which will be done in the Province of Sorsogon. In

relation to this, we would also like to request your cooperation to the said study and perform the following:

DepEd Regional Office V

- Designate a non-teaching personnel who shall be the focal person in the Regional Office with whom the research staff will coordinate concerns related to the conduct of the study; and
- Provide necessary technical assistance

DepEd Schools Division Office (SDO) of Sorsogon

- Designate a non-teaching personnel who shall be the focal person in the Division with whom the research staff will coordinate concerns related to the conduct of the study; and
- Provide necessary technical assistance

Selected Districts and Schools in the Province of Sorsogon

- Designate a non-teaching personnel who shall be the focal person in the District and selected schools with whom the research staff will coordinate concerns related to the conduct of the study;
- Provide information on the number of students enrolled in kinder, grades 1 to 3 of schools in the District;
- Assist in the selection of schools to be included in the study;
- Convene a meeting of school heads from selected schools;
- Assist in organizing and conducting Parents Teachers Association (PTA) meetings for parents or guardians of all kinder, grades 1 to 3 students in selected schools to explain VAD, inform them about the screening study (i.e., purpose, recruitment, selection of students, risks, benefits, etc.), and recruit parents/guardians of children for potential enrollment; and
- Provide or recommend a venue for the activities (i.e., PTA meetings; school-based assessments such as anthropometric measurements and blood sample collection)

You may refer to the attached letter from HKI for further details on the said request.

If you have questions and clarifications on the research project, please do not hesitate to reach out to the HKI team through:

- Ms. Maria Fatima Dolly R. Reario, Country Representative, at drearario@hki.org and 09472597973; and
- Mr. Daniel G. Salunga, Senior Research Coordinator at DSalunga@hki.org and 09983423891

For your information and appropriate action.