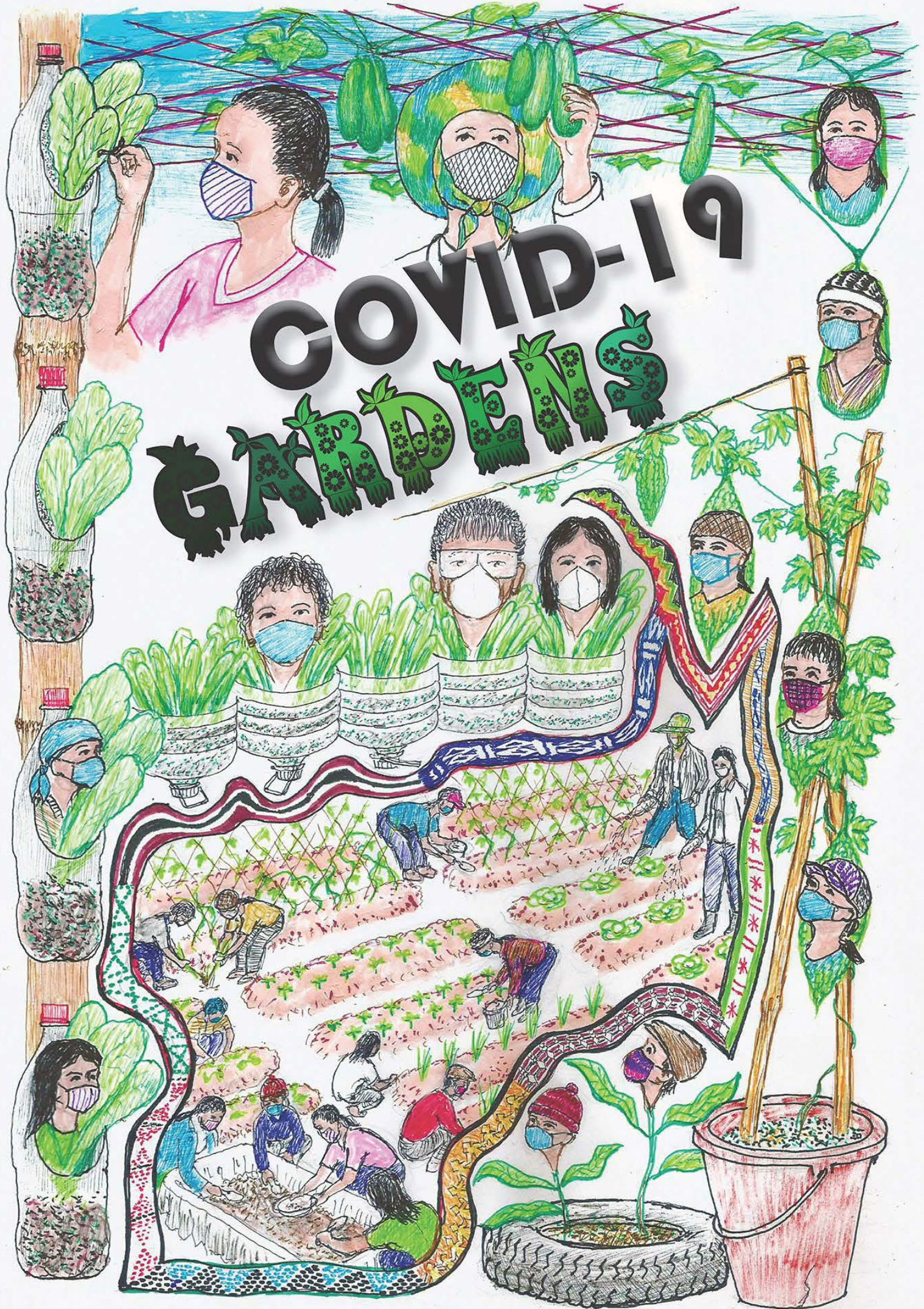


COVID-19 GARDENS



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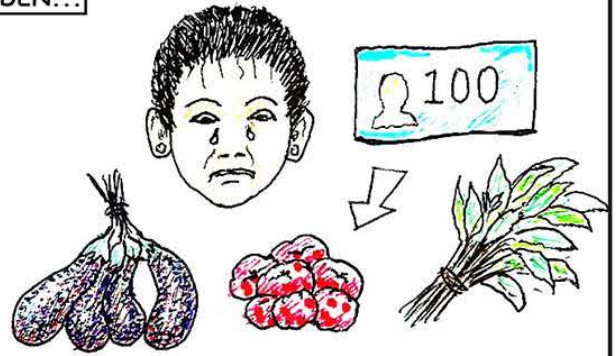
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BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES. PAN IS ON HER WAY TO A GARDEN...



NOW MY BUDGET IS GOOD FOR ONLY 3 DAYS...

DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY	DAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

...INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 7 DAYS

"HELLO NEIGHBOR! HOW ARE YOU?"

"HI PAN!"

"HI. THE LOCKDOWN FORCED THE RESTAURANT WHERE WE WORKED TO CLOSE, SO I AM NOW INTO ONLINE SELLING."

"WE LOST OUR JOBS LAST YEAR DUE TO THE LOCKDOWN TOO. THANKFULLY, I FOUND A JOB NOW AS A VAN DRIVER 3 TIMES A WEEK. WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

"I'M GOING TO VANGIE'S TO JOIN THE GARDEN GROUP. THERE'S A TRAINING ON URBAN GARDENING NOW."

"OK, I'LL LET HER KNOW."

"WOW, THAT'S GREAT. I WANT TO JOIN TOO, BUT I'M BUSY NOW. I'LL TALK TO HER ABOUT IT LATER."

