

PROMISE PHILIPPINES
2nd Quarter Report
for the period April to June 2007

I. Project Description and Objectives

The PROMISE Philippine Project in Dagupan has already reached its one and a half year of implementation. It has been a challenging yet rewarding task, for both the Center for Disaster Preparedness and the Technical Working Group of the City Government of Dagupan, in achieving the following objectives:

- 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.

The PROMISE Project in Dagupan has capitalized its effort in capability building in Disaster Risk Management for the City. The TWG increased their capacities in Emergency Preparedness through learning from Baguio Disaster Coordinating Council and other Baguio Emergency Response Organizations' experiences. Skills of the TWG and the pilot BDCC's in using two way radios were sharpened through the orientation (on how to use) given them and through the actual practice during the Flood Response Simulation and the Communication Simulation.

One of the tangible outputs of the project is the City Disaster Coordinating Council Manual which includes the Early Warning and Evacuation Plans of the City and of the high risk communities which was further polished during this quarter. The highlight of this quarter is testing the Early Warning and Evacuation Plan through the Flood Response Simulation and the Communication Simulation. Furthermore, the Medical First Responders training given last quarter at the community level was also put to test. The Flood Response simulation contributed to achieving all the four major objectives of the project PROMISE. Networkings with different Civil Societies and other nearby LGU's were strengthened during this quarter. Coordination within the CDCC improved, as well as with other Government Agencies like the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council and PAGASA Flood Control. Information Sharing with other organizations in Dagupan and throughout the Philippines as well as other countries heightened through the publications done by ADPC which is Safer Cities 16 and by CDP which is "Community Based Disaster Risk Management & Local Governance" UNISDR Compilation of Good Practices (The Dagupan Promise Experience). Almost three

hundred individuals, representing more or less 50 organizations participated in the preparation and actual Flood Response Simulation. The various activities done this quarter facilitate the advocacy in mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in Local Governance.

II. Summary of Accomplishments for the Reporting Quarter

A. Training

- Learning through the Study Tour on Emergency Response in Baguio (TWG)
- Improvement of Skill using handheld radios through an Orientation and actual Practice

B. Information Sharing and Network

B1. Information Sharing

- Sharing with Baguio City Disaster Coordinating Council, 911 and Philippine Military Academy

The Sharing of DRM Experiences pushed through last April 11, 2007. The TWG headed by Mr. Robert – Erfe Mejia the Deputized CDCC Officer and Mrs. Emma Molina the Focal person of Dagupan PROMISE Project along with Ms. Mayfourth Luneta the Project Coordinator met with the City Mayor Rey Bautista and discussed about the prevalent DRM practice in Baguio, after which the actual sharing of CDCC's followed. Baguio CDCC and the Emergency Medical Services explained their structure and usual work for DRM especially on Emergency Services. Then Dagupan also shared their experience on Disaster Risk Management highlighting the Disaster Preparedness through Capability Building of the communities and the City.

Then the TWG went to the 911 service of Baguio where this Civic Organization offers Emergency Response in times of Disaster. The TWG saw the various skills the 911 had as well as the different gadgets and equipment for rescue operations. The visit to Philippine Military Academy also proved fruitful seeing they were also equipped for emergency services and their communication services showed wide coverage which helps them to transmit vital information easily.

The sharing showed the strength of the Baguio CDCC, 911 and the PMA was more of the Emergency Preparedness while Dagupan CDCC (TWG) showed that they have tried to strengthen the Preparedness aspect of the high risk barangays as well as the City through the Community Based Disaster Risk Management Approach.

