



Winning the War Against Poverty: *The Labo Experience**

Mayor Winifredo Balce Oco**

The Municipality of Labo is one of the 12 municipalities in the province of Camarines Norte in the Bicol region. In terms of land area, it is the biggest in Camarines Norte and is approximately 15 kilometers from the capital town of Daet and 325 kilometers from Manila. Fifty-two barangays comprise this first class municipality where agriculture is the most dominant source of employment with copra, abaca, palay and pineapple as the major crops.

Poverty reduction as biggest challenge

Reducing poverty to the minimum has always been the municipality's biggest challenge. As its top priority, Labo has set goals and targets to achieve this objective. For example, in the area of health and nutrition, the municipality aimed to bring to zero the proportion of households with infant and child deaths and the prevalence of malnutrition. Access to basic services such as clean and safe drinking water, sanitary toilet facilities, electric power and decent housing was also targeted for households which still do not enjoy

these amenities. Provision of job opportunities, which is closely linked to achieving other targets, was likewise planned for. Ditto with self-sufficiency in food supply, in particular, in rice and fish.

More than setting goals to reduce poverty, though, the municipality of Labo worked on improving the infrastructure in its area because it realized the critical role in development of having a good and efficient infrastructure setup. Thus, Labo planned the building of roads and bridges that will serve as the development pipeline for the rural economy. One of these is the construction of an additional bridge across Labo River in order to facilitate the development of the two-kilometer radius of the poblacion (town proper).

The construction of a new modern public market building that can accommodate all types of commodities and services catering to the needs of the buying public and of an integrated terminal that could

accommodate all available transport services coming in and out of the centers of trade and commerce in the municipality is also in the pipeline, together with the construction of the Busig-on Communal Irrigation Project to improve the deficiency in rice and other agricultural products.

To hasten the delivery of basic services to the public and accelerate the collection of revenues, a new local government center equipped with the latest information and

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*Excerpt from Mayor Oco's presentation during the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network General Meeting held in Senegal on June 16-20, 2004.

**Local Chief Executive, Municipality of Labo, Camarines Norte, Philippines.

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communication technology was also included in the infrastructure blueprint. Side by side with this plan was the encouragement of all national government agencies, bureaus and offices based in the Bicol Region to establish satellite offices in Labo to facilitate the delivery of basic services in the area and nearby municipalities.

With these plans, the municipality needs to identify who among the beneficiaries must be prioritized given limited resources. For this, it has to have full and relevant information which may be addressed through the institutionalization of a community-based monitoring system (CBMS). CBMS is a system of gathering and utilizing information at the local level for policymaking and program implementation at all

geopolitical levels. It attempts to provide planners at the national and local levels with up-to-date and reliable information on a core set of welfare indicators.

Realizing the importance of having the system institutionalized in the municipality, initial meetings between the municipality and the CBMS Network Coordinating Team were held in early 2003. Briefings were also done for the members of the Sangguniang Bayan (Municipal Council). Then, on March 18, 2003, an Executive Order was issued, signaling the start of a series of trainings provided by the CBMS Network Coordinating Team. The actual survey then commenced in April 2003.

Top Unmet Needs

The results of the CBMS survey revealed that the municipality is performing well in some dimensions

of well-being but performing poorly in others. Among the areas where the municipality is doing well are in health and nutrition, housing, peace and order, basic education and food sufficiency, as shown in Table 1.

What the municipality should be concerned about based on the survey results, meanwhile, is the very high proportion of households who are poor even though a high employment rate was registered. This indicates that the income of those who are working is not sufficient to meet other basic needs. Low access to safe water and sanitary toilet facilities as well as low secondary school participation rate were also identified as problem areas.

Interventions

With the problems identified through the CBMS data, the next step taken was the identification of programs and projects to address them.

