

PROMISE PHILIPPINES
1st Quarter Report
for the period January to March 2007

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 enhance the capacities of the city populace through the introduction of community based and innovative disaster risk reduction measures. The said undertaking became an effective catalyst to make the community able and prepared in managing cataclysmic disasters such as flooding.

For this quarter, the members of PROMISE Project Philippine Team engaged in tighter collaborative effort to further strengthen the capability building aspect of the project for the eight pilot barangays. This initiative was manifested through the improvement of the disaster risk reduction plans. Part of it is the implementation of the small scale mitigation projects like the turnover of the seed fund of the alternative livelihood of the pilot communities and the strengthening of the Barangay Disaster Coordinating Councils by equipping them of equipments needed for early warning and monitoring as well as for the emergency phase.

Aside from the material resources endowed to the beneficiaries of the project, knowledge and skills enhancement training was also facilitated for the barangay people to imbibe a proactive disaster management approach. Since the project believes in the significance of a people oriented approach, the conduct of Medical Responders Training (focusing on Emergency Health and First Aid) in cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross was carried out. The two day activity equipped the participants with competent capacities that will be applied on the actual drill this coming May.

The mentioned activities were pursued in response to the mitigation and preparedness component which aims to decrease their vulnerability through creating consciousness among the people as well as equipping them with intrinsic skills fundamental to cope and lessen the impact of social and economic disruptions when episodes of disaster occur.

Another aspect that was highlighted is the continuous and extensive conduct of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign (like the Public Awareness PROMISE Calendars) to impart the relevance of the project. The

PROMISE Philippine Team persistently advocated public awareness activities in their local and international engagements to uphold the essence of the said project and explore an opportunity for its replication. Representatives from the Center for Disaster Preparedness and the City Government of Dagupan have promoted their disaster management experience when the project was implemented in the locality. Meetings with various public and private organizations in both local and international realms took place and became a venue for sharing the milestone of PROMISE emphasizing what it has achieved and contributed in making the community resilient in handling disasters taking into account the active participation of all sectors including women and children. The encompassing coordination made by the advocates of the project included the following: its efforts in building rapport with the 23 non pilot barangays wherein disaster management orientation was held as well as distribution of IEC materials (i.e. public awareness calendars and books); meeting with USAID Country Representatives, Disaster Consultant and other officers wherein positive feedbacks were raised; involvement in the Pro Vention Forum held in Tanzania; membership to Avian Influenza Network that provided linkage with other civic organizations and; attendance to the launching of the Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Local Governance Facilitators Guide and Sourcebook.

To maintain a sound communication and healthy relationship with its project partners, the implementing organization in the country also engaged in a series of discussions with ADPC. This provided both parties with a chance to clear and iron out things particularly on the issue of finance and procurement of the Arc GIS Software. Updates regarding the strengths, weak points and challenges of the project were laid down as well. The preparation for the implementation of the project on its second year was also thoroughly discussed.

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

- Small Scale Mitigation and Preparedness Project

On January 8, 2007, the launching of the Small Scale Preparedness and Mitigation Project was held. Representatives from the City Government headed by Mayor Benjamin Lim, Mr. Kevin Donahue, Communication Specialist from USAID and Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) pioneered the turnover of Public Awareness Materials from PHIVOLCS (posters for earthquake preparedness) and CDP (Filipino Version of Christian Perspective on Disaster Risk Management). To further strengthen and inspire the Barangay Disaster Coordinating Councils, necessary equipments and gadgets were given out to the Eight Pilot Barangays namely Pogo Grande, Lasip Grande, Mangin, Tebeng, Salisay, Bacayao Norte, Bacayao Sur and Lasip Chico. These included the following : 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 for citywide communication, camera, radio transistor, heavy duty lamp, farm tractor and others. Major highlights of the event were the words of encouragement given by Mayor Lim and Mr. Kevin Donahue. Mr. Robert Erfe-Mejia, the Deputized Civil Defense Officer, gave the orientation in using two way radios for communication of early warnings. This was attended by representatives from the eight pilot communities, media, city government officials and employees. This also helped in the public awareness campaign for Dagupan City. Standard Operating Procedures on how to use and maintain the gadgets and equipment were discussed in the afternoon.

The Turnover of Seed Fund for Livelihood Options and Calendars for the Eight Pilot Barangays was held in Dagupan City Hall last January 24, 2007. The various approved livelihood options are the following: (5) buy and sell of recycled materials, (1) community drug store, (1) rice retailing, and (1) local transport using bicycle with side car. This occasion was attended by Mr. Bryan Lim, the newly appointed Chief of Staff of Dagupan City, the representatives of the eight pilot communities, the TWG and the media for continuous promotion of preparedness in the City.

