ANNUAL PROJECT REVIEW 2006

For Project: Mitigating the Effects of External Threats to the MDGs (MEET THE MDG TARGETS)
Award ID 00043361/Project ID 00050562
Period Covered: 01 January – 31 December 2006

Project Performance

UNDAF Outcome	MYFF Goal/Service Line	CPAP Outcome
By 2009, good governance reforms and practices are institutionalized by government, local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations and the private sector at all levels toward poverty reduction, protection of rights and sustainable human development.	Fostering democratic governance Capacities and partnerships developed of local governance actors in urban/rural areas for policy formulation, service delivery and resource management	Political, electoral and legislative reforms instituted to democratize and increase participation especially of the poor.

Updates on Outcome:

Local government units (LGU) are mandated through the Presidential Decree 1566 as the primary response mechanism in the event of natural and man-made disasters. They too are mandated by the Local Government Code to plan and implement development programs in their respective areas of jurisdiction. As such strengthening LGU capacity to address both is an imperative. The MEET the MDG Project attempts to provide a tool to assess hazards, risks and vulnerabilities to provide sound basis for local development planning in preparation for any disasters.

For the period of one year, LGUs organized and strengthened their City Disaster Coordinating Councils who are mandated to operate and deliver the services required before, during and after disasters. These councils were provided with training on Disaster Management wherein Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability as the major topic.

The MEET Project provided a situational analysis of communities' vulnerabilities and risks to natural disasters and a preview of social hazards and vulnerabilities and risks that the cities' communities and sectors would encounter in the future wherein much of these would affect LGUs achievement of MDG targets. These resulted to policy enhancement in targeted LGUs, retooling of disaster management agencies, revisiting and adjustments of plans, and appropriation of resources for programs responsive to the vulnerabilities and risks. The project initiated and assisted in the integration of disaster management and the hazard, risk and vulnerability analysis process in the LGUs development planning.

ANNUAL OUTPUTS/UPDATES

Output 1.1. Increased accessibility to information, public goods, and services by the poor and disadvantaged groups and communities.

The project established systems of consultations and dialogues among ten (10) local government units and local citizens as well as enhanced knowledge and skills of CSOs, POs and communities on MDGs and human rights vis-à-vis local governance. Further, it strengthened local citizens monitoring of local government performance in the delivery of MDG targets and engaged them to undertake vulnerability analysis and risk assessment together with their LGU counterparts. These were done through the following activities:

(a) LGU selection and enrollment to undertake knowledge generation in mitigating risks and vulnerabilities

Nine (9) Cities and one (1) municipality were selected and undertook hazards, vulnerability and risk assessment (HRVA) in their respective areas. Each LGU had selected one MDG to focus on. Table below showed the MDG distribution:

	Goals	City/Municipality
MDG 1	Eradicate Extreme Poverty	Naga City
	And Hunger (food Security)	Science City of Munoz
MDG 2	Achieve Universal Primary Education	Tuguegarao City
MDG 3	Promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	Sorsogon City
MDG 4	Reduce Child Mortality	Iloilo City
MDG 5	Improved Maternal Health	Calbayog City
MDG 6	Combat HIV/AIDS	Psay City
MDG 7	Ensure Environmental Sustainability	Water - Island Garden City of Samal Environment - Iligan City Shelter – San Vicente, Puerto Princesa, Palawan

Given the project duration, the strategy provided LGUs focus in the assessment and analysis of their risks and vulnerabilities.

(b) Conducted City Disaster Management Appraisal and Profiling

A City Disaster Capability Profile Questionnaire was developed and implemented to ensure baselines of the cities' capacity and readiness to undertake the hazard based vulnerability and risk assessment. Eight (8) of the ten (10) cities enrolled in the project were visited. Focused group discussions with representatives from the LGUs, City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC) members and CSOs were conducted.

Four basic areas were considered: City Disaster Framework, Hazard-based Disaster Plan and Planning Methodology, Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Capacity, and the integration of the Disaster Management processes and programs into the local development plans and strategies.

(c) Supported Local Legislation and Mechanisms to Implement HRVA

Each of the Cities Legislative Council passed a resolution creating a multi- agency and multi-disciplinary team to implement the HRVA. These teams were composed of a focal person from the City Planning and Development Office and representatives from different local departments/divisions. They were trained to conduct HRVAs in their LGUs and tasked to institutionalize HRVA even after project implementation.