Table 1. CBMS Core Indicators, Municipality of Labo, Camarines Norte , 2003

Indicator		Proportion
A. Health	1. Proportion of child deaths	0.2
B. Nutrition	2. Prevalence of malnourished children	8.8
C. Housing	3. Proportion of households living in non-makeshift housing	94.5
	4. Proportion of households who are formal settlers	95.6
D. Water and Sanitation	5. Proportion of households with access to safe water supply	64.5
	6. Proportion of households with access to sanitary toilet facilities	65.4
E. Basic Education and Literacy	7. Elementary school participation rate	79.6
	8. Secondary school participation rate	67.5
	9. Literacy rate	97.5
F. Income	10. Proportion of households who eat at least 3 meals a day	97.6
	11. Proportion of households with income above poverty threshold	32.2
	12. Proportion of households with income above food threshold	48.2
G. Employment	13. Employment rate	88.1
H. Peace and Order	14. Proportion of persons who are victims of crimes	0.6

Source of data: CBMS Survey, 2003

In the area of health, the criteria for choosing beneficiaries of an ongoing program of the Municipal Health Office (MHO) on the provision of toilet bowls had been improved with the incorporation of the results of the CBMS. The program is carried out as a partnership between the MHO and the barangay government units, whose counterpart is the provision of cement and hollow blocks needed for the construction of the toilet facilities in the households. A total of 900 toilet bowl units were purchased for this program benefiting 295 and 403 households in 2003 and 2004, respectively, with priorities given to needy households. There are still 202 units of toilet bowl left to be distributed to needy households this year.

Figure 1 shows the extent of improvement on the households' access to sanitary toilet facilities in one barangay after such intervention.

For the problem regarding the lack of access to safe water, the improvement



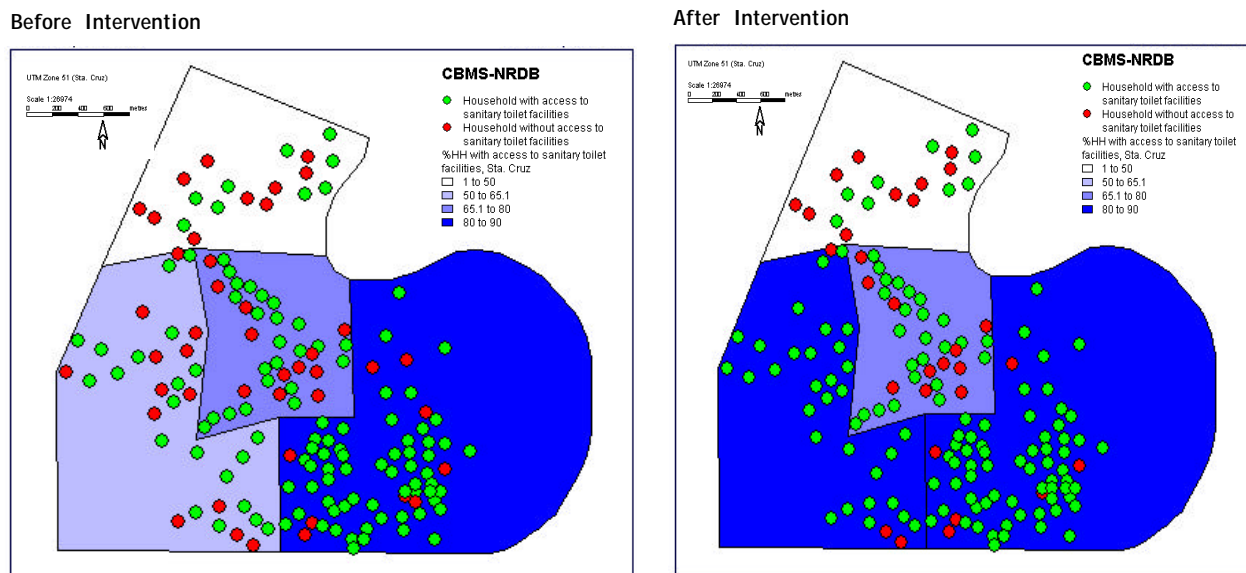
Mayor Winifredo Oco shares the experience of the Municipality of Labo in implementing CBMS during the PEP general meeting in Senegal.

of several barangay water systems was identified as the appropriate response. As such, a certain amount has already been allocated for this. Another program proposed is the Integrated Rural Accessibility Project-Infrastructure for Rural and Social Enhancement Project (IRAP-INFRES) to be implemented in priority barangays. This project is a national program wherein program beneficiaries are given financial support for water system improvement.