PAN ARRIVES AT THE GARDEN...

OLD MEMBERS VANGIE, GENIE, AND DARCY INTRODUCED THEMSELVES...

"...TO MEET NEW MEMBERS AND HAVE NEW FRIENDS."

"I'M PAT FROM BICOL REGION AND MY HUSBAND IS FROM ILOCOS REGION."

"YOU CAN CALL ME SOL, I'M FROM THE CARAGA REGION IN MINDANAO."

"I'M ROSING FROM CENTRAL VISAYAS REGION."

"SO, THIS IS WHERE YOU SOMETIMES GO?"

"LET'S START BY INTRODUCING OURSELVES AND SHARING OUR REASONS FOR JOINING THIS GROUP WHILE WE INSPECT THE GARDENS."

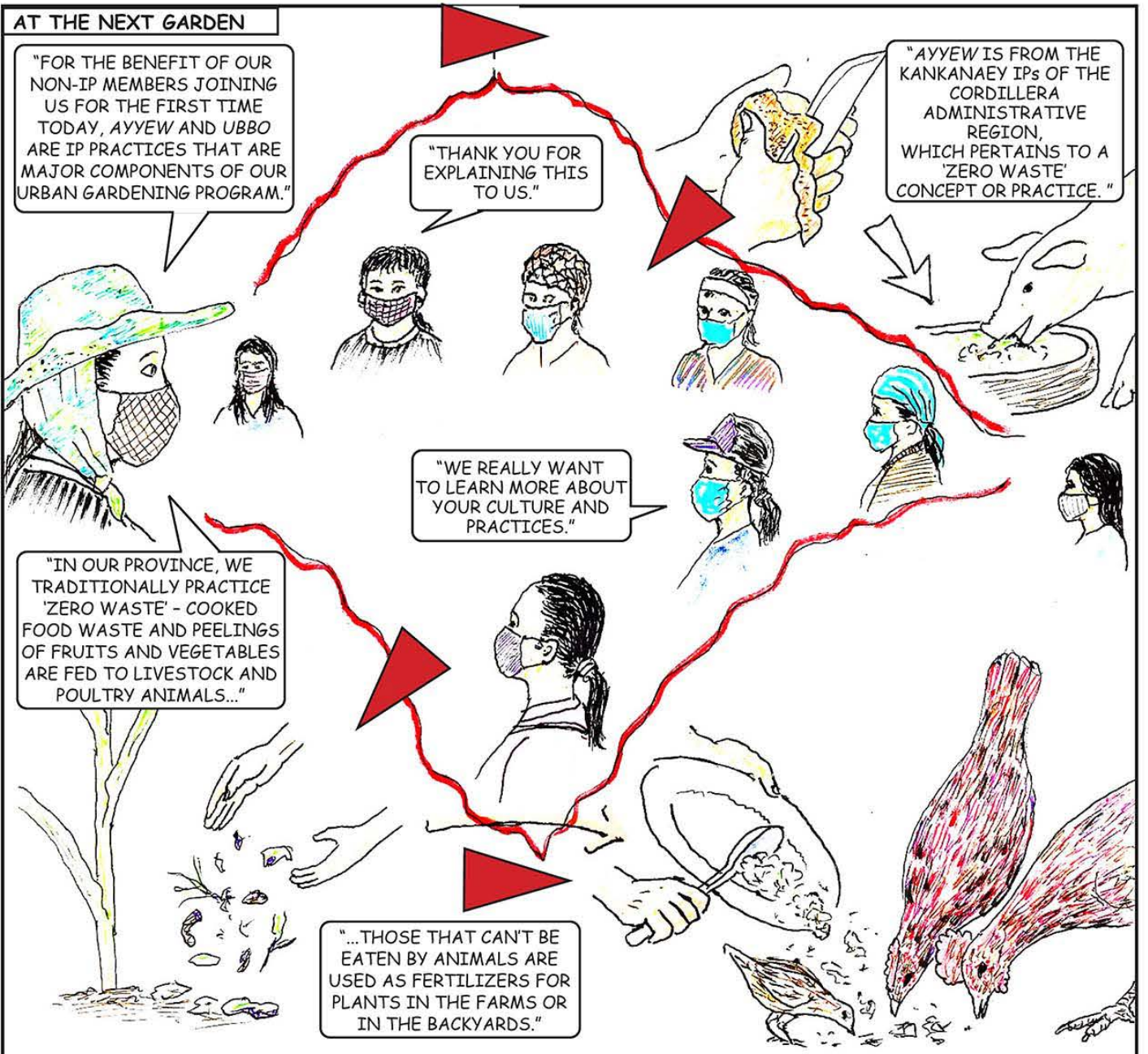
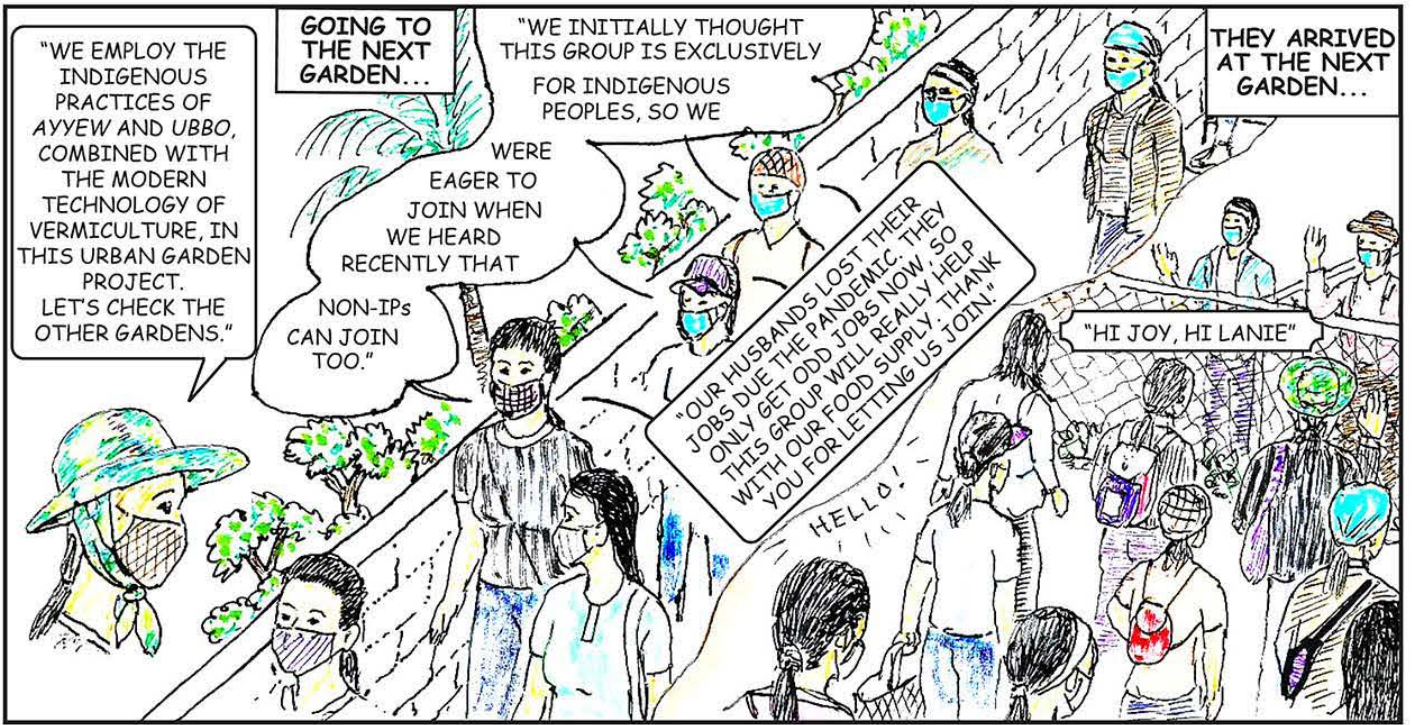
"I'M JEAN FROM ABRA. THANKS FOR HAVING ME."

