

PROMISE PHILIPPINES
4th Quarter Report
for the period of November to December 2009

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Pasig City is one of the 17 cities and municipalities that make up Metro Manila in the Philippines. Pasig is primarily residential and industrial. Nonetheless, it is host to Ortigas Center, one of the top business districts in the metropolis with numerous high-rise office buildings, residential condominiums, commercial establishments, schools, and shopping malls.

Pasig City perennially experiences flooding brought about by incessant rains and overflowing of Pasig River during the typhoon season. In response, the City Government has set up an emergency preparedness program to prevent major damages to life and property when flooding occurs. The City even earned recognition for the implementation of such a program. Nonetheless, it was one of the areas ravaged by Typhoon *Ondoy* (International name, *Ketsana*) in September 2009. Thirty *barangays* were inundated and thousands were displaced.

The devastation brought about by *Ondoy* prompted the City Government to look for ways to enhance the city's resilience to face a similar threat in the future. It was during this time that the Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) and Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) approached the city government for the possibility of jointly implementing the Program for Hydro-Meteorological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE) in the area. The City of Pasig, through Mayor Robert Eusebio, welcomed the opportunity and began the necessary preparations for the implementation of the project with CDP.

The implementation of PROMISE in Pasig City started in November 2009 and will end in August 2010. It will involve the identification of the most vulnerable communities in the area and reduction of their vulnerability through: (1) participatory risk assessment and action plan development; (2) mitigation and preparedness through a review of the city's SOPs and disaster risk management plans; (3) capacity building of the Barangay Disaster Coordinating Council (BDCC), city emergency responders, and awareness-raising in schools; and (4) advocacy through workshops for mainstreaming DRR. These activities are all geared towards the achievement of 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; and
- 4) Strengthened 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

A. Training and Workshop

DRR Orientation of Pasig City

The DRR Orientation Workshop for the City of Pasig was held on November 11 to 13, 2009 in Tagaytay City, Cavite. It was facilitated by Ms. Mayfourth Luneta of CDP and participated in by 63 officials and staff members from all the departments of the city government. It familiarized the participants on the concepts, frameworks, and activities in Disaster Risk Reduction/Management (DRR/M). Moreover, the event enabled the participants to assess the city's emergency response when typhoon Ondoy occurred, unite on the structure of the Pasig City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC), and identify the eight pilot *barangays* for Project PROMISE. The participants likewise agreed to appoint the *Barangay Affairs Office* (BAO) as the lead department for the project.

PROMISE Orientation

The PROMISE Project Orientation was held on November 27, 2009 at the Tanghalang Pasigeño in Pasig. The orientation familiarized the key officials of the city on the objectives, framework, and key stakeholders of PROMISE. At the same time, it enabled the participants to identify the activities to be undertaken to achieve the objectives of the project. It was attended by 170 city officials, members of the Technical Working Group (TWG), *barangay* captains, ADPC, and CDP. The highlight of the event was the signing of the covenant for DRR by Mayor Eusebio.

B. Information Sharing and Network

Sharing of the PROMISE Experience with Child Fund Philippines

Ms. Luneta shared the Dagupan PROMISE experience with Child Fund Philippines in the latter's Training on Child-Led DRR on December 1 to 4, 2009. It was held in San Pablo, Laguna and attended by thirty nine (39) staff members and partners of Child Fund from Luzon and Mindanao.

Sharing of the Dagupan City Experience with the Education Cluster Members

CDP presented the PROMISE child-centered experience in Dagupan City during the Education Cluster Planning Workshop held at the Office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Makati City on December 17, 2009. The activity likewise enabled the cluster members to review their plan and identify project areas of partners.

Participation in the Oxfam Launch of DRR Materials

The CDP and two representatives of the Pasig City Disaster Coordinating Council participated in the Oxfam Launching of DRR Materials (e.g. DVD, books, pamphlets, CD) on December 14, 2009. The event was held at the Sulo Hotel, Quezon City. The launch also promoted the institutionalization of provincial DRRM Offices in the Philippines. It was attended by the partners of Oxfam from non-government organizations (NGOs), local government units, and other groups.

Gift-Giving for Typhoon Victims in Pasig

The Trianon Fame Company for God's Glory Foundation, in coordination with the Central Luzon Conference of Seventh day Adventists (CLC), Day Care Centers of Pasig and CDP, conducted its yearly gift-giving event in Pinagbuhatan, Pasig on December 15, 2009. Pinagbuhatan was one of the worst-hit by typhoon Ondoy in September 2009. Toys and food were distributed to 100 children in the area.

C. CBDRM Demo Projects

BAO Meeting

Ms. Luneta met with Mr. Greg Evangelista, the PROMISE focal person for Pasig City and head of the Barangay Affairs Office (BAO), on December 9, 2009. They planned the consultations to be conducted with the City Heads and the Barangay Captains regarding upcoming PROMISE activities.

III. PLANNED VS. ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

All the planned activities for the quarter pushed through.

IV. LESSONS LEARNED AND CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

Adjusting to the Schedule and Culture of City Officials.

One of the biggest challenges in implementing PROMISE in Pasig City is finding a common schedule among the key city officials involved in the project. This is aggravated by the Christmas festivities in December and campaigns for the 2010 national and local elections. Despite such difficulties, the PROMISE Project Coordinator (Ms. Luneta) was able to adjust to the schedule and availability of the officials.

The structures and operations of the key offices in the City also need to be studied. The way things are done in Pasig differs from Dagupan. Hence, Ms. Luneta is learning to adapt to the Pasig City Government's culture. Adapting to the culture would help establish a smooth working relationship among all stakeholders.

Soliciting the Support of Advocates

The support of the City Mayor is key to the program's success. Aside from the Mayor, it is important to look for cooperative and development-oriented local government leaders who could support the project and serve as the project's advocates. The experiences from recent disasters can help convince these leaders on the importance of DRR. At the same time, officials who are not supportive of the project can be invited to take part in disaster risk assessment workshops to make them see the need for DRR.

Applying the Lessons Learned From DRR Experiences

The experience from the PROMISE Project in Dagupan can provide lessons upon which to pattern the current project in Pasig City. There are also several other DRR projects that can provide insights on how to manage PROMISE in the area. Nonetheless, Pasig City has distinct characteristics which necessitate the development of new ideas and processes.

V. ACHIEVEMENT OVER PROJECT OBJECTIVE INDICATORS

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

- ⇒ Technical Working Group (TWG) formed
- ⇒ Existing Emergency Operations and Procedures assessed
- ⇒ Key city officials familiar with the PROMISE project and DRR concepts
- ⇒ Most vulnerable communities in the city identified

VI. PLANNED ACTION FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

The activities from January to March 2010 will be geared towards the following:

- ⇒ Training of Trainers (TOT) on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (CBDRRM) for the members of the TWG
- ⇒ Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Risk Assessment Training
- ⇒ Planning among TWG members on other PROMISE activities

VII. PROJECT FINANCIAL STATUS

Please refer to attached forms 4 and 5.