In the area of education, results of the CBMS validation exercises revealed that distance and/or non-proximity to school facilities is one reason for the low participation rate of children. Another reason cited was the lack of financial means of parents to send their children to school. Their incomes are not enough to pay for the tuition and other day-to-day expenses of the children.

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Figure 1. Proportion of Households with Access to Sanitary Toilet Facilities, Before and After Intervention Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Labo, Camarines Norte, Philippines, 2003



Research Results

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To address this problem, the Sangguniang Bayan passed a resolution granting educational aid in the form of financial assistance and school supplies to deserving students as identified in the CBMS survey results. The students belonging to the top 10 percent of their class will be prioritized as beneficiaries. They also have to belong to low-income and large-size households. An initial fund of P50,000 was allotted for this program. Target beneficiaries will receive P500.00, with P200.00 for financial assistance and P300.00 allotted for school supplies for the school year.

The construction and improvement of farm-to-market roads was likewise identified as a priority program in response to the results of the validation exercises revealing that one of the reasons for the low income of those who are working is the inability of farmers to transport their goods, mostly copra, palay, pineapple, cassava and banana, to markets because of the poor condition of the roads. An amount was thus allocated for this project. Road openings for many inaccessible barangays in the municipality were also identified.

Other uses of CBMS data

Apart from helping identify or strengthen intervention programs in Labo to address problems previously indicated, the CBMS data were also useful in other aspects of development programs both at the municipal and barangay levels.

At the barangay level

- CBMS data and their analysis served as inputs in the preparation of the barangay annual investment and development plans. They also

provided a basis in the identification of appropriate programs and projects to address the immediate basic needs of various barangays and in the determination of priority needs of the barangays.

- CBMS data were utilized for the preparation of the Barangay Socio-Economic Profiles.

- After the CBMS data and information have been validated at the barangay level, the programs and projects to be implemented were identified based on the outcome of the CBMS survey. All of the 52 barangays in Labo complied with this. To mention a few:

- ✓ *To address its high malnutrition rate, Barangay Tulay na Lupa allocated an amount of P20,000.00 for its supplemental feeding program and P4,000.00 for an educational assistance program.*

- ✓ *Barangay Matanlang allocated P10,000.00 for the purchase of 15 toilet bowls for the 15 households without access to sanitary toilets.*

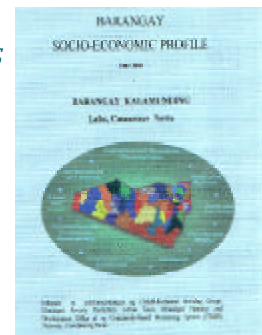
- ✓ *Barangay San Antonio allocated P23,000.00 for the literacy program for adults, out-of-school-youths and school drop-outs.*

- ✓ *Barangay San Antonio allocated P21,000.00 for the installation of 6 units of Jetmatic pumps to improve the water supply system of the barangay.*

- The CBMS Database was utilized in the preparation of barangay poverty maps which show the most depressed areas in the barangays in terms of the different dimensions of poverty.

- CBMS data were used in the monitoring and evaluation of existing development programs. For instance, Barangay Tulay na Lupa used the results of the CBMS survey in the analysis of the welfare status of children leading to their having won the coveted award of the

Data from CBMS were used as inputs by officials of Barangay Kalamunding in drafting their socio-economic profile.



province-wide search for the “Child-Friendliest Barangay”.