- “Community Based Disaster Risk Management & Local Governance”
UNISDR Compilation of Good Practices (The Dagupan Promise Experience)

Mr. Michele Cocchiglia informed us that UN ISDR has been collecting good practices on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction to encourage knowledge sharing and

exchange of information. Partner NGO's in the Philippines as well as GO's were also informed and were encourage to submit in their good practices. CDP Submitted two case studies one with Buklod Tao, the Child Oriented Participatory Risk Assessment and Planning experience and another was the Community Based Disaster Risk Management and Local Governance the Dagupan PROMISE Experience. After several months we were informed that the latter was chosen (as the entry for the Philippines) to be included in the Publication of the "Global Network of NGOs" for Disaster Risk Reduction. The compilation was entitled Building Disaster Resilient Communities-Good Practices and Lessons Learned 2007. The case study of CDP was Mainstreaming Community-Based Mitigation in City Governance - Community Based Disaster Risk Management & Local Governance.(Please refer to attached document). The publication of the Dagupan Promise experiences will help in the promotion of CBDRM and Good Governance not only in the Philippines but also worldwide.

- Sharing of Dagupan Experience in CDP's CBDRM Training

On June 27- 29, Ms. Luneta shared the Dagupan PROMISE Experience in CBDRM and local governance during CDP's CBDRM training. This was attended by 20 participants representing different organizations like Mahal Inc., Caritas, Ateneo de Manila University, World Vision International Asia Pacific, Environmental Science for Social Change, Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns, Oxford Brookes University and Food for the Hungry.

B2. Networking

- Orientation for the City-Wide Drill with the Eight Pilot Barangays, Bantay-Dagupan, and PATRIMA

On April 12, 2007 in the morning the TWG and the representatives of the Eight pilot barangays reviewed their own early warning and evacuation plan for the coming drill. The TWG members were assigned to the eight barangays to facilitate the small group discussions to look into the plans and see what is lacking and what needs to be improved. The areas were to install the flood markers were also reviewed and noted. Then Ms. Mayfourth Luneta facilitated the whole after the small group discussions and gave the orientation for the coming Drill.

In the afternoon there was an orientation for Bantay Dagupan (network of civic volunteer organizations) and for PATRIMA (tri- media network of Dagupan City) on what the PROMISE Project is an on the Drill on last week of May.

The project Coordinator facilitated the meeting and asked the commitment of the group not only for the drill but for disaster preparedness for the city. There was and inventory on what the organizations can offer (like vehicles, manpower, skills).

- Avian Influenza Network Meeting and Forum

There was a meeting of the Avian Influenza Network of Civil Society in Philippine Business for Social Progress where Center for Disaster Preparedness (Ms. Luneta and Ms. Hiyas Cagay) attended and other NGO's with the Department of Health on April 19, 2007. Various strategies of member organizations on Disaster Preparedness specifically on Avian Influenza were discussed and promoted. Opportunities also for

proposals were also given during the meeting. The AI Preparedness proposals for Aus AID and the Business Plan for Social Progress thru PBSP were the two proposals that the Project Coordinator shared to the Dagupan City PROMISE Project for discussion.

- Meeting with Mr. Arambepola and Ms. Clarence Carlos for Project Updates and Coordination

In the first week of May Mr. Arambepola of ADPC, the Program Manager of PROMISE and the UDRM Director along with Ms. Clarence Carlos, UDRM Project Coordinator, visited CDP, Dagupan and Baguio for various meetings. On May 4, 2007, a meeting with the TWG of Dagupan was set with ADPC and Ms. Luneta of CDP for the PROMISE updates and for comments and suggestions of ADPC for the upcoming activities.

- Meeting with Dr. Gonzales and Ms. Carlos for Possible Coordination

Through the suggestion of Mr. Arambe, a meeting was set with Dr. Gonzales of UP Engineering and with Ms. Carlos and Ms. Luneta for possible coordination of CDP and the Project PROMISE with the Baguio Landslide Project of ADPC. Disaster Preparedness Training for the communities of the landslide mitigation project to be given by CDP was one of ADPC suggestion on the other hand Dr. Gonzales said that their local university partner will be the one to give the training for the community (due to previous arrangements and financial constraints. It was then settled that though CDP will not give the disaster preparedness training, Dagupan PROMISE partners and the Baguio Landslide Mitigation Project partners will help each other in other future activities for both projects.

PROMISE project was able to establish initial networking with Baguio City Disaster Coordinating Council through a sharing of experience. They're even invited to be observers for the Dagupan Flood Response Simulation.