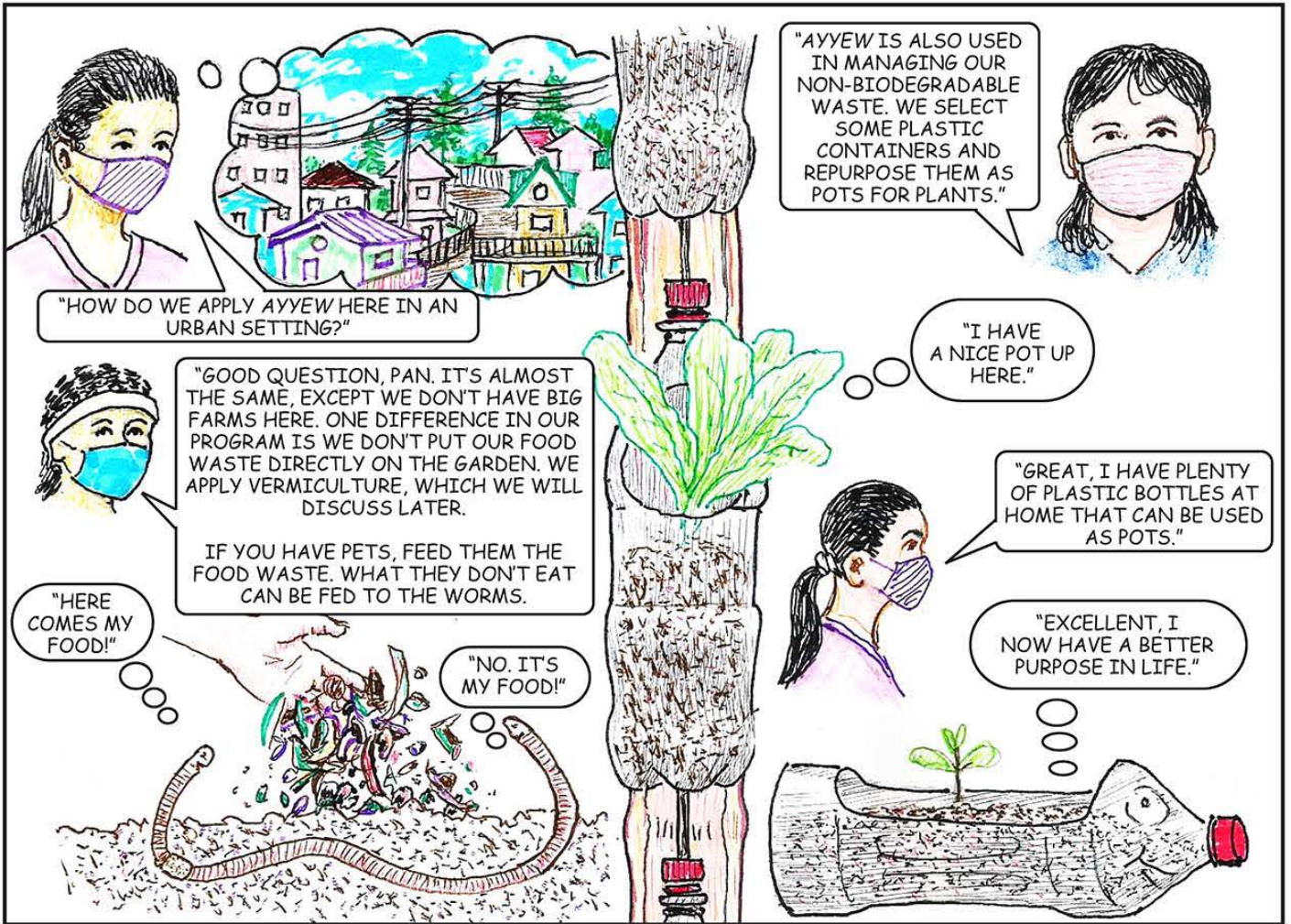
"CALL ME PAN. I'M A NATIVE OF NATONIN, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE. THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING ME!"

