On COVID-19 recovery efforts in the Philippines

- Policy responses focused on imposing lockdowns and providing one-time cash aid to qualified beneficiaries (e.g., the poorest households, displaced workers, health workers); and the option for local governments to distribute relief goods. Until now, public health responses have not been as systematic as they should be.
- Policymaking issues e.g., top-down, non-consultative, 'one size fits all'
- Quality issues e.g., inadequacy of cash aid, poor quality relief goods for some areas, neglect of gender and sector/community-specific issues
- Implementation issues e.g., lack of coordination across local government units and between local and national governments, a militaristic approach that contributed to a shrinking civic space

On COVID-19 recovery efforts in the Philippines

- Women's experiences with lockdowns include job and income losses, increased unpaid care work, increased mental stress, increased vulnerability to domestic violence, decreased access to RH goods and services, increased difficulty with community organizing
- Challenges with cash aid program include access to information (e.g., qualifications, mechanisms for claim and receipt of relief, amount of cash aid) given mobility restriction and poor digital infrastructure in many areas; qualifying for the program (e.g., unrecognized as farmers, not considered to be heads of households); COVID-19 risk exposure given some practices that did not enable observance of safety protocols (e.g., crowded distribution centers)

Imagining post-COVID feminist futures

- Holistic appreciation of the gendered socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Sustainable, gender-responsive, participatory, and community-led recovery programs
- Improving government systems including updated and accurate databases, better coordination across localities and between local and national governments, transparency and accountability

Imagining post-COVID feminist futures

- Recognition of women's contribution to socio-economic development, both as productive and reproductive workers
- Ensuring decent work for all (recognition of work in the informal economy); and social protection even for the unemployed, including unpaid care workers
- Transforming health, education, transportation and housing programs to become more accessible, available, adequate
- Strengthening SRH goods, services and mechanisms

Imagining post-COVID feminist futures

- Working with women's organizations who have filled in many gaps in government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic including:
  - Community education on COVID-19 and safety protocols (e.g., National Coalition of Rural Women)
  - Conducting public fora on women's situations (e.g., Center for Women's Resources)
  - Ensuring income work options and conducting relief operations (e.g., HomeNet Philippines/ National Network of Informal Workers in the Philippines)
  - Assisting Filipina migrant workers abroad in claiming available services from repatriation to reintegration (i.e., Center for Migrant Advocacy)
  - Supporting women organizers (e.g., Center for Women's Resources)
  - Negotiating with government offices for the recognition of women as farmers (i.e., National Coalition of Rural Women)