- Disaster Information Management System (DIMS)

After a series of discussions, Engr. Arenas made a proposal for DIMS. After looking for a suitable software, it was decided to purchase a licensed Arc GIS to ensure effective and efficient DIMS. (Since pirated softwares do not work well in some geo data details). Last January 19, 2007, PROMISE Philippines procured the software from the only distributor of Arc GIS here in the Philippines. But this was disapproved by ADPC. Cancellation of the purchase of Software for the DIMS was done after a series of consultation with ADPC. Ms. Eufemia Andaya made a letter to Ms. Dayrit of Geodata to cancel the procurement of the Arc GIS Software. ADPC advised CDP that they will be the one to give technical assistance with regards to GIS. As for the procurement of software and hardware, they told CDP that it is not allowed in the project. The budget for DIMS was allocated to other components.

ADPC reminded CDP to encourage Dagupan City to be active in recording the water levels once the flood markers or staff gauges are installed. Mr. Arambe even reminded them about the early warning system set up to be written both in record books and in warning boards.

Lesson learned from this experience is that there should always be constant and close consultation with PROMISE partners, CDP, ADPC, and Dagupan City.

- PROMISE Preparedness Calendars for Public Awareness

On January 19, 2007, Ms. Luneta, Mrs. Emma Molina and Mr. Orpheus Velasco had a meeting at Manila regarding the preparation for the turnover of seed fund for livelihood options and also the distribution of the PROMISE calendars. The 4,800 copies of calendar were given by Ms. Luneta to Mrs. Molina and Mr. Velasco to be transported to Dagupan. The PROMISE Preparedness Calendar highlighted the following: winning entry of the slogan and poster making contests done last July 2006; tips on what to do before, during and after a disaster and; contact numbers of different city departments to be called in case of emergency. Then on January 24 it was distributed to the eight pilot barangays. The calendars were also distributed to the other 23 barangays.

- Coordination with USAID

- A. Giving of Sample Public Awareness Calendars and Updates

On February 1, 2007, a meeting was set with USAID to give them samples of Public Awareness Calendars and to give also the photo and video documentation of the turnover of disaster risk management books and materials as well as the preparedness gadgets for emergency where Mr. Kevin Donahue, USAID Communication Specialist, attended. Discussion on the updates of PROMISE Project was done by Ms. Mayfourth Luneta to Ms. Laura Coughlin and Ms. Boyet Abanilla. Positive feedbacks reached Ms. Laura's knowledge even before Ms. Luneta shared her updates.

- B. Meeting with Mr. Robert Gersony of USAID regarding Disaster Risk Management

Mr. Robert Gersony, a Disaster Consultant of USAID, met with Ms. Luneta and Director Victoria of CDP. CDP was referred by Ms. Boyet Abanilla to Mr. Gersony for sharing of Disaster Risk Management in the Philippines and in Asia Pacific. Various mitigation and disaster preparedness measures were shared by CDP to Mr. Gersony. This is to help him in making a program for an island in Asia Pacific. Ms. Luneta and Director Victoria shared the PROMISE Dagupan Experience as well as other CDP experiences. Mr. Gersony appreciated the sharing especially the Disaster Preparedness Program for Schools.

- Sharing of Disaster Risk Reduction Activities of the Philippine PROMISE team

- A. PROMISE Disaster Preparedness Experience Orientation to the Other 23 Barangays

The PROMISE Disaster Preparedness Experience Orientation to the other 23 barangays of Dagupan City last February 6, 2007 in the City Museum proved to be successful. Though not all 23 barangays attended, the event still made a positive impact to the non pilot barangays that attended. They were able to see the PROMISE experience of Dagupan City through the presentation of Ms. Emma Molina and the testimony of Barangay Captain Robert Abalos (head of

one of the pilot communities). There were also some questions regarding the project and was handled by Ms. Mayfourth Luneta. Some public awareness materials were also distributed through the event such as posters from Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and the Filipino Version of the book Christian Perspective on Disaster Management from the Center for Disaster Preparedness. This activity was done to initiate the involvement of the other barangays in Disaster Preparedness in Dagupan City. This also aims to inspire them to duplicate the experience of the pilot barangays in their own barangays.

B. Sharing of Dagupan PROMISE Experience through the Pro Vention Forum in Tanzania

During the Pro Vention Consortium Forum 2007 held last February 13-15, 2007, the Center for Disaster Preparedness was invited. Around 111 participants attended the forum with the theme "Making Disaster Risk Reduction Work". Ms. Luneta was given a chance to share the Dagupan PROMISE experience during the Partners Presentation and during the presentation of her paper Child Oriented Participatory Risk Assessment and Planning.