"WHILE DISCUSSING, LET'S START TENDING TO THE GARDEN. PLEASE CHECK FOR PESTS AND TAKE OUT WEEDS."

"OUR PROJECT INITIATOR IS CWEARC, OR CORDILLERA WOMEN'S EDUCATION ACTION RESEARCH CENTER, INC. IT AIMS TO EMPOWER CORDILLERA INDIGENOUS WOMEN FOR THE DEFENSE OF LAND, FOOD, RIGHTS AND DIGNITY."

"YES. BE ON ALERT, SOMETIMES WHEN THEY UPROOT A WEED, A WORM OR TWO APPEARS SO WE HAVE TO BE VERY QUICK."





"AYYEW IS ALSO USED IN MANAGING OUR NON-BIODEGRADABLE WASTE. WE SELECT SOME PLASTIC CONTAINERS AND REPURPOSE THEM AS POTS FOR PLANTS."

"HOW DO WE APPLY AYYEW HERE IN AN URBAN SETTING?"

"GOOD QUESTION, PAN. IT'S ALMOST THE SAME, EXCEPT WE DON'T HAVE BIG FARMS HERE. ONE DIFFERENCE IN OUR PROGRAM IS WE DON'T PUT OUR FOOD WASTE DIRECTLY ON THE GARDEN. WE APPLY VERMICULTURE, WHICH WE WILL DISCUSS LATER."

IF YOU HAVE PETS, FEED THEM THE FOOD WASTE. WHAT THEY DON'T EAT CAN BE FED TO THE WORMS.

"HERE COMES MY FOOD!"

"NO. IT'S MY FOOD!"

"I HAVE A NICE POT UP HERE."

"GREAT, I HAVE PLENTY OF PLASTIC BOTTLES AT HOME THAT CAN BE USED AS POTS."

"EXCELLENT, I NOW HAVE A BETTER PURPOSE IN LIFE."

AFTER A WHILE, THE GROUP WALKS TO THE NEXT GARDEN AT MERSON'S PLACE...

"MANY OF US IN OUR COMMUNITY HAVE BENEFITED FROM YOUR FREE AND FRESH VEGETABLES SINCE YOU REVIVED YOUR GARDENS AT THE HEIGHT OF THE COMMUNITY QUARANTINE."

NEWS
Vol...
MASSIVE BUSINESS SHUTDOWN DUE TO COVID19.

"I JOINED SO I CAN HAVE A PLACE FOR MY BIODEGRADABLES. I DON'T HAVE A GARDEN SPACE BUT VANGIE SAID I CAN HELP IN THE COMMON GARDEN AND HAVE A SHARE IN EVERY CROPPING."

"YES, WE HAVE MEMBERS WITH NO GARDENS OF THEIR OWN. THEY HELP IN MANAGING AND WORKING ON THE COMMUNITY GARDENS."

"I WANTED TO JOIN YOU EARLIER, BUT I WAS TOO SHY TO APPROACH YOU THEN. I FELT THE URGENCY TO JOIN NOW BECAUSE MY HUSBAND LOST HIS JOB."

FACTORY
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

"I WANT TO JOIN BECAUSE I HAVE AN IDLE LOT THAT WE CAN USE AS GARDEN. I EXPECT TO LEARN GARDENING WHILE HELPING OUR COMMUNITY GET THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC."

AT MERSON'S PLACE

SHOP CLOSED DUE TO COVID19

Wow... THANKS JEAN!

WELCOME EVERYONE!
HELLO MERSON!
HI MERSON!

CONTINUING THE DISCUSSIONS WHILE TENDING THE GARDEN...

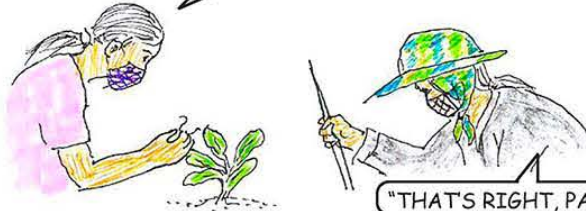
"LET'S TALK ABOUT UBBO. IT'S A KANKANA'EY TERM MEANING EXCHANGE LABOR."



"YES, BUT WE DON'T LET OUR ELDERLY AND NURSING MOM MEMBERS JOIN THE ROUNDS TO ABIDE BY THE HEALTH PROTOCOLS."

"WE ALSO HAVE MEMBERS WITH DAY JOBS, SO THEY JOIN THE ACTIVITIES WHEN THEY CAN."

"SO IT'S LIKE THE TRADITIONAL WAY OF WORKING BASED ON CAPABILITY?"



"THAT'S RIGHT, PAN."



