

PROMISE PHILIPPINES
4th Quarter Report
for the period October-December 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 flooding in the city.

The realization of the PROMISE Project in Dagupan has been an essential strategy to develop and further enhance the capacities of the city populace thru the introduction of innovative disaster risk reduction measures. The said program became an effective catalyst to make the community able and prepared in managing cataclysmic disasters such as flooding. One of the major undertakings pursued this quarter in response to the project's set goals is having the initial draft of the Early Warning System and Evacuation Plan of the City.

Another initiative in relation to the achievement of PROMISE project's objectives that Dagupan City engaged on is the preparation of the launching of Small Scale Mitigation Project. Reviewing the proposals of the Barangays, approval of the proposals, survey of equipment, purchasing of the equipment for the BDCC's were the activities done for the Small Scale Mitigation Projects. One of its components is the equipping of Barangay Disaster Coordinating Councils (BDCCs). The members of BDCC in eight pilot barangays were required to make various Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on how to use the facilities requested such as life vests, rechargeable lamps, transistor radios, VHF radios, flashlights, wooden boats, helmets, boots and raincoats (depending upon the needs and capacities of the pilot barangays). Preparation of proposals for the local people in the pilot barangays to engage in alternative livelihoods is also in the process as part of the said project. The city also embarked on public awareness activities which include a series of trainings on making an early warning system for both barangay and city levels wherein the use of flood markers and staff gauge was crucial (which are part of the structures that will be provided by PROMISE through the Small scale mitigation project). Promotion of the city's experiences pertinent to disaster management where preparedness and risk reduction play vital roles has also been successfully made. This became possible thru participation in international fora where enlightening experiences and processes that Dagupan City has gone through while doing the project's activities were shared.

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

Activity 1: Regional Course on Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction

The Regional Course on Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction conducted last September 25-29, 2006 was attended by participants from the different project areas in the region including the Dagupan Promise Team (Dr. Leo Carbonel, Mrs. Emma Molina and Ms. Mayfourth Luneta). The training became a venue for rich sharing of different tools and strategies in Disaster Risk Reduction and Governance from different areas/ countries (Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Philippines) and institutions (UNIFEM, NDCC-OCD, University of the Philippines, UN Habitat, ADPC and others). ADPC gave a very rich module that could help each Promise Partner in the field. CDP gave their full support in this event (provided most of their manpower): Ms. Lorna P Victoria as one of the facilitators; Ms. Eufemia Andaya as an observer; Ms. Grace Molina and Ms. Jelyne Gealone as part of the secretariat team; Ms. Emily De Vera and Marita Santos as the support team.

Activity 2: First Working Group Meeting for the entire Promise Project in the REGION

The meeting started with the Coordinators Meeting on October 1, 2006. Ms. Luneta attended this meeting and the problems in different areas were discussed (from forms to the Project implementation). The meeting helped the Coordinators in solving their problems in the project by sharing of experiences and discovering together the solutions to puzzles such as making the Project Monitoring Plan. Then the meeting proceeded with the different presentations of the four components of the project by the five PROMISE Countries. It was attended by the coordinators, project partners, city partners, training partners. The Philippines presented the four major components through different presenters who are part of the PROMISE Team.

The WGM gave the different teams various strategies and lessons in handling the different components. USAID attended the WGM and was made aware of the various activities done in the

partner cities. Ms. Eufemia Andaya also attended representing the training partner of Philippine PROMISE.

Part of the WGM is the Dagupan Study Tour of Promise partners (ADPC, USAID and other Partner NGO's) and country coordinators last October 5, 2006. The tour was highlighted by the showcase of the achievements of the eight pilot barangays namely: Bacayao Sur, Bacayao Norte, Lasip Grande, Pogo Grande, Tebeng, Mangin, Salisay, and Lasip Chico.

The trip also included a press conference participated by different media organizations (radio, television local and national, and print (local and national). Philippine Daily Inquirer, one of the leading national newspapers covered the Promise activity last October 9, 2006 while the press conference was shown in ABS CBN both in the regional network as well as nationwide. The press conference gave media mileage for the PROMISE Project and helped in promoting Disaster Mitigation for Hydro-meteorological hazards.

