

**PROMISE PHILIPPINES**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report**  
**for the period July-September 2006**

**I. Project Description and Objectives**

The PROMISE Philippine Project is being undertaken by the Center for Disaster Preparedness in partnership with the City Government of Dagupan. Dagupan City has a total land area of 4,008 hectares and it has an estimated population of 150,000 inhabitants. The City gets flooded every rainy season and the situation is further aggravated by the onset of high tide. There are seven (7) river systems that traverse Dagupan all of which drain out to the Lingayen Gulf. Most of the rivers are heavily silted and the shallow river bottoms are the cause of heavy flood in the city.

The City Government and the people of Dagupan have adopted several measures to address the annual flooding like desilting of river, building of raised roads, and regular declogging of drainage systems. Still, the city has to develop a more programmatic, systematized, integrated and participatory approach to manage the disasters it continually faces. The PROMISE Project aims to hasten the systematization and integration of disaster management into the development processes within the city.

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 are in 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.

**II. Summary of Accomplishments for the Reporting Quarter**

- **Observance of the Dagupan Disaster Safety Day**

Through the suggestion of CDP and the TWG, the City Councilors passed the City Resolution No. 5469-2006 to observe July 16 of every year as Disaster Safety Day. Ms. Dea Que, Head of Tourism Department and member of the TWG in charge of the Disaster Safety Day, suggested that the event will be done through a week long celebration. The event was in line with the National Government's declaration of July as Disaster Consciousness Month. Dagupan

decided to extend the observance of the Disaster Safety Day into a month long celebration and they called it the City wide Disaster Consciousness Month with the theme, "Itaguyod ang Kaunlaran, Kalamidad ay Paghandaan" (Maintain Development Gains, Prepare for Disasters).

To build public support for the month long event, the Public Information Officer of the City was tasked to speak in all the news and current affairs programs of all radio stations within the City. The Bantay Dagupan volunteers were mobilized to support the activities. Even the support of the national government was enlisted with the participation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary for Special Concern and Interagency Affairs as Guest Speaker during the program marking the start of the Disaster Consciousness Month.

During the City Parade which was led by the City Mayor and members of the City Council and other City Government Officials, more than 15,000 people joined. Judging by the number of participants, it can be said that the activity was successful in reaching a large number of people with the message of disaster preparedness.

In partnership with the Department of Education and the Dagupan Bangus Jaycees, an Academic Olympics (competition on oration, essay writing, slogan and poster making) was held and this was opened for students and professionals not just from the City but from the whole Province of Pangasinan. Ms. Gabrielle Iglesias of ADPC and Ms. Mayfourth Luneta of CDP served as judges for the slogan competition and oratorical contest.

Aside from the Academic Olympics, the City also had a day for River Clean Up and Mangrove Revegetation, headed by the City Agriculturist Ms. Emma Molina, which was participated in by college students in tie up with their National Service Training Program (NSTP). Also, in cooperation with the Department of Education, an earthquake and Evacuation Drill in schools were done. The City government estimated that around 55,000 students and teachers from both public and private schools participated in the drill.

- **Setting up of the Early Warning and Evacuation System for the Eight Target Communities and for the City**

Prior to the conduct of the Training Workshops on Early Warning and Evacuation, CDP's Project Coordinator for PROMISE, Ms. Mayfourth Luneta, and the members of the Technical Working Group, visited the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) Flood Control Office in Rosales, Pangasinan on June 27, 2006. The head of the office, Chief Engineer Arturo Ladislao along with his staff explained how they monitor the flood situation within the Agno River Basin and their system for passing the information to concerned cities and municipalities. The

discussion proved beneficial to the TWG so that their efforts in flood monitoring would be complementary to that of PAGASA. The TWG showed the flood marker which they intend to install to monitor flood levels within the City and Engr. Ladislao made suggestions on how to improve the design of the flood marker and he suggested to use hard wood rather than steel to avoid problems with rusting. The meeting ended with the assurance from PAGASA's Flood Control office of their full support to the Project.