"YOU MEAN WE WORK ON ONE'S GARDEN, AND THEN WE TRANSFER TO THE NEXT GARDEN UNTIL WE HAVE WORKED ON ALL THE GARDENS?"

"WE ALSO PRACTICE UBBO."



"JOINING DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING WOMEN'S EDUCATION, IS ALSO PART OF UBBO."

"UBBO IS AN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEM OR A MUTUAL AID SYSTEM, WHICH MAY ALSO INCLUDE SHARING OF SEEDS, CROPS, AND GARDENING TOOLS AND MATERIALS. JUST MAKE SURE THAT YOU RETURN EVERYTHING YOU BORROW."



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CHALLENGES -



"EACH COMMUNITY HAS CONCEPTS SIMILAR TO AYYEW AND UBBO, BUT CALL IT BY DIFFERENT NAMES."

ON THE WAY TO THE NEXT GARDEN...

"DOES ANYONE HAVE COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?"

"AYYEW AND UBBO ARE AMAZING NEW IDEAS TO US NON-IPs. DO YOU HAVE OTHER INDIGENOUS PRACTICES THAT WE CAN LEARN AND ADOPT - EVEN THOSE NOT RELATED TO GARDENING?"



"YES, SOL, WE DO. THERE'S BINNADANG OR HELPING HAND IN ENGLISH. IT'S SIMILAR TO UBBO IN THE SENSE OF HELPING OTHERS, BUT DIFFERENT IN THE SENSE THAT YOU DON'T EXPECT HELP IN RETURN."

"WE ARE WITNESSING BINNADANG ALL AROUND US DURING THIS PANDEMIC."

"YES, LIKE THE ONES I READ IN THE NEWS."

"OH, SO THIS IS JUST LIKE THE CASE OF OUR NEIGHBOR WARLO."

"YES, WARLO, A VILLAGE VOLUNTEER HERE, IS ORIGINALLY FROM BONTOC. HE CONTRACTED COVID-19 AND HE WAS CONFINED AT THE STO. NIÑO ISOLATION FACILITY FOR 2 WEEKS."

HELLO, MA'AM. I NEED TO ASK "WHERE YOU'RE GOING AND WHERE YOU CAME FROM."

"I CAME FROM THE PUBLIC MARKET AND I'M ON MY WAY HOME."

"AH..AH.. ACHOO!!"

"EXCUSE ME"

MOUNTAINNEWS
 MANY LGUS IN CAR PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CONSTITUENTS STRANDED IN BAGUIO AND ELSEWHERE. Municipalities of Baguio, Natonin, Paoay, and Sadanga in Mountain Province, and municipalities of La Trinidad, Tubod, Malabon, and Abra in Abra Province, Municipalities of...
 LGUS IMPLEMENT INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LOCKDOWN. Municipalities of eastern part of Mountain Province implemented Indigenous Community Lockdown. These LGUs declared the...
 the... situation & tribal lockdown for...

STOP

STO. NIÑO HO'S
 COVID19 TEMPORARY ISOLATION CENTER

ENTRANCE

"THE GUARD AT THE FACILITY SAID THAT WARLO WAS THE ONLY PATIENT WHO REGULARLY RECEIVE FOOD RATIONS FROM PEOPLE."

"I BROUGHT FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES FOR WARLO."

"FOR WARLO AGAIN?!"

REGISTRATION

"THESE FOOD AND SUPPLIES ARE PLENTY. THEY ARE INTENDED TO BE SHARED TO OTHER PATIENTS."

"THANK YOU SO MUCH!"

"AS IT TURNED OUT, ALL HIS FELLOW VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS, MOSTLY IPs, HAVE TAKEN TURNS BRINGING HIM FOOD APART FROM THE SUPPLIES BROUGHT BY HIS FAMILY."

SUPPLY BOX

"YAY! WELCOME BACK, WARLO!"

"THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT. YOUR CONCERN HELPED ME GET THROUGH THIS."

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

OUR CHAPTER IN ANOTHER VILLAGE CONDUCTED A BINNADANG RELIEF EFFORT AT THE HEIGHT OF THE LOCKDOWN TOO. THEY GATHERED ALL THE SURPLUS VEGETABLES FROM THEIR COMMUNITY GARDENS AND THEN DISTRIBUTED THESE TO THE FAMILIES IN NEED.

ARRIVING AT BETH'S GARDEN...

"THIS IS BETH, OUR OLDEST MEMBER AT 70 YEARS OLD. SHE WILL LEAD THE DISCUSSION ON VERMICULTURE."

"HELLO, BETH!"

"HI, BETH!"

"HI!"

"WELCOME, EVERYONE!"

VERMICULTURE IS THE CULTIVATION OF EARTHWORMS TO PRODUCE VERMICAST OR WORMS MANURE TO BE USED AS FERTILIZER. IT IS AN OLD PRACTICE, BUT IT IS STILL NEW TO MANY OF US HERE IN THE CORDILLERA.

"I THOUGHT IT WAS SOME KIND OF IP CULTURE! HA-HA-HA..."

HA-HA-HA

HI HI HI

"ME TOO."

"MINE TOO."

IT'S MY FIRST TIME TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

"THIS IS THE VERMIBED WHERE WE PUT THE EARTHWORMS."

"WHAT MATERIALS DID YOU USE HERE?"

"WE USED FALLEN BANANA TRUNKS FOR THE WALLS THEN WE COVERED IT WITH WORN OUT TARPULINS. WE SPREAD SLIGHTLY DRIED WASTES LIKE SPOILED RICE AND PEELINGS OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS FOR BEDDINGS, THEN WE PUT EARTHWORMS."