(d) Learning events capacitating LGUs and other sectors involved in the conduct of the HRVA

<u>Phase 1 Orientation of the Local Chief Executives.</u> This was done through the inclusion of the MEET the MDG project orientation in the agenda of the 6th Business Meeting in Tagbilaran, Bohol. The meeting was attended by local chief executives with their respective MDG focal persons and presented the project background and framework of operations. This led to firming up commitments from city executives in support of the project.

<u>Phase 2 Orientation of the Cities Stakeholders.</u> Ten (10) orientation sessions were conducted in enrolled cities/municipality. It aimed at raising awareness and involvement of stakeholders in the project. The strategy focused in supporting local legislative councils in their passage of critical resolutions on HRVA viz MDGs. Participants were composed of representatives from LGUs, NGAs, academe, CSOs and community members. Likewise, these sessions provided a broader constituency commitment of stakeholders from the local governments and non-government organizations in support of the project

(e) Strengthening Capacities of LGUs and Communities

Two Disaster Management Orientation and HVRA workshops were conducted: (1) The Luzon Cluster (Naga, Sorsogon, Tuguegarao, Pasay and Munoz) workshop was held last 15-19 August in Manila and (2) The Visayas-Mindanao Cluster (Iloilo, Calbayog, Iligan, Island Garden City of Samal and San Vicente, Palawan) was held on 23-28 August in Iloilo City. The workshops provided a common perspective on disasters and disaster management as well as a working knowledge on HRVA.

The Workshop content/topics included MDGs and Disaster Management integration, Disaster and Development Frameworks, Disaster Management Cycle, Types of Hazards (Natural, Human-made, Urban and Technological/Industrial Hazards. DM Technologies/skills to be transferred focused on Hazard Identification, Hazard-based Vulnerability and Risk Assessment/analysis, and Hazard Mapping. These workshops were attended by core teams from the different cities, which will undertake the HRVA in their respective cities and are tasked to formulate the City HRVA-MDG Guidebook.

(f) Knowledge Management.

The project conducted various documentation and translation of the HRVA processes into city and MDG specific guidebooks. Three capacity building sessions were conducted to ensure knowledge documentation skills are transferred and adopted by core teams:

1. Basic Process Documentation Session. This was a module incorporated in the Disaster Management Capability workshops for all the ten cities. This provided the core teams an understanding of the documents required of them, the basic parts of the guidebook that they need to develop, and the processes to adequately capture the activities conducted in the HRVA.

2. City Focused Mentoring Sessions. This approach focused on the direct mentoring or tutorial sessions for cities in need of intervention. This provided better and in-depth understanding of documentation and knowledge capturing processes to develop the guidebook.

3. The All Cities Workshop. This was conducted after the HRVA was implemented and the basic process inputs to the guidebooks were already derived. This session focused on the data available and how they can be packaged into the guidebook. The cities presented their draft guidebooks. These draft outputs were critiqued and improved during the workshop.

(g) Development of HRVA Guidebooks

The project also generated 10 HRVA guidebooks focused on a particular MDG on Basic Education, Child Health, Maternal Health, HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases, Water, and Shelter. Based on the data gathered and the analysis generated through the HRVA tool and process, a set of actionable solutions or governance reform agenda were generated. Each city identified policy, administrative, structural/organizational as well as operating agenda for the LGU. These actionable solutions were presented and validated by the community.

People's participation was a key process in the generation of data for the identification and assessment of hazards and vulnerabilities as well as the analysis of the same. This was done through different institutionalized mechanisms, i.e. focused group discussions, community meetings, consultations and household data generation approaches.

Output 1.2. Enhanced capacities of LGU to rationalize government service, curb corrupt practices and promote ethical behavior in public service along MDG targets.

For this output, the project sought to develop a local governance reform agenda and ensure that innovative approaches are replicated.

A participatory process was conducted to identify the local governance reform agenda or actionable solutions based on the analysis derived from the data gathered. These Actionable solutions upon validation by the community were referred to the city legislative council for action.