An exhibit was also set up where Public Awareness materials from Project PROMISE in Dagupan were shown as well as the local early warning device used in the City called "kalungkong" (made from bamboo). Participants became curious and amazed with the said exhibit.

C. Avian Influenza Meeting with Civic Organizations

Ms. Luneta attended the Avian Influenza Meeting of civic organizations where sharing of AI activities of the different CO was encouraged. USAID and AUS AID also came to explore possibilities of helping each other fight avian influenza. Dagupan City will be having a Medical Responders Training and possible inclusion of different hazards such as AI can be seen.

D. Book Launching of Integrating Disaster Risk Management and Local Governance

The launching of Integrating Disaster Risk Management and Local Governance Facilitator's Guide and Sourcebook sponsored by UNDP South South Cooperation in partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and CDP was held last March 19, 2007. It was attended by 110 participants from 41 organizations from NGOs, LGUs, Religious sectors, Media and other institutions. Mrs. Emma Molina, focal person of the TWG in Dagupan shared the PROMISE experience in Disaster Risk Management that started with training using the ideals of the book Integrating Disaster Risk Management in Local Governance. Disaster Preparedness Calendars made by the project PROMISE were given during this event.

- **Technical Working Group and CDP/ADPC Meetings**

A. On January 23, 2007, a TWG meeting was held in Dagupan City Hall to review last minute preparation for the turnover of seed fund and calendars the next day. Ms.

Luneta facilitated the meeting and also reviewed the plans for Phase 2. Ms. Maris Palencia, the Early Warning and Evacuation Consultant, also attended the meeting and reminded the TWG of the requirements for the City Drill on May. The giving of preparedness calendars and the Filipino version of the Christian Perspective on Disaster Management and Earthquake Preparedness posters to the other 23 barangays were discussed during this meeting.

B. Series of Meeting and Consultation for Phase 2 Proposal

A series of consultative meetings with CDP directors Ms. Eufemia Andaya and Ms. Lorna Victoria were done to finalize the proposal for Phase 2. Consultations with the Technical Working Group were also considered. Emphasis on the sharing of DRM and Governance experience was highlighted in the proposal as well as the upcoming drill.

C. Meeting with Mr. Arambe and Ms. Sungcharoen for Phase 1

Feedback and for Phase 2 Preparations with CDP and Dagupan

The meeting was held on March 12, 2007 at the CDP office and was attended by Ms. Eufemia Andaya, Ms. Lorna Victoria, Mr. Arambepola, Ms. Sungcharoen, and Ms. Mayfourth Luneta. A lot of issues and concerns were amicably settled during the meeting. The following were discussed and settled during the meeting:

- ✓ Updates of the PROMISE Project in Dagupan from November 2006 to February 2007
- ✓ Presentation of lessons learned, successes and things to improve on
- ✓ Clearing up sentiments written in e-mails
- ✓ Updates on the status of the cancellation of the GIS software and suggestions on how to go about it
- ✓ Detailed Explanation on how to answer the financial forms
- ✓ Suggestions on how to improve the proposal especially on the Small Scale and Mitigation proposal for the next phase and on the budget allocation
- ✓ The Medical First Responders Training will be done in two levels (first with Red Cross, then the second with ADPC)
- ✓ Naming the Representative of Dagupan in the Regional Training on Risk Assessment who is Mr. Reginald Ubando
- ✓ Possible Collaboration with ADPC's landslide project.

The meeting was actively participated by both CDP and ADPC staff.

On March 13, 2007, a meeting was held in Dagupan. This was attended by Mr. Arambepola, Ms. Sungcharoen, Ms. Luneta and the Dagupan TWG. During the meeting the following were discussed:

- ✓ The explanation on the delay of some activities due to financial requirements needed by ADPC.
- ✓ Updates on the recently revised Phase 2 Proposal wherein comments were solicited
- ✓ Discussion on the Upcoming Activities especially on the Emergency Health and First Aid Training (Medical First Responders) for the community

- ✓ Sharing with Baguio Disaster Coordinating Council and Final Rundown of the Early Warning and Evacuation Plan for the Drill
- ✓ Possible Sharing with ADPC's landslide project

D. Meeting for the Baguio Landslide Project of ADPC

Ms. Luneta coordinated with Dr Gonzalez for Mr Arambepola and Ms. Sungcharoen's visit in Baguio for their landslide project. On March 14, 2007, the visit was done with Engineer Cepe who is the contact person for the landslide project in Baguio. Eng. Cepe oriented ADPC and CDP on the landslide area and the mitigation measures that they did and will do in the future. The area is in Barangay Maasin, Baguio City.