"WE REGULARLY WATER THEM AND FEED THEM WITH KITCHEN WASTES."

"WE ALSO ADD GRASS AND WEEDS WHEN WE CLEAN THE GARDEN."

"WE COLLECT VERMICAST AFTER MORE THAN A MONTH AND USE IT AS FERTILIZER TO OUR PLANTS."

"WE ALSO DISTRIBUTE VERMICAST TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE NO VERMIBED."

"THANK YOU SO MUCH! THIS IS MY FAVORITE FOOD."

"OUR NEXT STOP IS ANOTHER COMMUNITY GARDEN AT MILA'S YARD. WE SHALL HAVE OUR LUNCH THERE."

YEE EYYY

THANKS!

YEEHHEE EYY!!!

NICE!

HURRY. I'M STARVING!

ON THE WAY TO MILA'S...

"BY THE WAY, MILA JUST LOST HER HUSBAND TO COVID-19 LAST DECEMBER. WE CAN LEARN FROM HER HOW HER COMMUNITY AND RELATIVES HELPED THE FAMILY COPE WITH THE SUDDEN LOSS."

"SHE INSISTED THAT WE HAVE OUR LUNCH THERE."

"HOW UNFORTUNATE!"

"PERHAPS IT'S HER OUTLET."

"MAYBE IT'S HER WAY OF UNLOADING A HEAVY BURDEN."

"HI KARINA!"

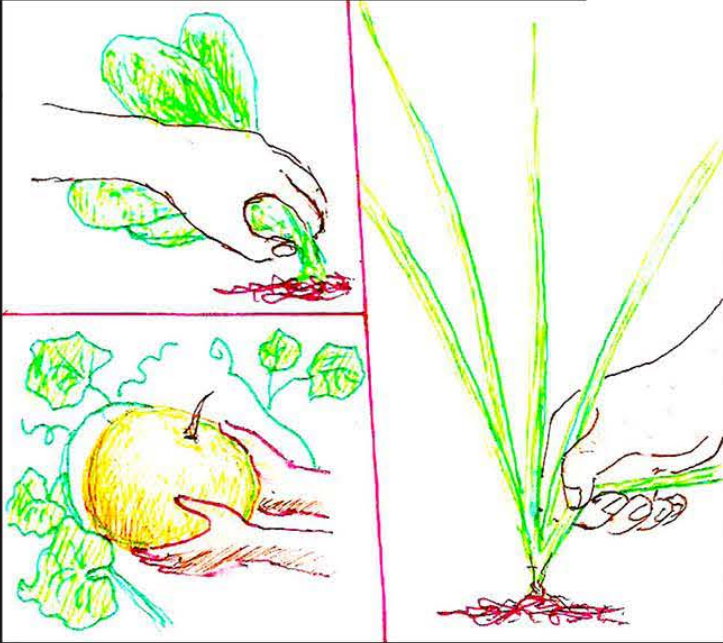
"HI MILA!"

"WELCOME, EVERYONE!"

"WOW! I'M HAPPY TO MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS. PLEASE HELP GATHER FOOD FROM THE GARDEN FOR OUR LUNCH."

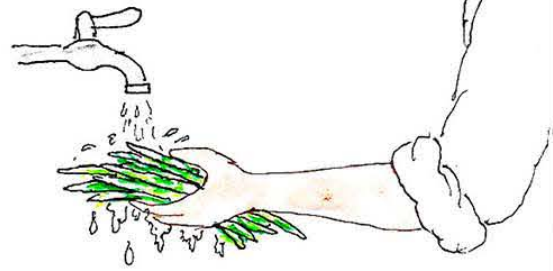
"WOW, LET'S GO GET FOOD."

THEY WENT TO GATHER FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN THE GARDEN...



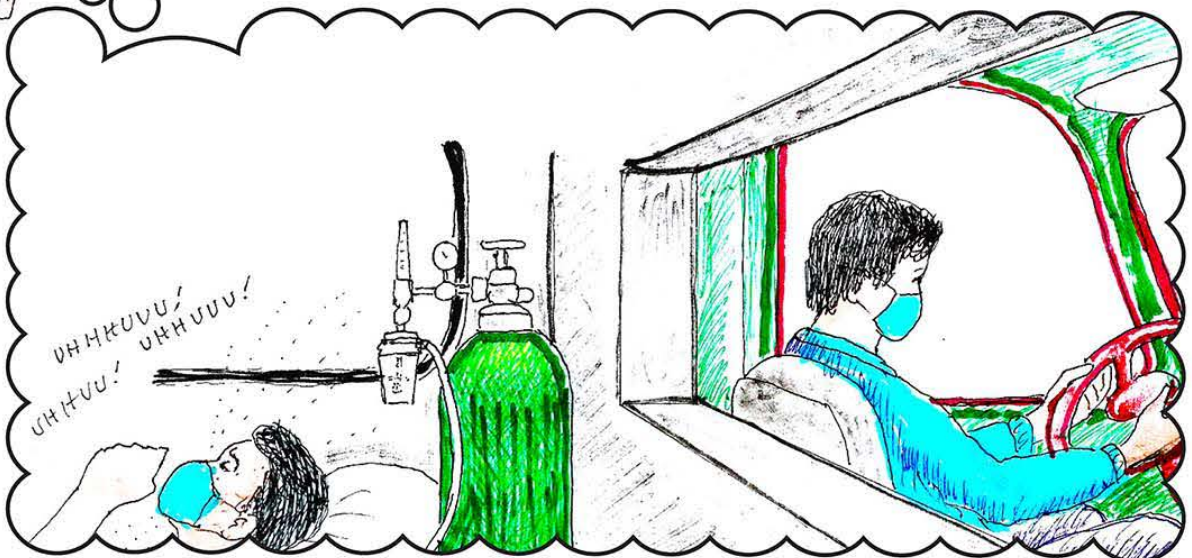
MILA, HOW ARE YOU AND KARINA DOING?

