

PROMISE PHILIPPINES

1ST Quarter Report

2006

I. Project Description and Objective

The city selected as site for the Philippine implementation of the PROMISE Project is Dagupan City. It has a land area of 4,008 hectares. The City functions as a sub-regional center for trade and commerce, finance, high-level health and education services in Northern Luzon, Philippines. Flooding occurs every rainy season and the situation is further aggravated by the onset of high tide. There are seven river systems that traverse Dagupan, all of which drain out to the Lingayen Gulf. Most of the rivers are at present heavily silted. The silt deposits are caused primarily by upstream riverbank erosion, and proliferation of squatters along riverbanks. The shallow river bottoms, resulting from sediment transportation and deposit on the riverbed, is the cause of heavy flood in the city in the past years.

The City and its people have learned to live with the flood. They have adopted several measures (desilting of rivers, raised roads and bridges, regular declogging of drainage system in communities) to address the annual flooding but a more programmatic, systematized and integrated and participatory approach to manage the disaster event has to be done. The City has evolved an informal system for responding to emergency situations in the past and they have taken steps to organize and systematize their emergency response by reorganizing their City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC).

The PROMISE Project will hasten the systematization and integration of disaster management into the development processes within the City using participatory approaches.

The Philippine project will work for the following objectives within two years:

1. Adoption of specific hydro-meteorological disaster preparedness and mitigation measures to manage *hydro-meteorological disaster risk*
2. Increased stakeholder involvement and further enhancement of strategies, tools and methodologies related to community preparedness and mitigation of hydro-meteorological disasters
3. Enhanced coordination with USAID Missions to promote sustainability and ensure program activities accord with USAID country and regional strategies.

4. Strengthen networks and regional links among relevant risk management institutions/organizations for improving potential and capacity for application and dissemination of lessons learned.

The Philippine project works primarily in Dagupan City to achieve Objectives 1 and 2. To attain Objectives 3 and 4, PROMISE Philippines at the Asia Regional level with local and national particularizations.

I. Summary of Accomplishments for the Reporting Quarter

- The CDP Project Team discussed and planned for activities of the Project together with the Technical Working Group (TWG) which is composed of heads of each unit under the Dagupan City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC). The TWG is headed by the Public Order and Safety Office and Deputized Civil Defense Officer, Mr. Robert Erfe-Mejia.
- The TWG and CDP after discussing the criteria for selection of communities agreed that instead of six (6), there would be eight (8) communities to be included in the project. The CDP, before deciding on which communities to prioritize for the project, went around the most vulnerable communities. Inputs from participants to the Project Orientation Workshop, the TWG, and a former JICA Consultant were considered also before making the final decision.
- The Project Orientation/Project Launching was originally scheduled for February 28 but the Dagupan City TWG requested that it be moved to March 7. The program for said activity was prepared by CDP and approved by the TWG. The TWG volunteered to do most of the tasks during the workshop. It was agreed that both CDP and the TWG would co-facilitate the activity and the TWG would take charge of video and written documentation as well as media coverage.
- It was agreed by both parties to have a Letterhead for communication purposes and a brochure about the Project. Unfortunately, the proposed design for both the letterhead and brochure was not approved and a new design is still to be made. Instead, a two page Project Brief was distributed during the Project Launching/Orientation Workshop.
- The Project Launching and Orientation Workshop was held last March 7 at the Dagupan City Museum. More than a hundred people came coming from the City Government, officials from the 31 barangays in Dagupan, civic organizations and the local media. Representatives from USAID, League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and the Regional Director of the Office of Civil Defense graced the occasion. The highlights of the Project Launching were the messages of support given by the partner institutions and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City Government represented by its Mayor,

the Honorable Benjamin S. Lim, and the CDP represented by its President, Ms. Eufemia Andaya.

To level off on understanding of the Project, Ms. Lorna Victoria, CDP Vice President, explained the Project's background, objectives and components. Her presentation was made after the presentation/discussion by Mr. Robert Erfe-Mejia's on the City's Disaster Situation and Current Efforts in Disaster Management to show the fit or appropriateness of the project to the situation. Those present were asked to identify the factors which would hinder or facilitate the project's implementation so that potential problem would be avoided.

