

**PROMISE PHILIPPINES**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report**  
**for the period January to March 2008**

**I. Project Description and Objectives**

The following objectives guided the project implementers since its inception:

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

**Highlights**

The last two months of project implementation concentrated on the efforts to sustain the gains achieved by the project since its implementation in March 2006. Such included the covenant-signing of Northern Luzon local government officials through the Region 1 DRR Network. The covenant signified the officials' commitment to implement DRR measures in their localities and mutually support each other during disaster situation. Aside from the covenant-signing, several projects proposals were submitted to support institutions intended to continue and intensify the achievements of PROMISE in the area. Moreover, the Disaster Safety Day was held with the expansion of participating institutions such as the inclusion of commercial establishments in city-wide drills.

The period also involved the promotion of the PROMISE experience through training and workshops within and outside Dagupan,

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

### **A. Training and Workshops**

#### **1. *Climate Change Orientation***

The PROMISE Team held a Climate Change Orientation on January 10, 2008 to contextualize the PROMISE project given the rapid changes in the weather and environmental conditions. Resource persons from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). Participants included members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) and newly elected Barangay Captains from the eight pilot areas of PROMISE. The event also became a venue for Ms. Mayfourth Luneta and Ms. Emma Molina to reorient the newly elected Barangay Captains on the PROMISE Project.

#### **2. *Oxfam Hongkong Study Tour***

The PROMISE Team hosted a study tour for 16 regional staff members of Oxfam Hongkong on January 17-18, 2008. The study tour enabled the participants to look into the community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) measures and climate change adaptation in Dagupan. It likewise provided opportunities for the PROMISE Team members and participants to share information and experiences.

#### **3. *Study Tour of TWG and the Barangay Captains of the Pilot Communities***

Twenty five (25) members of the TWG and seven (7) Barangay Captains of the PROMISE pilot communities went to Pampanga on Feb 28, 2008 for an educational tour in disaster preparedness. The tour took off in Guagua, Pampanga where the experience of the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council (MDCC) on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) was highlighted. From Guagua, the delegation proceeded to Minalin, Pampanga to meet with the leaders of the Community-Based Disaster Response Organization or CBDRO, a peoples' organization formed by the Pampanga Disaster Response Network. The study tour likewise enabled the PROMISE delegation to share their DRM experiences in Dagupan.

## **B. Information Sharing and Network**

### ***1. Community-Based Landslide Risk Management Orientation (CBLRMO) with RECLAIM***

Ms. Luneta facilitated the CBLRMO for the RECLAIM Project on January 13, 2008. The orientation sought to unite the community; enhance their awareness on CBLRM; and clarify their role in the implementation of RECLAIM. Relevant stories of Community Based Disaster Risk Management including the PROMISE project experience were shared during the orientation. An action plan was drawn to ensure that disaster risk reduction measures will be done after the orientation.

### ***2. First National Conference on Mainstreaming DRR in Local Governance***

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) organized the First National Conference on Mainstreaming DRR in Local Governance on 4 to 6 March 2008. The event was held at the Dusit Hotel, Makati City participated in by different local government units (LGUs) from Dagupan City, Makati City, Leyte, and Albay; international organizations (EMI, DKKV German Committee for Risk Reduction part of ISDR, ADPC.); government agencies (Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Office of Civil Defense); and local non-government organizations (NGOs). The Conference enabled Dagupan Mayor Alipio F. Fernandez to present how the PROMISE project mainstreamed Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in local governance. Moreover, the event became a venue for the LGU officials and participants to express their commitment to implement DRR measures through covenant-signing.

### **3. Local DILG Newly Elected Officials (NEO) Training in Dagupan**

The PROMISE Project was incorporated in the Training for Newly Elected Officials (NEO) conducted on March 10-13, 2008 in Pinkies Restaurant, Dagupan City. Sponsored by the DILG, the activity sought to enhance the capability of NEOs to manage local government concerns. The portion on the PROMISE Project was handled by Ms. Molina and Ms. Luneta.

