

**ANNUAL PROJECT REVIEW
2006**

**MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF EXTERNAL THREATS TO THE MDGS
through a rights-based reforms in governance
for greater equity, transparency and sustainability**

or

MEET THE MDG TARGETS

**Award ID 00043361
Project ID 00050562
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I. Project Performance – Contribution to the SRF Goals

The MEET the MDGs seeks to establish more responsive national, sub-national and local institutions providing efficient social services delivery (UNDAF Outcome 2) and is expected to result to;

- a. **Increased accessibility** to information, public goods, and services by the poor and disadvantaged groups and communities; and
- b. **Enhanced capacities** of LGUs to rationalize government service curb corrupt practices and promote ethical behaviors in public service along MDG targets.

MEET the MDGs intends to equip and prepare local governments to overcome obstacles that will prevent, derail and slow down implementation of their MDG targets, pursue local reforms for improving governance particularly focusing on organizational and planning management. It attempts to use the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs as bases and rallying points to pursue reforms in the local bureaucracy and making LGUs more relevant and responsive to the communities they serve. The project was implemented in cities that are highly vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters. MEET the MDGs also mainstreams critical development drivers and the good urban governance principles in mitigating threats. This project operates with a knowledge generation system that will allow local partners to document and develop toolkits for replicating the process undertaken in mitigating threats to the MDGs.

Outcome 2. More responsive national, sub-national and local institutions providing efficient social services delivery.

The Local Government Units 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 the LGUs capacity to address both is imperative. The MEET the MDG Project attempts to provide a tool to assess hazards, risks and vulnerabilities to provide sound basis for development planning.

In the one year timeframe of the MEET the MDGs project, the LGUs has organized and strengthened their City Disaster Coordinating Councils who are mandated to operate and deliver the services required before, during and after the disasters. These councils were provided with training on disaster management with the Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability as the major module.

The MEET the MDGs project provided not just an analysis of the situation of communities' vulnerabilities and risks to natural disasters but also a glimpse of the social hazards and vulnerabilities and risks that the cities' communities and sectors face. These related much to the vulnerabilities and risks of the LGU MDG targets. The outputs of the analysis resulted to policy enhancement and changes in some of the LGUs, retooling of agencies who should be responding to the vulnerability, revisiting and adjustments of plans, and appropriation of resources for the programs responsive to the vulnerabilities and risk. The project further put up front the need for 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.

To realize output 1.1, the project established systems of consultations and dialogues between the 10 local government units enrolled in the project and the local citizens, as well as enhanced the knowledge and skills of CSOs, POs and communities on MDGs and human rights vis-à-vis local governance. Further, the project 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:

a. LGU selection and enrollment to undertake the knowledge generation on the Mitigating the Effects of External Threats to the MDGS.

Nine (9) Cities and one (1) municipality were selected and went through hazards, vulnerability and risk assessment (HRVA) in their respective areas of jurisdiction. Each LGU had one MDG focus. The following was the distribution per MDG:

MDG 1	Eradicate Extreme Poverty And Hunger (food Security)	Naga City 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 - SanVicente, Puerto Princesa, Palawan

Given the one year project duration, this strategy provides the LGUs focus on the MDG that they feel they require further assessment and analysis.

b. City Disaster Management Appraisal and Profiling

A City Disaster Capability Profile Questionnaire was developed by the project 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.

Results of the findings are summarized as:

Cities	Disaster Framework	Hazard-based Disaster Plan/ Planning	HRVA Capacity (trained personnel to do the assessment and the presence of an HRVA tool)	Integration of DM to LDPS
Naga	Disaster Management and Development	Existing	High	Existing
Sorsogon	Relief	Not existing	Low	Not existing
Tuguegarao	Relief	Not existing	Low	Not existing
Pasay	Relief and Development	Existing	Medium	Existing
Science City of Muñoz	Relief	Not existing	Low	Not existing
San Vicente Municipality		Not existing		Not existing
Iloilo	Relief and Development	Existing	Medium	Existing
Calbayog		Existing		Not existing
Island Garden City of Samal	Relief	Not existing	Low	Not existing
Iligan	Relief and Development	Existing	Medium	Existing

c. Policy In support of the MEET the MDG Project

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 usually coming from the City Planning and Development Office and representatives from different local departments/divisions relevant to the MDG the City is focusing in to ensure implementation of the local HRVA plans.

These teams were trained to do the hazard, risk and vulnerability assessments and were instrumental in the conduct of the same. They will serve as the team who will sustain the implementation of the HRVA even after project duration.