The possibility of the PROMISE Dagupan (CDP and the TWG) sharing their CBDRM experience was persistently encouraged by Mr. Arambe. Dr. Gonzalez and Ms. Luneta agreed that involving the LGUs is a must.

- Training on Emergency Health and First Aid in the Community

After the consultation with Mr. Arambepola, it was decided upon to have two MRF trainings, one with Red Cross as the main facilitator and trainer and the second with ADPC's Mr. Abo. The first training will be conducted on March 28-30, 2007, the expected participants will be 30, three from every pilot barangay (3x8=24) and 6 from the city. The Emergency Health and First Aid module was submitted to CDP and ADPC. The participants of this training will be tested in the upcoming drill on May.

III. Planned vs. Actual Achievements

The following planned activities for this quarter were mostly achieved:

1. Disaster Information Management System Training for Staff-
This activity was revised from buying a software, hardware and having a consultant to train Dagupan DIMS person –to having ADPC as the consultant to help PROMISE Dagupan to train and guide them in DIMS at the same time the focus is diverted to having an efficient recording of flood levels as the database for DIMS.
2. Alternative livelihood Projects-
The seed money for the alternative livelihood projects were given this quarter and are subject for monitoring and evaluation for the next quarter.
3. Health and Emergency Training for the City-
The first part of this were done this quarter. Having 24 participants, from the eight pilot communities and some of the TWG. The second half will be done next quarter

4. Public Awareness Component of the project preparation and implementation. During this quarter the Disaster Preparedness Calendars were distributed all over Dagupan City and beyond (partners of CDP, national and international. Part of the public awareness were the different events were CDP and Dagupan shared the PROMISE Philippines experiences.

5. Coordination with USAID were continually strengthened. Ms. Abanilla from USAID was even the one who referred CDP to Mr. Gersony(other USAID people) for sharing of experiences in DM including the Dagupan experience.

IV. Problems Encountered, New Opportunities and Lessons Learned

Strong Points

- Strong Coordination of CDP and TWG
- Continuous guidance of CDP and TWG in Pilot Communities
- Coordination with USAID
- Public Awareness and Mainstreaming whenever possible
- Sharing within Dagupan, other Countries
- Support of City Heads and the Mayor

Areas for Improvement

- Close Consultation with ADPC
- Compliance with Financial Requirements
- Monitoring of Project outcomes in the community; seeing how the general members are affected by the Project
- Need to develop guidelines for public awareness materials wherein emphasis should be given to people's action
- Disaster Information Management System

Lessons Learned

- Fostering good relationship with the City officials and TWG 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 misunderstandings.
- 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 City Disaster Coordinating Council earlier warning than the media).
- Building linkages with both local and international NGOs 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 encouraged and became very supportive of the program on disaster preparedness when they are visited to share their experiences with other agencies, partners and organizations.

V. Achievement over Project Objective Indicators

1. Eight pilot barangays have their disaster preparedness plan including early warning and evacuation.
2. The City Government has done the final draft of its EW and Evacuation plan.
3. The Small scale mitigation project for the first phase which included the alternative livelihood and strengthening the BDCC were continued on the first quarter
4. Active Participation of the TWG and CDP has continued even during the transition phase. (without budget). This showed commitment from the implementor and project partners.
5. There were 24 participants trained as medical first responders. The teams of MRF will still be organized.
6. CDP and Dagupan fostered good relationship with USAID country office. USAID attend major events of the PROMISE project. CDP and Dagupan gave updates to USAID.
7. Sharing if DRM framework, methods and tools in Dagupan, Manila and Tanzania.

VI. Planned Action for the Next Quarter

- TWG meetings for Drill Planning
- Preparation and Actual Sharing of Learning in Disaster Risk Management with Baguio Disaster Coordinating Council
- Consultative meetings and Planning for the pilot barangays, other 23 barangays, neighboring municipalities, BANTAY-Dagupan and the local Media
- City Wide Drill
- Disaster Safety Day
- DM Training for Schools, PATRIMA (TRI media), Bantay Dagupan
- MFR Training for the City Level

VII. An Update on Participating Organizations and Individuals

Red Cross became one of the major partner in PROMISE Dagupan by conducting the training of lay medical first responders for the community. They gave the training in a subsidized rate.

VIII. Project Financial Status

Please refer to attached forms 4 and 5.