PATH Foundation Philippines, Inc. (PFPI), an implementer of USAID’s BALANCED Philippines Project, partnered with the local government unit (LGU), as well as with the local groups, including a youth organization in launching last February a waste management program dubbed “Hilongos Green Valentines” with the theme “Love Green, Think Green, Live Green.” The event saw the conduct of a series of activities such as fun run, photo/painting contest, river clean up and tree planting participated in by about 500 men and women, students and LGU officials including volunteer PHE peer educators to drum up support for Hilongos’ environment program. One of the highlights was the conduct of several orientations and discussions with various groups on the interrelationship of population, health and environment (PHE) issues, emphasizing that an ever increasing population puts so much pressure on the environment and natural resources. The orientations stressed that environmental problems cannot be effectively addressed unless population issues are also simultaneously responded to. PFPI’s participation in activities like this is part of its commitment under the BALANCED Philippines Project to reach out to at least 100,000 men and women in Project sites to increase community awareness and support for family planning and environmental conservation efforts.

Hilongos residents join the “Green Valentines” activities doing clean-up drives (left photo), tree planting (top right photo) and attending orientations and discussion on interrelationship of population, health and environment (PHE) issues, emphasizing that integrating PHE programs is necessary to effectively address population and conservation problems (bottom right photo). (Photos by BALANCED Philippines/Sherill Rotairo)