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

City Preparatory Phase - Project Orientation on the MEET the MDGs. This activity was conducted in three phases.

Phase 1. Orientation of the Local Chief Executives.

This was done through the inclusion of the MEET the MDG project orientation in the agenda of the 6th Business Meeting in Tagbilaran, Bohol. This meeting was attended by the Mayors of the cities enrolled in the project together with their MDG focal persons. The session provided a broad background on the project components and the general framework of operations. The session further firmed up the commitments of the city executives to support the project.

This session affirmed the commitment of the cities commitment to the project and broadened their understanding of the concepts and purpose of the program.

Phase 2. Orientation of the City Stakeholders.

Ten (10) orientation sessions were conducted, one per enrolled city. The 10 orientation sessions were aimed at ensuring the cities' major actors awareness and involvement in the project. This approach particularly focused on the support of the City council through the passage of the legislative resolutions on the city's resource counterpart. These sessions discussed the project as it relates to the MDG that the city was enrolled in. The session included discussions on the projects purpose and deliverables, as well as the LGUs responsibilities for the success of the project. These project orientation sessions were attended by the Mayors, Legislative Council Member, Head of Departments, representatives of the NGOs, academe and other CSOs and community members.

This session provided a broader constituency commitment of stakeholders from the local government and non-government organizations in the city in support of the project

Phase 3. Strengthening the capacities of the LGUs/Communities

Two Disaster Management Orientation and HVRA workshop were conducted. The Luzon cluster (Naga, Sorsogon, Tuguegarao, Pasay and Munoz) workshop was held on 15-19 August 2006 in Manila while the Visayas-Mindanao Cluster (Iloilo, Calbayog, Iligan, Island Garden City of Samal and San Vicente, Palawan) was held on 23-28 August 2006 in Iloilo City.

The workshops provided a standard understanding/ perspectives of disasters and disaster management and a working knowledge of the hazard-based vulnerability and risk assessment.

The workshop content/topics included MDGs and DM 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 will focus on Hazard Identification, Hazard-based Vulnerability and Risk Assessment/analysis, and Hazard Mapping.

These workshops were attended by the members of the core team from the different cities that will undertake the HRVA in their respective cities and formulate the City HRVA-MDG Guidebook.

The major output of the workshop was the 6 month workplan of the cities.

City Status after Capacity Building Interventions

Cities	MOA, TOR,	DM Profiles	Core team formed	Enhanced capacities in DM and HRVA
Iligan	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ilo-ilo	✓	✓	✓	✓
Muñoz	✓	✓	✓	✓
Naga	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pasay	✓	✓	✓	✓
IGACOS	✓	✓	✓	✓
San Vicente	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sorsogon	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tuguegarao	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calbayog	✓	✓	✓	✓

e. Knowledge Management.

The MEET the MDG Projects major deliverable is the documentation and translation of the HRVA processes into city and MDG specific guidebooks. It is then an imperative that the cities understand the process of documentation and information management to ensure the delivery of the output.

Three capacity building sessions were conducted to ensure knowledge documentation skills transfer. These were the following:

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.

These knowledge management sessions facilitated the transfer of documentation technology and skills to the LGUs as well as the delivery of the guidebooks.

Project Implementation and Processes.

With the work plan developed by the City designated core team and approved by the Local Chief Executive, each city core team proceeded in the conduct of the HRVA.. 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. People's participation were done through different institutionalized mechanisms, i.e. focused group discussions, community meetings, consultations and household data generation approaches.

Process Output: HRVA Guidebooks. With the people's process implemented in 10 cities, the project generated 10 HRVA guidebooks focused on a particular MDG as well as the HRVA of the Cities MDG.

Summary of the Results of the Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis

MDG		City Responsible	Identified Hazard	Risk	Vulnerability
MDG 1	Eradicate Extreme Poverty	Naga	Typhoons Flood	High High	High High
	And Hunger (food Security)	Science City of Munoz	Drought Typhoonms Infestation	High High High	High High High
MDG 2	Achieve Universal Primary Education	Tuguegarao	Poor Family Economic Condition Parent orientation (children to work to help family income)	High High	High High
MDG 3	Promote Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	Sorsogon	Typhoons Flood	High High	High High
MDG 4	Reduce Child Mortality	Iloilo	Water borne diseases due to flooding	High	High
MDG 5	Improved Maternal Health	Calbayog	Inadequate Facility	High	High
MDG 6	Combat HIV/AIDS	Pasay	Sexual practices of the youth Intravenous Infections	High High	High High
MDG 7	Ensure Environmental Sustainability	Water - Island Garden City of Samal	Contamination of water sources El Niño	High High	High High
		Environment - Iligan	Floods	High	High
		Shelter – San Vicente, Palawan	Floods Landslides	High High	High High

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.