At the municipal level

- CBMS data were utilized in the preparation of the municipal annual investment and development plans and municipal socio-economic profile.
- The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) also utilized the CBMS data to identify the poorest households in the barangays in terms of income. The MSWDO also used the CBMS data as basis for selecting the beneficiaries of the health insurance program (Philhealth program) of the national government.
- CBMS data were also used in the determination of priority needs of the municipality. Since education is one of the priorities of the municipality, a program of educational assistance is to be implemented in the municipality.
- Information from the CBMS served as inputs in the socio-economic database and geographic information system (GIS) of the Municipal Planning and Development Office.
- CBMS survey results were also used as additional data in the preparation of the municipal land use plan.

CBMS Network Participation in PEP General Meeting in Senegal

The CBMS Network members convened on June 16-20, 2004 for the general meeting of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Research Network in Senegal. The week-long annual conference brought together the three subnetworks under the PEP, namely: (a) the Modeling and Policy Impact Assessment (MPIA), (b) the Poverty Monitoring and Measurement Analysis (PMMA), and (c) the Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS), and featured recent developments on the work of these subnetworks. During the conference, PEP researchers and policy analysts shared research methodologies, findings and experiences on the development and institutionalization of local poverty monitoring systems, econometric modeling and policy impact analysis, and poverty measurement and monitoring analyses.

This year's PEP general meeting was hosted by the Centre de Recherches Economiques Appliquées (CREA) in



PEP researchers pose for a group picture in Senegal, this year's venue of the general meeting of the network.

cooperation with the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies of the De La Salle University-Manila, and the Centre Interuniversitaire sur le Risque, les Politiques Économiques et l'Emploi (CIRPÉE), Université Laval Québec, Canada.

As part of this year's PEP plenary session program, Momar Sylla, CBMS-Senegal Research Team Leader, and Conseiller auprès du Directeur of the

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Benin: New CBMS Partner

The CBMS Network has recently approved a CBMS proposal from Benin after a thorough evaluation by the Network's Steering Committee. The objectives of the CBMS in Benin are: (a) to improve the capacities of poor communities by monitoring and evaluating their poverty status; (b) to address the information

requirements of the decentralization policy in the country; and (c) to help monitor and evaluate existing policies that were defined by the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

The CBMS work will be administered by the Cellule d'Analyse de Politique

Economique (CAPE) in cooperation with the MIMAP-Benin Project Team, with Madame Marie Odile Attanasso serving as Project Leader. The CBMS-Benin research team members include Ambroise Agbota, Roland Medjigbodo M-P and Félix Sessou. *

CBMS Field Visit to the Commune of Tivaouane, Senegal*

A regular part of the general assembly of the CBMS Network is a field visit to local communities in the conference's local host country. The visit is specially arranged, in partnership with the CBMS-researchers from the host country, for members of the PEP's CBMS subnetwork in order for the latter to have the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other CBMS sites and to listen to actual stories of CBMS partners at the local level. In Senegal, this year's host, the visit took place in the community of Tivaouane last June 19. The community's implementation of the CBMS as well as the analysis and usage of the data generated by the Observatory on the community's living conditions were the subject of presentation and discussion during the field visit.

Tivaouane is one of the three CBMS sites in Senegal. The CBMS work is done by the Observatory under the supervision of the Center for Applied Economic Research (CREA) which in turn coordinates the entire CBMS work in Senegal.

Before the presentations started, the prefect of the Department of Tivaouane, Gormack Sene, formally welcomed the visitors composed largely of the PEP's CBMS Subnetwork members and invited

policymakers from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Laos, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Canada, Benin, Burkina Faso and Ghana. The delegation was led by the CBMS Network Leader, Dr. Celia Reyes.

During the actual presentation, the ones who discussed and analyzed the data were municipal counsellors Omar Ba and Gallo Mbengue, both from the Observatory. The former described the organization and content of the database from the survey which is divided into four sections, namely: Households, Individuals, Children, and Migration. These sections in turn contain data concerning the households and their members, anthropometric measurements of children aged 3 to 59 months, and former members of the households who have migrated in the past five years. Mr. Mbengue, on the other hand, presented the principal results obtained from the household surveys relative to demography, education, health, employment and the framework of life. What stood out as the central element of the Observatory's work is

its continuous study and monitoring of the household living conditions.