Activity 3: Consultations for Disaster Information Management System

A series of meeting with Dr. Rhodora Gonzales (Head of University of the Philippines Geodetic Engineering) regarding the Disaster Information Management System (DIMS) was done during this quarter. Ms. Luneta and Engr. Arenas explored with Dr. Gonzales the possibility of sending students to help DIMS for Dagupan. Ms. Iglesias continued to give technical advice regarding this matter. After a series of meetings and orientation, Ms. Luneta and Engr. Arenas agreed that the latter will make a proposal for the DIMS. Training for Dagupan City DIMS staff is one of the priorities for this aspect.

With the help of our partners like ADPC, CDP and funding agencies like UNDP, Engr. Athena Arenas was given the opportunity to attend the Tsunami and Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction for Cities 6 (EVRC 6) which became an effective venue in building linkages with new partners for the DIMS and for the whole PROMISE project. Engr. Arenas was able to get contacts in NAMRIA (National Mapping and Resource Information Authority) where she got a cheaper quotation for GIS training. Furthermore, she was also able to have access to information regarding the recent Taiwan Earthquake last December 26, 2006, from a fellow EVRC 6 participant working in Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

Activity 4: Small Scale Mitigation Projects

For this quarter, the TWG had a number of meeting regarding the small scale mitigation projects for the pilot barangays this year.

After a tedious process of screening and approval of proposed small scale mitigation projects for the first phase, the TWG and CDP embarked on the survey of equipments needed (which is only a part of the proposal given by the eight pilot communities), then finally the procurement of the said equipments took place this month. The equipments include: boats, bamboo raft, road guides(so when flooding occurs people will not fall in open canals), flashlights, hard hats, raincoats, boots, ropes, megaphones, emergency lamps, indigenous warning devices (*kalungkong*), two way radio,

camera, radio transistor, petromax, farm tractor, life vests, and others. The equipments vary from one community to another depending upon their needs. Every community has their own counterpart, like the labor for building markers and road guides, and providing batteries for the flashlights and storage. The communities were also required to submit guidelines in using, safe keeping and maintaining all the equipments before they will be provided of the approved gadgets. The equipping of the BDCC is to help them in preparedness and in emergency to lessen the vulnerabilities of the community as well as the BDCC.

Activity 5: Promotion of Dagupan PROMISE project to USAID and other Institutions

Promotion of the Dagupan PROMISE project were done to the following organizations to strengthen networking and increase dissemination of information regarding tools like risk assessment tools, strategies, and lessons learned in disaster risk reduction:

- ✎ Ms. Luneta gave a lecture last October 17, 2006 on Fundamentals on Disaster Risk Management for a training headed by TAO (Technical Assistance Organization) for young professionals, having Dagupan PROMISE project experience as an example.
- ✎ The Project Coordinator of PROMISE Philippines, during a consultation with PRRM (Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement) last October 13, 2006 promoted the Dagupan PROMISE experience as a model for promoting Disaster Risk Management in Local Government Units.
- ✎ Ms. Luneta gave an orientation of the Project PROMISE in Dagupan City to study tour visitors from TEAR Fund of United Kingdom and from HEEDS of Bangladesh.
- ✎ Preparations for the back to back activities for Avian Influenza Forum as well as the Children and Disaster Risk Management Forum and Exhibit to be held on October 26, 2006 were being done by CDP, the project coordinator as well as Dagupan TWG as part of the promotion to different institutions.
- ✎ The Exhibit and Forum on Children's Participation and Interactive Learning Activities in Disaster Risk Reduction was done back to back with the 8th Avian Influenza (AI) Roundtable Discussion for Civil Societies was done last October 25, 2006 at the College of Social Work and Community Development-University of the Philippines, Diliman, and Quezon City. Ms. Dea Que, City Tourism Head of Dagupan, was one of the twelve presenters from different NGO's, Local Government Units, Line Agencies of the National Government and even International Organizations. She was able to present the experience of Dagupan in Risk Assessment involving Children. Ms. Mayfourth Luneta on the other hand, promoted the importance of the AI Preparedness and the Avian Influenza Network of Civil Societies. The AI Network of CS compliments with the work of the Government Line Agencies which is funded by USAID. The exhibit forum was attended by 104 participants.
- ✎ The Pro Vention Consortium along with ADPC hosted the presentation of various applied researches on risk reduction. This included the paper of Ms. Mayfourth Luneta about Child Oriented Participatory Risk Assessment and Planning. The presentation included the