- Workshop for Cross Cutting Development (3cd) Program in Metro Manila by Earthquake Megacities Initiative (EMI)

EMI invited stakeholders to help assess the second phase plan of EMI's 3cd. The 3cd Program in Metro Manila has Quezon City, Marikina City and Makati City as their main partners for this program and tries to involve the other 14 cities of Metro Manila. Ms. Luneta represented CDP to participate in this workshop. She gave suggestions and comments based on her experiences in CBDRM and also her PROMISE experience with the Local Government Unit. She was also able to get some ideas that can be used in Dagupan City.

C. CBDRM Demo Projects

- Workshop for reviewing and completing the CDCC Manual

On April 10, 2007 in Baguio, the TWG along with Project Coordinator reviewed the CDCC Manual, which was made last year. The important parts like the structure of the CDCC and the early warning and monitoring system was scrutinized and agreed upon. Lacking information was assigned to be researched by members of the TWG. Then there was an orientation of the upcoming drill. Then on April 18, 2007, the TWG met again with Ms. Luneta and Ms. Maris Palencia the Drill consultant. There was a follow

up on the information that was researched and as well as the reminder on the setting up of the Flood markers. Then the consultant showed the initial drill plan and consulted on the scope and area of the drill. It was agreed upon to make a table top exercise along with the use of two way radios to see the communication flow within the 8 barangays as well as in the city, then the actual drill for the Dagupan City.

- Preparation and Actual Conduct and Evaluation of Flood Response Simulation Exercise

The preparation for the Flood Response Simulation was done initially during the previous months but had most of the major preparatory meetings on the whole month of May (kindly refer to the work plan). The simulation control team was created to make a realistic script, organize volunteers, lead and guide other simulation committees and oversees the whole activity. The following were the members of the control:

1. Maris Palencia Simulation Director/Consultant
2. Honorio De Dios Co-Simulation Director/Consultant
3. Mayfourth D. Luneta Simulation Control Team- CDP
4. Emma Molina Simulation Control Team- TWG
5. Athena Arenas Simulation Control Team- TWG
6. Rhoderick Dawis Simulation Control Team- TWG additional staff.

After rigorous meetings with different volunteers and the review of the script, it was seen that an additional member of the control team was needed.

USAID representative were invited to witness the event however, they were not able to attend due to other commitments.

The budget for the simulation was not enough if the source would only be the project fund. CDP, Dagupan City Government, members of the volunteer organization BANTAY DAGUPAN gave substantial contribution whether in cash or in kind (services). Furthermore, the usual local caterer for the project gave also a contribution by giving a huge discount for the catering services for the simulation.

Red Cross also played an important role in the simulation by providing first aiders for all the staging stations and by providing able actors for the staged vehicular accidents.

Through PATRIMA, the tri media organization, the event was covered not only in Dagupan but also regional and even wider coverage. The whole event was heard and seen through the local radio (Bombo Radyo, Action Radyo). It was seen through the regional television network (ABS-CBN).

CDP provided volunteers that helped in the photo and process documentation (Hiyas Cagay, Jelyne Gealone and Grace Molina).

The Regional Disaster Coordinating Council Director Armando Duque attended and gave vital comments, and suggestions for the CDCC of Dagupan (having data boards). Baguio Disaster Coordinating Council was also represented and also gave good

suggestions. The Mangaldan Disaster Coordinating Council, Binmaley Disaster Coordinating Council were also represented and observed the simulation.

The eight pilot Barangays' BDCCs attended and also gave vital observations and learning from the event.

Disaster Preparedness Bookmarks were given to city observers and participants during the simulation to enhance their awareness of the relevant contact numbers (printed at the back) to call during emergencies and to inspire the people thru the disaster preparedness slogan (printed in front).

There were two staging areas one in Barangay Mangin, and another in the City.

Barangay Mangin Disaster Coordinating Council gave their best performance and learnt a lot on what they will improve on. The BDCC's of the other pilot barangays observed the drill in Barangay Mangin.