The Honorable Mayor, El Hadj Malick Diop, meanwhile, presented the possibilities offered by the information and data collected from the community survey. He said that the data bank provides their commune with a number of planning tools at their disposal such as in the preparation of the commune investment plan and in the crafting of the urban plan, among others.

The presentation was followed by an open forum where a number of questions were fielded by the very interested audience. Everyone agreed on the importance of having good and reliable data. However, it was also mentioned that while it is good to have data at one's disposal, the knowledge of how to use them is, of course, better. There is therefore a need for a reinforcement of the capacities of the heads of bureaus of the Observatory on the optimal usage of the acquired information.

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The mayor of Tivaouane, Honorable El Hadj Malick Diop, presented the possibilities offered by the information and data collected from the CBMS survey.

*This article is an excerpt from a report prepared by Momar Sylla, CBMS-Senegal Project Leader and partner organizer of the CBMS field visit in Senegal this year.

CBMS Field Visit to Yako, Burkina Faso*

After the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Network's general meeting in Senegal, delegates of the CBMS network (27 persons representing 13 countries) led by CBMS Network Leader, Dr. Celia Reyes, and accompanied by Mrs. Josephine Apiou, Secretary General of the Province and representative of the High Commissioner, visited the CBMS site in Yako, province of Passore in Burkina Faso. The CBMS was set up in Burkina Faso in 1998.

The group was welcomed at the High Commission by the highest administrative authorities of the Province, including the Mayor of the City, Honorable Nanema Edouard.

After the welcome, the group was briefed by Mr. Ramde Tanga, Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) representative and facilitator of the field team, on the operations of the CBMS in the Department of Yako. This was followed by a field visit to two villages where the delegation was given a very warm and enthusiastic welcome by the villages' population and two other neighboring CBMS villages which joined the welcome rites. It should be recalled that all the villages of the Department of Yako are involved in the CBMS.

The delegation was then briefed by the traditional chiefs and presidents of the Village Development Committees (VDC) who explained the activities of the CBMS in their



Part of the field visit of the CBMS team in one village in Burkina Faso.

respective villages, the establishment of the CBMS and the participation of the residents in the gathering of data. According to them, these data served as eye-openers because they now have full information on the exact number of people living in each village, by sex and age, the number of households, food security per household, infrastructure and social services, among others. Said data will be useful in planning and organizing village developments. Each VDC will know how to use the information in asking for help from the administrative authorities and non-government organizations (NGOs) in order to solve their social problems, fight against poverty and improve their living conditions.

At the same time, the officials of the VDCs showed the delegation the drawings made by the villagers of Kabo and Ilbourne themselves which represented the data gathered from the pilot surveys. The drawings and the translation of information in Moore, a local language, are helpful in that they are better understood by the populace, most of whom are not literate.

After visiting the two rural communities, the delegation returned to Yako and proceeded to Sector 1 where officials likewise briefed them on the CBMS operations and showed them some of the data from household and community surveys which were illustrated by drawings.

What lessons can be gained from the field visit?

One is that the entire population, administrative and traditional authorities have all been mobilized for the CBMS project. The implementation of the system has been well-received in the Department of Yako and considered as an efficient tool in the planning of the development of the villages and department. And two is the usefulness of the drawings done by the villagers in presenting the performance indicators of each village and sector. The drawings enable both the literate and illiterate

*This article is an excerpt from a report prepared by Dr. Prosper Somda, CBMS-Burkina Faso Project Leader and partner organizer of the CBMS field visit in Burkina Faso this year.

New Partnerships Sealed with Mandaue and Pasay

The CBMS Network Coordinating Team, represented by its Project Leader and Research and Administrative Officer, recently signed two memoranda of agreement for technical collaboration for the city-wide implementation of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in two cities, namely, Mandaue and Pasay.

