



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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Urban October: Celebrating Shelter, Indigenous Identity, and Global Solidarity

08 October 2025; 1:30 – 4:30pm (Manila, Philippines time zone)

Surigao City, Philippines

In Person Activity

BACKGROUND

October is a significant month for sustainable development and cultural recognition in the Philippines. It coincides with the observance of National Indigenous Peoples Month (Proclamation 1906), National Shelter Month (R.A. 662), and United Nations Day (October 24). Globally, the UN celebrates Urban October, beginning with World Habitat Day and concluding with World Cities Day, to reflect on the state of human settlements and advance inclusive urban futures.

In Surigao City, these commemorations resonate through the Huy-anan nan Bajau sa Surigao Project, a partnership initiative that provides secure housing, sustainable livelihoods, and inclusive development pathways for the Sama Bajau community. Funded by the Spanish Government through AECID, and implemented by UN-Habitat with the Sama Bajau community, national and local governments, private sector, and civil society, the project embodies culture-driven, community-led transformation.

Originally targeted for 20 Sama Bajau families, the project has expanded to benefit 24 families through the donation of housing materials by the private business sector of Surigao City, complemented by UN-Habitat's labor and technical support. This milestone demonstrates how inclusive partnerships across sectors can amplify impact and ensure more families benefit from dignified, resilient housing.

PURPOSE OF THE ACTIVITY

- Recognize and honor the transformative milestones of the Huy-anan nan Bajau sa Surigao Project as tangible proof that inclusive partnerships can advance the SDGs by expanding dignified shelter, sustainable livelihoods, and community resilience for the Sama Bajau.
- Highlight the integration of housing, digital inclusion, livelihood, and SDG localization for resilient and sustainable communities.
- Strengthen partnerships among international, national, and local stakeholders in advancing inclusive development and the 2030 Agenda.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- 1) **Turnover of Quadruplex Stilt House No. 6:** Constructed through the partnership of the Surigao City private business community (materials) and UN-Habitat (labor and technical support), this housing unit allows four additional Sama Bajau families to join the project, bringing the total to 24 homepartners. Beyond shelter, the turnover symbolizes dignity, security, and the transformative power of multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- 2) **Launching of the Smart Village by DICT:** The Smart Village will provide Sama Bajau families with digital connectivity, access to e-government services, online education, telehealth, and livelihood opportunities. This initiative positions the settlement as a pioneering model of inclusive, future-ready, and digitally empowered communities.

- 3) **Turnover of Sustainable Livelihood Program Funds by DSWD:** The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) equips Sama Bajau families with resources to start or scale up enterprises, enabling self-reliance, decent work, and circular economy initiatives. This contributes directly to poverty reduction, food security, and inclusive local economic development.
- 4) **Presentation of the Surigao City Voluntary Local Review (VLR):** Surigao City's VLR showcases the city's leadership in localizing the SDGs and ensuring that marginalized groups, including the Sama Bajau, are integral to planning and monitoring development. By presenting the VLR, Surigao joins global cities advancing inclusive governance and the 2030 Agenda.

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

- UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines (tbc)
- Spanish Ambassador to the Philippines (tbc)
- Representatives of AECID, DICT, DSWD, DHSUD, DEPED, DILG, NCIP, DENR, other national agencies (Some confirmed)
- Surigao City Mayor and local government officials (confirmed)
- Sama Bajau community leaders and families (Confirmed)
- Civil society partners, academe (Confirmed)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

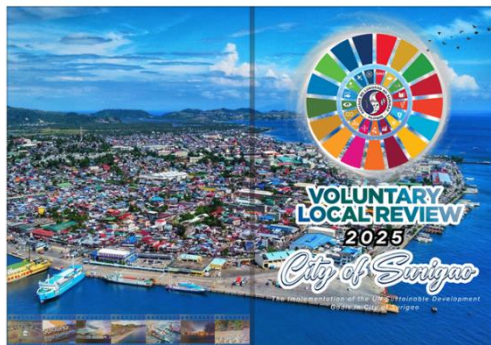
09 October 2025/DENR Ecovillage, Sitio Panubigon, Barangay Lipata, Surigao City
1:30 to 4:30 PM

- Welcome Message
- Turnover of Quadruplex Stilt House No. 6
- Launching of the Smart Village (DICT)
- Turnover of Sustainable Livelihood Program Funds (DSWD)
- Presentation of the Surigao City VLR Report
- Messages of Support
 - UN Resident Coordinator
 - Spanish Ambassador
 - National Government Partners
- Closing Message

PHOTOS



The FORMER houses of the Sama Bajau for almost 50 years and
the CURRENT resettlement site at DENR Ecovillage



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Draft VLR Report of Surigao City