WE ARE GETTING BETTER; WE ARE SLOWLY ACCEPTING MY HUSBAND'S DEATH.



ARE YOU OKAY SHARING YOUR STORY?

SURE. MY HUSBAND AND I BOTH WORK IN A HOSPITAL WHERE I'M A NURSE AND HE USED TO BE AN AMBULANCE DRIVER. THERE WAS ONE TIME THAT HE DROVE A PATIENT TO ANOTHER HOSPITAL, AND THIS PATIENT TURNED OUT TO BE COVID-19 POSITIVE.





TO SHORTEN THE STORY, ALL OF US AT HOME DEVELOPED COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

WE WERE CONFINED IN A HOSPITAL. MY DAUGHTER'S SYMPTOMS WERE MILD; MINE WERE SEVERE. MY HUSBAND, HOWEVER, WAS IN A CRITICAL CONDITION.



A FEW DAYS LATER...



"OH NO! HOW SAD. HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER ARE ALSO CONFINED HERE!"

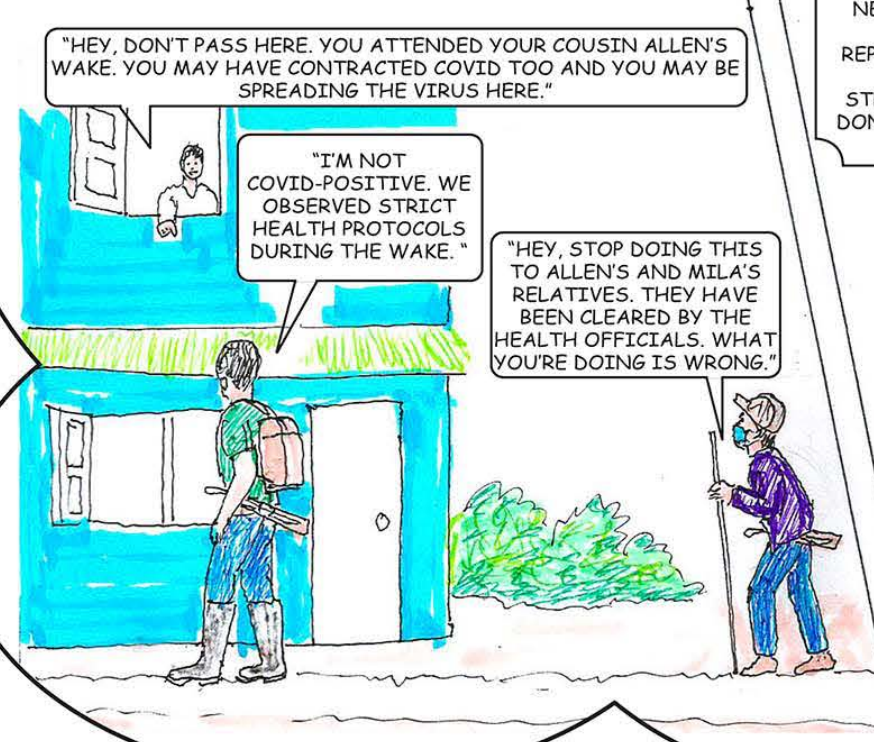
"TSK TSK TSK HE DIDN'T MAKE IT!"



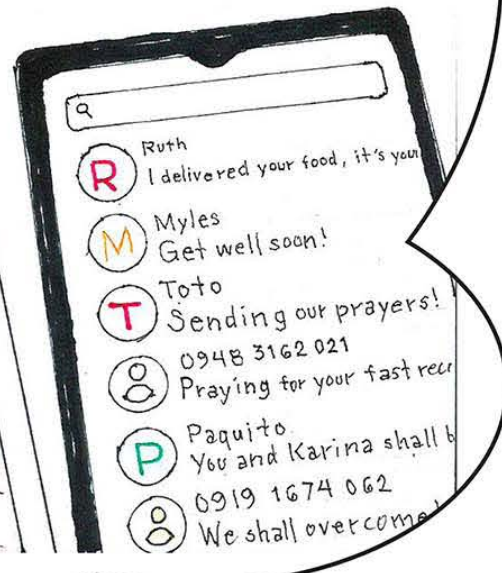
"HU HU HU. MY DEAREST ALLEN, WHY DID YOU LEAVE US SO SOON? HU HU HU..."

"WE COULDN'T EVEN SEE YOU ONE LAST TIME. WE HAD NO TIME FOR GOODBYES. HU HU HU..."

MEANWHILE, IN THEIR COMMUNITY...



FORTUNATELY, THE MAJORITY OF OUR NEIGHBORS SUPPORTED US. THOSE WHO WERE DISCRIMINATING US WERE REPRIMANDED BY THE COMMUNITY ELDERS AND VILLAGE OFFICIALS. EVEN STRANGERS IN SOCIAL MEDIA, PEOPLE WE DON'T EVEN KNOW, HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING THEIR OVERWHELMING SUPPORT.