The city government of Mandaue, led by its City Mayor and newly elected Vice-President for the Visayas of the

League of Cities of the Philippines, Honorable Thadeo Ouano, signed the agreement on July 22, 2004 at the Manila Hotel while the city government of Pasay, through its mayor, Honorable Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, likewise formalized its partnership with the Team through the MOA on July 29, 2004.

For Mandaue, said CBMS initiative, which will be implemented in all 27 barangays, is in line with its adoption of a development indicator-

based planning and programming operations. For instance, the CBMS data will be used for the updating of the city's comprehensive land use plan. In line with the collaboration, the city government of Mandaue has committed to allocate the required financial support for the conduct of CBMS-related activities for the period August 1-December 31, 2004.

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CBMS Orientation for Agusan del Sur

Last August 16, the CBMS Network Coordinating Team headed by Dr. Celia M. Reyes, and the CBMS local partners in Palawan, led by Ms. Josephine Escaño, Chief of the Research and Evaluation Division of the Provincial Planning and Development Office, gave an orientation of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) to 11 representatives from the provincial government of Agusan del Sur, the Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) of the Ateneo de Manila University, and the Sharing and Promotion of Awareness and Regional Knowledge-Voluntary Services Overseas (SPARK-VSO). The ESSC and SPARK-VSO are implementing

their respective development projects in Agusan del Sur.

The orientation, which was part of the study tour of the group of representatives from Agusan del Sur in Palawan, was held in line with the group's interest on the possibility of implementing a CBMS in its locality and in particular, adopting the Natural Resource Database (NRDB) software. The team from Agusan del Sur is exploring on the possibility of a pilot activity to implement the CBMS in one municipality in the province with a view to deploy a province-wide data collection system.

The CBMS team shared with the group the general framework, activities and

processes of the CBMS work. Ms. Escaño elaborated on their experiences and lessons learned in implementing the CBMS and applications of the NRDB to the CBMS.

The orientees included key personnel from the provincial government of Agusan del Sur, namely, Mr. Allan Santiago, member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Ms. Ofelia Gelacio, Ms. Jocelyn Calo, Mr. Agapito Sanchez, Mr. Romel Bedrijo, Mr. Dioric Gavino, and Mr. Ricky Angwas. Also with them were Mr. Don Paul Carney, VSO Volunteer, Ms. Jela Grecia of ESSC in Agusan del Sur, Mr. Michel Pedro of ESSC Manila and Mr. Ronet Santos, SPARK Programme Coordinator. *

CBMS Network...from page 5

Direction de la Prévision et de la Statistique-Senegal, shared the results and experience of the CBMS implementation in Senegal. Meanwhile, in the succeeding days, a policymakers' forum was held wherein invited guest speakers as well as selected CBMS researchers discussed the applications of the CBMS on poverty monitoring, decentralization and local governance. Among the invited CBMS policymakers and partners were those from the national and local governments in CBMS sites in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ghana, Lao, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan, Senegal and Vietnam. All of them expressed their commitment

in supporting the expansion and use of the CBMS for planning, program design and impact monitoring in their respective localities.

Guest resource persons from Indonesia and Thailand were also invited to share their respective country's experiences on the use of local poverty monitoring systems. Dr. Sudarno Sumarto, Director of the Social Monitoring and Early Response Unit (SMERU) Research Institute in Indonesia shared Indonesia's experience on the use of the National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN) monitoring system in the targeting of the social safety net programs during the Indonesian crisis. Ms. Oraphin Mathew, together with Ms. Chalerm Kwun Chiemprachanarakorn of the National Statistical-Thailand, on the

other hand, shared the use of community-level statistics for monitoring in Thailand. Also tackled during the sessions was the potential for the institutionalization of the CBMS.

Full copies of the technical and policy papers presented by CBMS researchers, resource persons and invited policymakers during this year's PEP Conference may be viewed in the PEP network website at www.pep-net.org.