- After being moved twice, the Community Based Disaster Risk Management and Participatory Risk Assessment Training was finally held from March 27 to March 31. A total of 24 participants from the City Level and 16 from the communities attended the five day training which included field practicum in one barangay. The main trainers were Ms. Mayfourth Luneta, the Project Manager, Ms. Marita Santos, CDP's CBDM Training Officer together with Mr. Ernie Elcamel from the City of Naga and Mr. Voltaire Acosta, Environment Officer of the League of Cities of the Philippines.
- Visits to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and to the League of Cities of the Philippines were done to discuss areas for cooperation and how best to move the project forward. MOUs will be prepared and signed with these bodies to ensure the continuity of support to initiated activities. The discussion with the head of the OCD, Gen. Glenn Rabonza, has not taken place yet as he is very busy and has no time yet to sit down with the Project Team. However, for the Project Launch/Orientation Workshop, the OCD sent its Regional Director Edgar Nigel Lontoc give a Message of Support and participate in the Workshop activities. A courtesy call to the Mission Director of USAID, Mr. Jon Lindborg. was also made by the CDP Project Team.

II. Planned vs. Actual Achievements

As the summary of major activities above would show, the Project Team together with the Technical Working Group has successfully launched two major activities as planned for the quarter. However, given the very busy schedule of each member of the TWG, and the many major decisions/sub-activities that have to be done before a major chunk of work could be finished, two major activities have not been fully carried out yet. Discussions have been held with the GIS personnel of the City and the TWG regarding the setting up of the Disaster Information Management System but no final design has been made yet. Also, the community workshops and PRA have not been started yet given the postponement of prerequisite activities.

III. Problems Encountered, New Opportunities and Lessons Learned

At first, the relationship with the TWG was not as smooth as CDP hoped it to be for they wanted control over the fund. After several discussions and sensing CDP's sincerity and after the clarification of roles as stipulated in the MOU, the relationship now has improved. On the part of CDP, it realized that when partnering with government offices, a contract has to be written specifying what can be expected from the partnership.

Another problem encountered was in relation to the scheduling of activities because of the busy schedule of the members of the TWG. In fact, during the training of City Facilitators on CBDRM/PRA, many of the TWG members were not able to sit in all of the sessions because of urgent matters they have to attend to.

The CBDRM/PRA Training opened the opportunity for the sharing of the Naga City experience in flood preparedness and mitigation. It also opened the opportunity to partner with the LCP in discussing the link between solid waste management and flood mitigation. It also became a forum to ventilate the people's concern over other disasters such as tsunami and earthquake which they hoped could be supported by the project also.

The PRA Exercise/Practicum in Barangay Bancayao Sur was not only a learning activity for the Training Participants but also an raising activity for barangay residents to improve flood preparedness and mitigation. The Project was also able to start with its public awareness activities by involving Grade 6 teachers and students of the Bancayao Elementary School in the PRA activities.

IV. Achievement over Project Objective Indicators

The indicators for the quarter showing the progress of the project towards achieving the objectives are the following:

1. The City officials and Barangay leaders are aware and supportive of the Project
2. The City and Barangay officials recognize the importance of community participation
3. Active participation of the City officials through the Technical Working Group
4. Good working relationship with USAID Phil. Office has been established and regular updates are submitted to them also.
5. Concerned government office and NGO signified support to the Project (OCD, LCP, key NGOs in Dagupan City)

VI. Planned Activities for Next Quarter (April-June 2006)

The following are the priority activities for the months of April, May and June:

1. Community workshops and PRA for 8 communities
2. Formalization of Memorandum of Understanding with PAGASA and planning of assistance on Flood Monitoring and Early Warning System
3. Work towards passage of City legislation on observance of disaster safety day
4. Preparations for DRM workshops with teachers and students and inter-school contest

VII. Project Financial Status

Please refer to page 6.

VIII. Photos of Project Launch and CBDRM & PRA Training

Please refer to pages 7 and 8.

PROJECT FINANCIAL STATUS

AMOUNTS IN PHILIPPINE PESO

LINES ITEMS	OBLIGATION TO DATE	EXPENDITURE UP TO THE QRT	PLAN COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTION	ACTUAL* CONTRIBUTION UP TO THE QUARTER
Activity 1.1.1 Technical Scoping WS	70,000.00	82,390.45	40,000.00	
Activity 1.1.2 PRA Training of Facilitators	224,000.00	216,857.75	170,000.00	
Activity 1.1.3 WS on DRM, Conduct of PRA & Action Plan	292,000.00	-	-	
Activity 1.1.4 Setting up & Maintenance of DIS	210,000.00	-	-	
Operational Support	144,999.00	96,666.00	40,000.00	
TOTAL BUDGET	940,999.00	395,914.20	250,000.00	

** Report of details of Actual Contribution still to be worked by the TWG and the Project Team.*