PROMISE Philippines experience in using the result of the research in the risk assessment with children in the pilot communities. There were two presentations done: one during the 6th of December at AIT (the audience and participants included fellow Pro Vention grantees, ADPC and AIT people and some students) another was on the 7th of December 2006 at Amari Atrium with distinguished guests from different INGO's and funding Agencies like USAID, UNDP, Environmental Organizations and others. The presentations promoted not only the research but the Dagupan Risk Assessment as well.

- ✎ Ms Luneta coordinated with Ms. Boyet Abanilla of USAID for the USAID Stickers and logos to be placed on the Equipments for Pilot Barangays and as well as inviting them to participate in the turnover of the equipments as part of the small scale mitigation projects.

Activity 6: Early Warning & Evacuation Plan Writeshop for the City

The collation of data and workshop results for the previous workshops needed a write shop to discuss, agree upon and finalize the Early Warning and Evacuation Plan. The said Write shop was held last 29-30th of November at the PTA Beach Resort, in San Fabian. It was attended by the TWG and facilitated by Ms. Mayfourth Luneta. The write shop was fruitful for the first draft of the Early Warning and Evacuation Plan was finally produced. Though final editing is still needed, the major work of putting the components together was done.

III. Planned vs. Actual Achievements

The Monthly Planned activities were mostly achieved like the making of the City wide Early Warning and Evacuation Plan Draft; the small scale mitigation projects conceptualized and partially implemented and; public awareness campaigns were started during this quarter.

The Disaster Management Information System however, was not yet accomplished due to lack of time.

IV. Problems Encountered, New Opportunities and Lessons Learned

- Continuous support of the Mayor for the Project PROMISE has helped in achieving smooth implementation of the project.
- Consultation and information dissemination regarding changes of schedules should reach the community.
- The media should always be informed of the activities of the project to ensure transparency and lessen misunderstanding.
- Vital meetings of TWG will be more fruitful if held in the right place at the right time. Preferably outside the City.

- Consultation with ADPC is essential for effective reporting of updates, logistical requirements, and overall flow of the project.
- Flexibility to the community and city schedules ensures acceptance and participation from the people.
- Participation of children ensures that their needs are considered and included in the plan.
- Networking is deemed essential in early warning system for the city (the network with Phivolcs gave the CDCC earlier warning than the media).
- Building linkages with both local and international NGO's helped in resource mobilization and in enhancing partnerships.
- Coordination with USAID country representatives promotes the project, strengthens the relationship and brings opportunity to future sustainability.
- Barangay people are very supportive of the program on disaster preparedness especially if they are always a part of showcasing their experience to other agencies, partners and organizations.

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. Five 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. The three other barangays are almost done with their early warning and evacuation plan.
2. The City Government has done the first draft of its EW and Evacuation plan.
3. The City Government has reviewed and clarified roles and functions of each member of the City Disaster Coordinating Council.
4. The Small scale mitigation project for the first year has already started and will be formally launched next year for all the 8 pilot barangays.
5. Broad network of partners from the City to the National and International levels has established and provided 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. Disaster Information Management System Training for Staff
2. Alternative livelihood Projects
3. Health and Emergency Training for the City
4. Public Awareness Component of the project preparation and implementation.

VII. An Update on Participating Organizations and Individuals

CDP is planning to make Training and Learning Circle (TLC) to be a training partner of the project PROMISE.

VIII. Project Financial Status

Attached are forms 4 and 5