Among the highlights of this year's conference is a visit of the CBMS researchers, policymakers and invited resource persons to selected villages in Senegal and Burkina Faso (see related articles in this issue) where the CBMS has been implemented. *

CBMS Field Visit...Tivaouane...from page 6

At the end of the gathering, Dr. Reyes thanked the Mayor for the very relevant presentations and for the well-organized meeting. She likewise presented the Mayor with a gift as the Network's token of appreciation. The contributions of the following individuals for the successful activity were also acknowledged, namely: Professor Abdoulaye Diagne, the director of CREA, Ian Hopwood, the resident representative of UNICEF-Senegal, and Oumar Cissé, executive secretary of the African Institute for Urban Management (IAGU). The Honourable Deputy Dib Niom and his colleague Aïssatou Sall also reaffirmed the continuation of all necessary support by the National Assembly to the CBMS-Senegal team.



Village officials and sectoral heads/ representatives of Tivaouane convened in a forum organized for the visit of CBMS network researchers and invited policymakers in the community.

Also present during the welcome ceremonies and meeting were the city quarter delegates and departmental heads (education, health, fight against poverty officials, regional development agencies, and others), directors of grassroots community organizations (cultural and athletic associations, women's advocacy groups, savings and

debt cooperatives, and others) and partners in development (a representative of UNICEF was personally present).

The day was capped by a short tour of the city and lunch courtesy of Moustapha Sy, the son of the religious guide. *

News Updates

CBMS Field Visit...Yako...from page 7

residents to better understand situations in their communities. This is deemed important given that more than 90 percent of the village population are illiterate.

Meanwhile, being the first time that data are being produced at the village, communes and department level, no formal program has yet been implemented to address the needs identified through CBMS. However, certain arrangements are being made by local governments to address some major needs such as education (schools need to be redeployed to cover villages, instead of being concentrated in the commune of Yako), health and safe water.

With the data produced and disseminated throughout the villages and the commune, things have started



The use of drawings to show the results of the CBMS survey has made the community better understand the poverty situation in localities in Burkina Faso.

to move on in the department of Yako. As such, two important meetings are slated to take place in Yako in the near future, to discuss the poverty issue based on the CBMS data. In agreement with the CECI, the National Program for Land Management will be using CBMS data in the villages where it will be involved.

Finally, the CBMS team is now working on training the Local Committee for Development in the use of CBMS data. Officials from the province (High Commissioner), the department (Prefect) and Commune (Mayor), have committed to use information from the CBMS in planning for the development of their respective areas. *

Table 1. Various Facets of Poverty in CBMS sites in Burkina Faso*

<p>Nutrition and food security</p>	<p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The rate of latrine construction is very low. ▪ The main buildings are in mud and few of them have a secured cement floor except in sector 1 of Yako.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food insecurity is general in all the villages. ▪ Lower number of meals taken per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People in the villages are under-educated and under-literate. ▪ Schooling level is low as very few children reach secondary school. 	
<p>Health and hygiene</p>	<p>Land property, incomes, and agriculture</p>	<p>Social implications, vulnerability to crises, and personal dignity</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only one village has some health infrastructures. ▪ Sector 1 of the city has only one pharmacy. ▪ The distances to cover to reach the infrastructures are long (4 to 10 km). ▪ No village has a medical evacuation means. ▪ The vaccine coverage of the population is very limited. ▪ More than 50 percent of the population of the villages do not access available health services when there are some, and resort to traditional healers or <i>marabouts</i> for their health problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land belongs to the landlord and to families of the lands, not to individuals. ▪ Seasonal employment is dominant. ▪ The existing credit system in the locality is very little developed and covers few households. ▪ The technique/technology in agricultural production is old-fashioned. ▪ Few households have access to an irrigation system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The level of mobilization in village associations is low. ▪ Less than 40 percent of the people are consulted in the villages for significant decisions. ▪ Concerning marginalization, two households out of 5 are unable to bury their dead decently.
	<p>Material living conditions</p>	<p>Perception of poverty</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drinking water, i.e., water coming from the public fountains, modern wells, drillings, is not accessible to all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food shortage. ▪ Lack of employment. ▪ Lack of income. ▪ Other poverty indicators.