Around 300 eager individuals took part in this initiative that came from the community, city government, regional government offices, international non-government organization, religious groups, neighboring municipalities, health organizations, media and civil society. Though this was the first time that Dagupan has engaged in a flooding simulation, the city was fortunate enough to achieve success. Through their well coordinated efforts and hard toil, the said event became a big step towards the realization of their vision. The simulation has helped each sector involved to share their knowledge and skills in preparedness and response through allowing others to witness, impart comments and eventually replicate this kind of endeavor. It became a venue for them to learn from actual practice rather than relying in theoretical framework alone. Delineation of tasks, multi-sectoral participation and articulation of suitable responses were challenges that the activity have tried to address.

Assessment of Control Team for the Flood Response Simulation

On June 1, 2007, the Control Team – Ms. Maris Palencia, Mr. Honorio de Dios, Ms. Mayfourth Luneta, Ms. Emma Molina, Engr Athena Arenas and Mr. Rhoderick Dawis, had an assessment in the Dagupan Agriculture Office regarding the work of the control team and other committees involved in the Flood Response Simulation.

Some of the learning and suggestions for the control team

(refer to part IV Learning for this Quarter)

Based on the assessment of the control team Barangay Mangin had a separate assessment last June 6, 2007. In the assessment, one of the most relevant realizations was that the Barangay Council was able to see the need of having more people involved in the committees of the BDCC.

- **Flood Response Communication Simulation**

In the morning of June 6, 2007, there was the final orientation for the Flood Response Communication Simulation. Preparations for the scenarios were also finalized. Two TWG staff (including Ms. Luneta) was assigned to act as control group in each of the eight communities. They were given the following tasks: give scenarios, facilitate assessment, and oversee the simulation. Ms. Maris Palencia and Mr. Honorio De dios directed the whole simulation; they were assigned to be the control group in the City.

On June 7, 2007, the flood response communication simulation was conducted in Dagupan City. This aimed to test the communication flow during emergencies of the CDCC and the high risk communities in flooding. This also aimed to enhance the disaster risk reduction plan of the pilot communities and the eight barangays. The simulation was able to reach its objectives. The plans were tested and suggestions and recommendations were given. The use of the two-way radios was also tested during the simulation. During one of the preparatory meetings it was suggested to have external antennas to have a strong signal for better communication. It was also suggested that since PROMISE already gave some two way radios for the eight pilot barangays, the BDCCs will get some fund out from their calamity fund to use it for buying external antennas. Before the actual simulation, a briefing on how to use the radio, the codes, and other relevant issues were given to the eight pilot barangays.

The following points were raised after the Communication Simulation (refer to part IV Learning for this Quarter)

D. Advocacy

Activities above contribute to the Advocacy of having Disaster Risk Management in Local Governance.

III. Planned vs. Actual Achievements

The following planned activities for this quarter were mostly achieved:

- The Flood Simulation Drill
- Sharing of Information or Campaigns for Raising Public Awareness
- Preparing for MFR2 and for Disaster Safety week

IV. Problems Encountered, New Opportunities and Lessons Learned

- Delay on the schedule can be attributed to the Local and National Election last May 14, 2007. The schedules then were adjusted to the benefit of most of the people involved in the project (like with the raising of Public Awareness).
- Adjustment with working relations with the newly elected and appointed officials. Continuous monitoring was done to know who the new officials are to arrange for possible coordination.
- Counterparts for whatever activities should be encourage to promote ownership of the project (especially during the Simulation, the local media, caterer and

communications and religious organizations contributed in the preparation and actual activity)

- Inviting neighboring Cities and Municipalities encourages sharing of information, tools and strategies
- Sharing of Information and experiences promotes duplication
- Publications local and international helps in promoting not only the project but also helps in the advocacy of long term issues like mainstreaming and sustainability of disaster risk management in local governance
- Good practices in DRM is reinforced when shared

Lessons learned during networking

- Having an ETB (Equipment Tool Box) in strategic areas in the City to be used during emergencies.
- Coordinating with Big Cities like Marikina, Quezon City and Makati.
- Earthquake Risk Reduction Plans (hazard specific and multihazard plans)