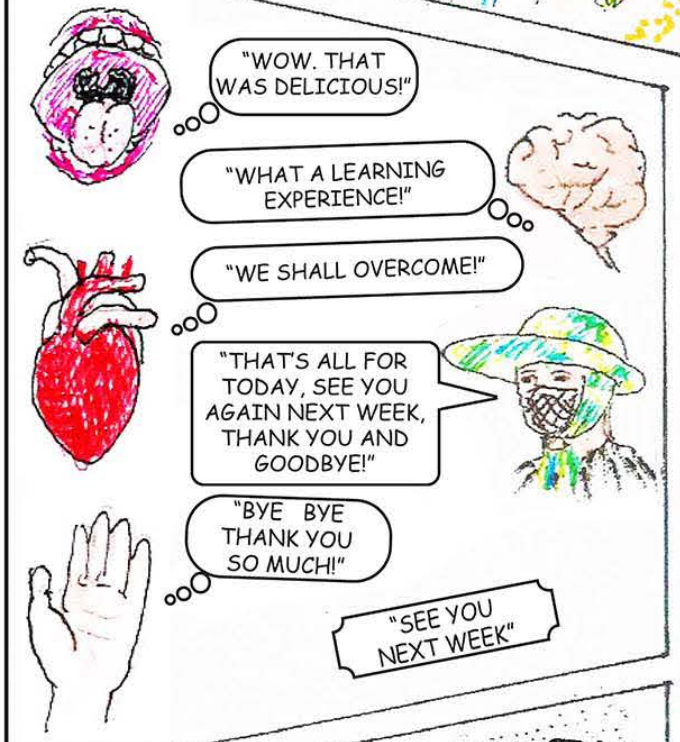


"I THANK THE LORD, OUR FAMILY, NEIGHBORS, AND FRIENDS LIKE YOU. WE ARE SLOWLY RECOVERING, AND ON THE ROAD TO COMPLETE HEALING."

"WE'RE HAPPY YOU'RE GETTING BETTER, MILA. WE'RE HERE FOR YOU."



"WOW, FRESH AND ORGANIC FOOD!"



"WOW. THAT WAS DELICIOUS!"

"WHAT A LEARNING EXPERIENCE!"

"WE SHALL OVERCOME!"

"THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY, SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT WEEK, THANK YOU AND GOODBYE!"

"BYE BYE THANK YOU SO MUCH!"

"SEE YOU NEXT WEEK"

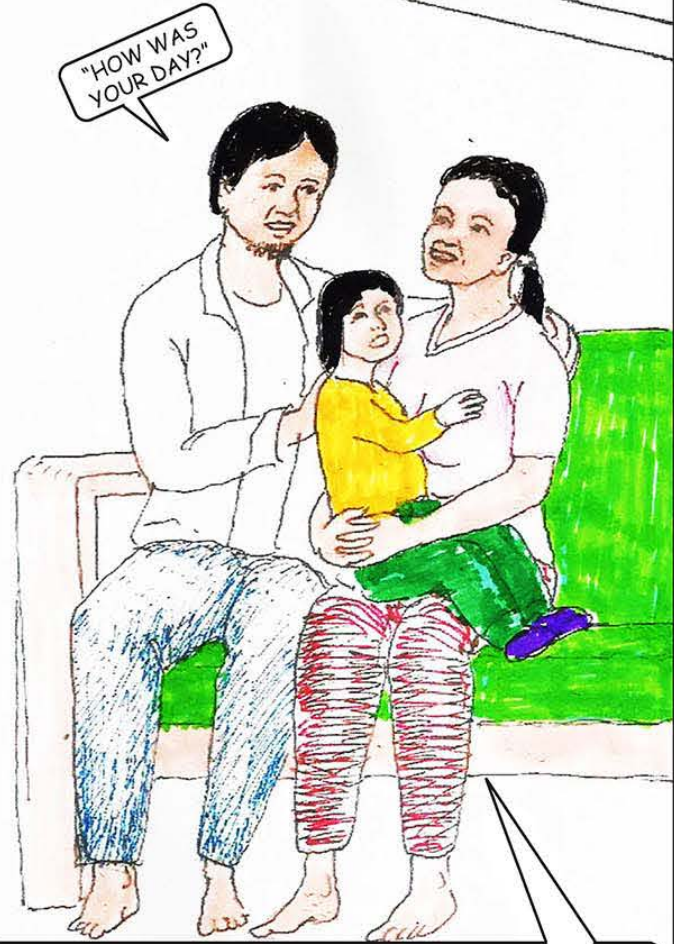


BACK HOME...

"HELLO, MY LOVE"

KISHH
KISHH
KISHH

"MAMA!"



"HOW WAS YOUR DAY?"

IT WAS TIRING, BUT IT WAS ALSO INSPIRING. I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT URBAN GARDENING, INDIGENOUS PRACTICES, COMMUNITY GARDENS, AND COMMUNITY SHARING TO GET THROUGH THE PANDEMIC... AND ALSO ABOUT COPING. I LEARNED THE VALUE OF COPING THROUGH GIVING AND GETTING HELP IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES WE'RE IN.

-END-

INTRODUCTION

This comic book is a presentation to the world that we, Indigenous Peoples (IPs), also have knowledge, systems, and practices that helps us mitigate and manage the risks in every disaster even in pandemic such as this COVID19. This is an integration of different experiences of IP individuals, families, and groups in dealing with the effects of this pandemic, the dialogues, plots and structure are fictional but the events, places, organizations, and most characters are true. For the individuals and families featured here, fictional names are used in respect to their privacy.

The bulk of the stories are based from the video documentation of CWEARC entitled 'Ayyew ken Ubbo para isnan kataguan' (Ayyew and Ubbo for sustenance), while others are from tribes-mates and friends.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This comic book is made possible thru the grant from Innovation for Change – East Asia and thru the stories provided by CWEARC Inc. and certain individuals and families who greatly suffered from the COVID19 pandemic.