## **C. CBDRM Demo Projects**

### **1. Turnover Ceremonies for the Small Scale Mitigation Project, Public Awareness Calendars, and First Aid Kits**

The PROMISE project held a turnover ceremony for the small scale structural mitigation projects (SSMP), public awareness calendars, and first aid kits for the 8 pilot communities and the City. It was attended by the City officials and the officers of the eight pilot barangays of PROMISE. The SSMPs are projects intended to reduce the effects of disasters in the communities through the improvement of evacuation centers and Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs), elevation of toilets for the EOC, and construction of mini dikes. On the other hand, the Public Awareness Calendars will promote the City's Early Warning System (EWS) and enhance public awareness on disaster preparedness. The distribution of first aid kits is hoped to equip the Community-Based Emergency Response Course graduates with the necessary tools and supplies needed to provide emergency treatment.

### **2. Small Scale Mitigation Project Monitoring**

The Monitoring Team of the TWG visited the eight (8) barangays to monitor the SSMPs in the areas. Except for one barangay (Lasip Chico), all have initiated their SSMPs. Lasip Chico failed to do so for lack of funds. The *barangay* has to wait for the approval of its revised proposal for the funds to be released.

## **D. Advocacy**

### **1. *Validation of the Integration of DRM in the Comprehensive Development Plan***

A follow-up activity to the December 2007 DILG workshop was conducted to validate the integration of DRM into the Comprehensive Development Plan of LGUs. The validation was held on January 10-11, 2008 and was attended by Ms. Lorna P. Victoria of CDP. Through the occasion, the participants agreed to integrate DRM in the local development planning process at the city and municipal levels. The experience of Dagupan City was cited in some sections of the planning guide.

### **2. *Presentation of the Oxfam Case Study on the CBDRM of Mangin***

The Media Dialogue entitled ***Engaging Media in Disaster Risk Reduction*** was launched by Oxfam-Great Britain, Christian Aid, European Commission, OCD, National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), and Center for Community Journalism and Development on January 25, 2008. The event gave Ms. Luneta the opportunity to present the Oxfam Case Study on CBDRM highlighting the experience of Barangay Mangin, one of the pilot barangays of Project PROMISE.

### **3. *Publication of Combining Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge in Dagupan City Flood Warning System***

A case study entitled ***Combining Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge in Dagupan City Flood Warning System*** was prepared by Ms. Lorna P. Victoria on behalf of the TWG for the regional publication on Indigenous Practices and Lessons Learned for DRR. The case study will be published by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)-Asia Pacific and Kyoto University in May 2008.

#### ***4. Production of the Audio-Visual Presentation (AVP) on the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Experience of Barangay Mangin***

The partnership with Oxfam-Great Britain resulted in the publication of the good practices of Mangin CBDRM experience. Moreover, it produced an AVP that highlighted the Early Warning System (EWS) developed by the Barangay. The East Road Production spearheaded the AVP production. Pre-production was held on Feb 12-13. Actual production took place on February 18-22, 2008. The members of the Barangay Disaster Coordinating Council (BDCC), Technical Working Group (TWG), Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP), and community participated in the production.

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

The implementation of the SSMP in one pilot barangays did not push through for lack of funds. The area needed to reduce the scope of their proposed project to get the funds. It is now waiting for the City Government's approval of the revised proposal.

All the other planned activities for the quarter were realized.

### **IV. Lessons Learned and Challenges Encountered**

1. Seeking funds from the Government might take a while and delay some projects. Hence, BDCCs must develop mechanisms to ensure that their plans would not be jeopardized due to the delay in funds.
2. It is important to institutionalize mechanisms such that disaster preparedness could become an integral part of the efforts of the City and LGUs all over the country. The integration of the DRR in local government planning is one key step towards this endeavor.
3. The use of local technology and indigenous knowledge, especially in setting up a community's Early Warning Systems and Emergency Response should be identified and developed by the local people themselves. Such would ensure the appropriateness of the systems given the context and experiences of the locals.

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

The indicators for the quarter showing the progress of the project include the following:

- ⇒ Production of AVP and publication of the PROMISE experience brought about by the partnership with other institutions
- ⇒ Covenant-signing among LGU officials to integrate DRR in their comprehensive planning

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

The planned activities for the next quarter include the following:

- ⇒ First LGU Course on Governance and DRR
- ⇒ Trocaire DRR Workshop
- ⇒ Disaster Management Practitioners' Workshop in Cambodia
- ⇒ Launching of AVP on Good DRR Practices
- ⇒ Regional Workshop on Climate Change
- ⇒ TWG Meetings
- ⇒ Sharing of Community Hazard Mapping Tools with Baguio City Officials

## **VII. Project Financial Status**

Please refer to attached forms 4 and 5.