The training workshop for the eight (8) target communities was conducted last August 29-31, 2006 at the Dagupan City Museum. Speakers from the PAGASA National Office and PAGASA's Flood Control Office in the province were invited to explain the role of PAGASA in the country's disaster management system, the work of the Flood Control Office, and they discussed their Early Warning System so that the City's and the communities' warning system for hydro-meteorological hazards will be linked with their system. CDP invited Ms. Mariser Palencia, an Early Warning and Evacuation Specialist, to facilitate the Evacuation Plan workshop while Ms. Luneta, facilitated the Early Warning Workshop. There were around 60 participants (3 from each barangay and the rest were from the City government who helped in facilitating the workshops). The participants actively worked on drafting their early warning and evacuation plan. To date, 4 out of the 8 barangays have finalized their plan with the help of the Technical Working Group. The other four communities have their drafts already and are in the process of finalization.

The City Level Early Warning and Evacuation Workshop was conducted last September 12-14. A total of 35 participants composed of Department Heads and staff of the City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC) attended the training workshop. Mr. Maximo from the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) discussed their Public Awareness Program and their Early Warning System. Ms. Palencia and Ms. Luneta facilitated the risk mapping and early warning and evacuation workshops. The workshop provided the venue for the CDCC to review its functions and structure. This resulted to clearer roles and responsibilities for each member of the CDCC and they were able to assign specific persons to each task. Unfortunately, there was no enough time to finish the City's early warning and evacuation plan, only the outline was discussed and each department was assigned to discuss further specific portions of the plan. A writeshop would be called to integrate the different sections and to finalize the plan.

- **Finalization of criteria for the selection of projects to be supported by the Fund for Community Level Preparedness and Mitigation Project**

To ensure the judicious use of Project Funds, Ms. Mayfourth Luneta, the Project Coordinator and the TWG discussed and finalized the criteria to be used in selecting projects proposed by each of the eight communities. The criteria set are the following:

1. The project must be based on the specific disaster preparedness needs of each community
2. The community must be able to provide a counterpart
3. The proposal must indicate how the small scale mitigation project would be sustained by the community
4. The project should not be limited to emergency preparedness only but it must also address the mitigation needs of the community.

- **Networking**

The City Government forged ties with the Department of Education, the Expanded Task Force Bantay Dagupan, Dagupan Jaycees, Philippine National Red Cross City Chapter, all the media outfits in the City and privately run schools within the City for the City wide campaign for disaster preparedness.

At the Regional Level, the Office of Civil Defense for Region 1 and the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council Deputy Regional Director were contacted to be part of the Opening Program for the observance of the Disaster Consciousness Month. Meanwhile, CDP continued to involve the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) Flood Control Office in the project by getting them as resource persons.

At the National Level, the City Government involved the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the observance of the Disaster Consciousness Month. CDP's networking efforts at the national level reached many national government agencies and non-government organizations. CDP contacted the Philippine Institute for Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) to solicit their help for the City Level Training Workshop on Early Warning and Evacuation. The Office of Civil Defense, and the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the Philippine National Red Cross, the League of Cities in the Philippines, and the City Government of Batangas were invited to participate in the Regional Training on DRM and Governance and in the PROMISE Working Group Meeting. CDP also sits in the National Network for Avian Influenza Preparedness, a network initiated by CARE Philippines with membership coming from the government and the civil society. This strategic partnership with the Avian Influenza Network will allow cross over of learning to and from the Network partners and Project Promise.

The visit of Mr. NMSI Arambepola, ADPC's Program Manager for Promise, became an opportunity for CDP to visit the USAID Mission Office again. Ms. Lorna Victoria of CDP updated the USAID Mission Office in the Philippines about the developments in the Project.

- **Hosting of the back-to-back Regional PROMISE Activities.**

ADPC's decision to hold the Regional Training on Disaster Risk Management and Governance(Sept.25-29), PROMISE Coordinators Meeting (October1) and PROMISE Working Group Meeting(October 2-4) was welcomed by CDP and the City of Dagupan. Though this meant additional work, hosting these major regional events was an honor for both CDP and the City of Dagupan. This recognizes the lead the Philippines has in the field of disaster risk management and governance in general and the lead in the implementation of Project PROMISE in particular. As host organization, CDP made travel arrangements, provided secretariat support to ADPC, entertained guests and facilitated the study tour to Dagupan.