Again these actionable solutions were presented and validated by the community.

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

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 allows the City Development Planning Office 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.

Reasons if progress below target

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.

The project sought to develop a local governance reform agenda and ensure that innovative approaches are replicated but due to the legal processes in the Legislative Council for the approval of the replication of the HRVA and the resources required, more time is needed to implement the replication output,. The local governance reform agenda of most of the cities were considered as the city's next steps for fiscal year 2007.

Project Partners

Partnership with the Local Government Units and getting the commitments of the Local Chief Executive are still the most effective mechanism in implementing the localization of the MDGs and the implementation of the HRVA. The designation of team leaders and focal persons likewise facilitates the technical work needed to deliver the outputs.

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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.

The first track was for the 10 cities enrolled in the MEET the MDG project. It is proposed that these cities 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.

The second track is an expansion of 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.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE - IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

1. Timeframe. The one-year timeframe for project implementation is short especially in capacitating the local government in the conduct of the activities for the HRVA and its replication.
2. LGU Disaster Management Orientation and Capacity. 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 project schedule.
3. Knowledge Management. More sessions to capacitate the LGUs in knowledge management and process documentation were needed to generate the required outputs.

RATING ON PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS

Expected Program Output	Key Activities	Not Achieved	Partial (2/3 or more quantitative target is achieved)	Yes Achieved
Output 1.1. Increased accessibility to information, public goods, and services by the poor and disadvantaged groups and communities.	1.1.1 Selection of LGUs to undertake knowledge generation on the MDG themes; Basic Education, child Health, Maternal Health, HIV/AIDS, malaria and other Diseases. Water and Shelter			Achieved
	1.1.2. Project Orientation and leveling off on Poverty Reduction, Gender and Human Rights Mainstreaming and Local Governance Reforms			Achieved
	1.1.3 Conduct of a specialized course on knowledge documentation process			Achieved
	1.1.4 Formulation and Implementation of LGU project with workplans			Achieved

Output 1.2. Enhanced capacities of LGU to rationalize government service, curb corrupt practices and promote ethical behavior in public service along MDG targets.	1.2.1 Implement the actionable solution with the supporting knowledge documentation process		Partially achieved – The actionable solution has been crafted by the LGUs. Due to time and local legal processes for approval and resource allocation these solutions were not implemented	
	1.2.2. National Consultation and validation towards editing and `cleaning of guides and manuals for publication			Achieved

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 of the project, there was a need to ensure that assumptions with regard to the LGU readiness to do the project were correct. Thus the rapid LGU disaster management capacity assessment for the HRVA was conducted. The assessment result showed that capacities were not in place in most of the cities for the conduct of the HRVA, thus the HRVA capacity building session incorporated discussions on other disaster management topics i.e. basics on understanding hazards, definition of terms, etc. This also resulted to the delay in the implementation of the HRVA.

It is then recommended that capacitating the LGUs in disaster management be done before the HRVA is conducted to facilitate and ensure quality data inputs to the assessment.

- b. The 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 their difficulties and collectively find solutions to the difficulties/challenges faced in the conduct of the HRVA. This session proved to be beneficial to all cities as this offered learning from the work of others and collectively looking at the problems encountered.

Ways in Which DGTTF-Funded Activities were catalytic or innovative

The MEET the MDG project is generally an innovative project as it attempts to integrate disaster management perspective, tools and processes into mainstream development planning processes. The project gives the opportunity for the LGUs to look at the MDGs and development using the disaster management, hazard, risk and vulnerability lens or perspective.

The project further provides a tool for planning interventions. The hazard-vulnerability and risk based tool gives the Local government a better look of the situation of their area and sector, and where the development investment can make a difference in a strategic point of view.

Lessons Learned

1. Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk based development planning is imperative to ensure achievement of development targets. In disaster prone countries, a lot of development investment goes to waste due to the occurrence of disasters. Development investments can be put to better use if resources are prioritized to support mitigative interventions.
2. Disasters and Development Developing Local Government Capabilities is key to the integration of the disaster management /HRVA in the local development processes. Developing advocates and enhancing local capacities for the use and integration of HRVA is important to ensure sustain mitigative work on development interventions.
3. Community generated data provides a deeper perspective for development planners. Community experience and institutional memory provides substantive information vital for planning and development of appropriate interventions. Participatory processes should be sustained and strengthened to ensure the completeness of data and analysis