Source of data: CBMS Pilot survey-June/July 2002

*For a more detailed discussion on the results of the pilot survey, see the March 2004 issue of this newsletter.

New Partnerships...from page 8

Also present during the signing was Mandaue City Administrator, Mr. Serafin Blanco.

For Pasay City, meanwhile, the CBMS shall be implemented in all 201 barangays to establish a regular source of information that can be used for planning, program formulation and impact monitoring. For instance, the data to be gathered through CBMS could help the city in its barangay poverty mapping as well as in monitoring the impact of the numerous development programs that the city has been implementing in the past years such as the Bayanihan Credit and Iodized Water Program.

Present during the MOA signing were City Planning and Development Coordinator Engineer Merlita Lagmay, City Cooperative Officer Mr. Rolando Londonio and Chairman of the Brotherhood of Christian Ministers of

Pasay (BCMP) Mr. Valeriano Magbanua. In line with the collaboration, the city government has committed to allocate the required financial support for the conduct of CBMS-related activities for the period August 1, 2004-June 30, 2005.

The implementation of the CBMS in these localities would entail the participation of key local government officials and community leaders and volunteers in the gathering, processing, validation and consolidation as well as dissemination and use of household and barangay level information. The information to be gathered are on key development areas of well being, i.e., income and livelihood, health and nutrition, access to water and sanitation facilities, housing and political participation, among others.

As part of the commitment of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team to these LGUs, on the other hand, the Team will be sharing the CBMS methodology it has developed through the provision of data collection tools, conduct of training workshops for LGU key personnel on data collection and

The implementation of the CBMS in Mandaue and Pasay would entail the participation of key local government officials and community leaders and volunteers.

data processing, provision of the CBMS data processing system software, and technical guidance in the use of CBMS, i.e. development plans, socioeconomic profiles and impact monitoring of specific programs as well as in the preparation of CBMS-related reports. *



The City Government of Pasay led by Honorable Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad signs an agreement for technical collaboration with the CBMS Network Coordinating Team led by Dr. Celia M. Reyes (third from right) for the city-wide implementation of CBMS in Pasay.



Honorable Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Ouano, (middle) together with City Administrator Mr. Serafin Blanco, Dr. Celia Reyes and Ms. Anne Bernadette Mandap (not in picture), signed the MOA between the city and the CBMS Network Coordinating Team for the city-wide implementation of CBMS in Mandaue.

Research Results

Winning the War...from page 4

- CBMS results were utilized as basis for the water supply and road network development program. Specifically, the CBMS results were used in identifying the barangays with low access to safe water supply. With the maps already in place, the office of the MPDC easily identified which barangay is in dire need of the water facilities.
- Finally, the CBMS results will be utilized for the formulation of the Medium-Term Municipal Development Plan for calendar year 2005-2010 as well as the Executive and Legislative Agenda for the next three (3) years.

Concluding remarks

The experience of the Municipality of Labo in implementing the CBMS shows that it requires strong political commitment on the part of the local chief executives at the provincial, municipal and barangay levels for the system to succeed. In addition, the

involvement of the community residents in data collection and processing, given their limited technical capacity, proves to be a big challenge. Their participation is of critical importance in as much as accurate results are needed to implement programs and projects that will help achieve the goal of reducing poverty to the minimum.

For future CBMS activities, officials and program implementers of Labo have given their commitment to be fully involved. Their support had been guaranteed for the new round of survey activities in 2005. At the same time, these officials have committed to promote the awareness and use of the CBMS as a tool for poverty monitoring and local governance. The most critical part, of course, is the institutionalization of CBMS activities in the development programs of the municipality. *

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