### **III. Planned vs. Actual Achievements**

Everything planned for the quarter as reflected in the Implementation Work Plan for the period July to September was accomplished except for those activities related to the Setting up of the Disaster Information Management System (DIMS). The encoding and integration of available data from different sources into the DIMS while seen as essential has taken a back seat with all the major activities that were done within the quarter. Ms. Gabrielle Iglesias of ADPC sat down in separate meetings with CDP and with the City Government to discuss how best to get this component off the ground. Her suggestions were noted and would be prioritized for action within the next quarter.

### **IV. Problems Encountered, New Opportunities and Lessons Learned**

- The support of the Mayor for the Project PROMISE has helped in institutionalizing the work of the TWG for the project.
- Government officials of the city working closely with the community is one of the highest gains when the project was started.
- Consultation, participation and involvement of the community people from the planning stage until implementation is essential.
- Prioritizing the training of city government officials and staff on CBDRM and training management has enhanced the capacity of CDP to train the communities.
- Trainers from the city government are effective because they have knowledge on local culture and the community people welcome their presence.
- Learning is a process thus mentoring of newly trained trainer is important.

- Flexibility to the community schedule ensures acceptance and participation from the people.
- Participation of children ensures that their needs are considered and included in the plan.
- The community training serves as a venue for mutual learning.
- There is a need for a permanent government agency to handle disaster management and mitigation at the national and local levels not only during emergency.
- Barangay people are very supportive of the program on disaster preparedness especially if they know that they are part of the planning and its implementation.
- The media are supportive of disaster preparedness program because they usually cover the frequent typhoons and flash floods visiting the city and recognize the need of the people.
- Highlighting the fact that Dagupan is the only city in the country chosen as project partner brings pride to the people and rallies them to support the project.
- The success of the project relies on the involvement of every individual, thus the city's communication campaign targets the general public.
- The TWG being the heads of the various departments of the city government is having difficulty in staying in the city level early warning workshop. In line with this, CDP and the TWG agreed to have their next workshop outside the city proper.

## **V. Achievement over Project Objective Indicators**

The indicators which show that the project is on its way of meeting its objectives are the following:

1. Four of the 8 pilot barangays have finalized and the other four communities are in the process of finalizing their disaster preparedness plan including early warning and evacuation and their disaster mitigation plan.
2. The City Government is in the process of finalizing its Warning and Evacuation System.
3. The City Government has reviewed and clarified roles and functions of each member of the City Disaster Coordinating Council.
4. Thousands have joined in different activities conducted in observance of the National Disaster Consciousness Month and Dagupan City's Disaster Safety Day.

5. Broad network of partners from the City to the National level has been established providing support to the Project. The network also allows the wider dissemination of lessons learned in Promise project implementation.

## **VI. Planned Action for the Next Quarter**

The following are the priority activities for the next quarter:

1. Setting up of the Disaster Information Management System
2. Implementation of Small Scale mitigation project
3. Preparation for the sharing of the DRM Framework, Methodologies, Tools at the Regional and Provincial Level
4. Preparation of sharing with the League of Cities to Mainstream DRM and Governance
5. Public Awareness Component of the project preparation and implementation.

## **VII. An Update on Participating Organizations and Individuals**

Without intention to be self-serving, CDP was identified as the National Training Partner for the PROMISE Project. CDP is at the forefront of developing modules on DRM and Governance and in fact was ADPC's training partner in the Regional Course on DRM and Governance. CDP will secure the endorsement of its national government partners so that the National Level Trainings that will be conducted will be given official recognition by the government.

## **VIII. Project Financial Status**

Attached are forms 4 and 5. There will be no Request for Cash yet. We will use the remaining fund that we have and we will have our Cash Request next reporting.