Due to the limited time provided by the project and considering the legal processes in the passage of the agenda in the Legislative council, the local governance reform agenda of most of the cities were considered as the city's next steps for fiscal year 2007.

However, the integration, use and mainstreaming of the tool and processes of the HRVA in the city development technology were affirmed by the Local Chief Executives and City Planning and Development Officers. This allowed City Development Planning Offices to use the technology and enhance their Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk based planning of interventions towards the achievement of the MDGs.

With the passage of the resolution on the integration of the HRVA in the development planning processes of the LGU, the use of the HRVA can be replicated for the other MDGs and other interventions/programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED ACTION

The MEET the MDG project outputs were presented in the 7th business meeting of UN –Habitat Philippines. In the meeting two tracks were recommended as the project next steps.

(1) To continue to do the HRVA for the other MDGs in their cities to complete their HRVA baselines, and pursue the local governance reform agenda package they proposed to the legislative council.

(2) To expand the HRVA project to other cities using the learning and the guidebooks of the first 10 cities. This track also gives priority to conflict areas to test the viability of the HRVA in conflict-affected areas.

RESOURCES USED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

The project was allotted a budget of USD90,000 and was able to spend a total of USD89,328.72 or 99.31% of the total project cost.

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Limited project duration. The one-year timeframe for project implementation is too short especially in capacitating the local government in the conduct of the activities for the HRVA and its replication.
2. Limited LGU Capacity in Disaster Management. The lack of LGUs knowledge and awareness on hazards and disaster management and their lack of capacity to do hazard -based vulnerability and risk assessment made it difficult for the project to proceed according to the schedule.
3. Limited Capacity for Knowledge Management and Process Documentation. Need to conduct more orientation sessions to capacitate LGUs in knowledge management and process documentation in order to generate required information.

SOFT ASSISTANCE NOT PROVIDED THROUGH PROJECTS OR PROGRAMMES (Activities conducted that were not part of the proposed activities)

A. LGU Disaster Management Profiling. At the onset, there was a need to assess LGU's capcity and readiness thus rapid LGU disaster management capacity assessments for the HRVA were conducted. Assessment results showed capacities were not in place in most of the cities for the conduct of the HRVA, thus HRVA capacity building sessions incorporated discussions on other disaster management topics i.e. basics on understanding hazards, definition of terms, etc. This also resulted to delays in the implementation of the HRVA. It is then recommended that capacitating LGUs in disaster management should be done before the HRVA is conducted to facilitate and ensure quality data inputs to the assessment.

B. All Cities Learning, Sharing and Mentoring Workshop. A workshop was convened last October 2006 aimed at allowing the 10 cities to present the status of their HRVA and share major challenges and issues and collectively address solutions encountered in the conduct of the HRVA. This session proved to be beneficial to LGUs as this provide opportunities to present lessons learned and good practices to replicate.

WAYS IN WHICH DGTTF-FUNDED ACTIVITES WERE CATALYTIC OR INNOVATIVE

The MEET the MDG project is an innovative project since it attempts to integrate disaster management perspective, tools and processes into local development planning processes. It gives opportunities for LGUs to focus on disaster management, hazard, risk and vulnerability using an MDG -perspective.

The project also provides a tool for planning interventions in disaster management. The hazard-vulnerability and risk based tool has provided local governments a better analysis of situation of their area and sector, which they have been wanting for a long time.

Further, participation of stakeholders especially among local chief executives and community members was critical in the implementation of the HRVA.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. HRVA based development planning is imperative in better management of disasters and in achieving the MDGs. In disaster prone countries, development investment would often go to waste due to occurrence of disasters. Development investments can be put to better use if resources are prioritized to support mitigation interventions.
2. Capacitating LGU capabilities is key to the integration of the disaster management /HRVA in the local development processes. Developing local advocates and enhancing their capacities to use HRVA is critical in sustaining mitigation work and development interventions.
3. Locally based generated data provides a deeper perspective for development planners and disaster management experts. Community experiences and stories provide substantive information vital for planning and development of appropriate interventions. Participatory processes should be utilized in data gathering and analysis.

Prepared by:

Juan Blenn Huelgas
Project Coordinator

Noted by:

Dr. Emmanuel Buendia
Assistant Resident Representative-Governance