Lessons learned during the Communication Simulation

- The point raised before, about buying an external antenna, was reinforced after the simulation. During the simulation it was seen that it is harder to have good reception if there were no external antenna.
- Using of only one frequency can clog up the communication system
- The whole BDCC not only the Communication committee should know how to use the two way radio, and the codes and frequencies, training should be conducted
- The radio operators should familiarize themselves with the local and international codes, ABCD codes, names of the high risk barangays and the city and their codes and frequencies
- All flood markers should be installed, and regular listing of water measurement should be recorded
- The plan of having only one frequency during the emergency period is not advisable
- Other ways of reporting should be considered (phone, cell phones, going to the site)
- Signals of cell phones should be checked
- Batteries should be checked
- The people in the community should know the plan, the warning signals and alert levels.

Lessons learned during the Flood Response Simulation

- Invite a disaster specialist from the local government, national office and civil society who can express substantial inputs, suggest future activities and identify areas for improvement
- In selecting the location of EOC, the space, staging area, placement of signage for proper identification are significant factors to consider
- Clarify tasks and responsibilities of each individual supporting staff

- In conducting activities like this drill, it is important to indicate that it is just a simulation exercise to avoid confusion among community people
- Preparation of Gadgets and batteries of Radios should be reminded
- It was a good decision to add another member of the control team (Mr. Dawis) to help in overseeing the script in different areas since there would be 2 major staging (Waste Management Office for the CDCC and Barangay Hall of Mangin for the Mangin BDCC) areas and 3 additional staging area (Water District as the Evacuation Area, By the River in Mangin for the Rope Rescue and in front of the City Museum for the Mock Vehicular Accident.
- There should be a separate Assessment for Barangay Mangin to assess their learning and the implementation of their plans.
- Learning and Suggestions for the CDCC:
 - A data/ bulletin board is essential inside the Emergency Operation Center to monitor its activities, have a database on the number of affected families, damages incurred and directory of focal persons
 - Communication Room inside the EOC should be isolated from other rooms (meeting room, media room)
 - A Contingency Plan for specific disasters must be prepared and made available
 - Topographic/ Hazard Map of the area is a primary necessity in the EOC
 - In monitoring the status of dams, the elevation/ condition of water, spilling level, critical level/ time must be carefully looked upon
 - Levels of Activation and their corresponding activity-Should be clear not only to the CDCC but also to the public. Level 1: Convene CDCC; Level 2: Prepare response unit and equipments and; Level 3: Ready for dispatch
 - Preparation of Gadgets and batteries of Radios should be reminded
 - External Antennas were needed to facilitate clear communication through two way radios.
 - All flood markers should be installed, and regular listing of water measurement should be recorded
 - The levels of water in the plans should be verified during actual floods
 - All flood markers should be labeled especially those referred in the plans.
 - The people in the community should know the plan, the warning signals and alert levels.

V. Achievement over Project Objective Indicators

1. Eight pilot barangays have their disaster preparedness plan including early warning and evacuation tested through the Flood Simulation Drill.
2. The City Government has done the final draft of its EW and Evacuation plan and was tested during the Flood Simulation Drill.
3. Stakeholders were able to show their commitment in the Flood response Simulation by actively participating in it.
4. Active Participation of the TWG and CDP has continued even during the transition phase. (through election).

5. There were 24 participants trained as medical first responders. Some of them were able to test their skills during the simulation
6. CDP and Dagupan fostered good relationship with USAID country office. USAID were invited and were given reports to update them
7. Sharing of DRM framework, methods and tools in Dagupan, Manila and throughout the world through the new publications.

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

Bantay Dagupan has shown their commitment not only in words but also in action through actively participating in the Flood Simulation Drill.

Mayor Benjamin Lim actively participated in the Flood Simulation Drill. This will be the last activity for his term for the project PROMISE. He will soon be replaced by Mayor Alipio Fernandez.

Because of the election co terminus officials like City Information Officer Orpheus Velasco and POSO Chief Robert Erfe Mejia will be replaced by new officials. This will have an impact with the project for they are members of the TWG.

VIII. Project Financial Status

Please refer to attached forms 4 and 5.