

# CBMS Network Updates

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## Local Development Planning Utilizing CBMS Data: The Sta. Elena Experience

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The Municipality of Sta. Elena is situated in the northernmost part of the Bicol Peninsula. It is bounded on the north by the Municipality of Capalonga, Camarines Norte, on the south by the Municipality of Calauag, Quezon, on the east by the Municipality of Labo, Camarines Norte and on the west by Basiad Bay. The town proper is 263 kilometers south of Metro Manila. Sta. Elena is a 4<sup>th</sup> class municipality composed of 19 barangays, with coconut and fishing as the main agricultural industries.

### Rationale for CBMS implementation

The opportunity to use the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) was welcomed in Sta. Elena because of three reasons. One was to enable the municipality to establish a social sector database which is best suited to the needs of the community and comprehensive enough to be expandable to other sectors. Two was the presence of a Geographic Information System (GIS) component in the system which is more readily appreciated by decisionmakers. And three was the financial viability of the CBMS. Given the prohibitive price of a GIS software, it was indeed a welcome reprieve to receive a free soft-

ware such as the CBMS-Natural Resource Data Base (NRDB) with almost the same features as any GIS software.

Nowadays, GIS is increasingly becoming an important tool for local government units (LGUS). It is well known that LGUs regularly make decisions on geographically related issues ranging from land development to environmental health, peace and order or basic service delivery. Since GIS combines geographic data (the locations of man-made and natural features like houses, streets, rivers) and information like names, addresses, classification and coordinates, it is easier for LGUs to analyze data. Moreover, GIS-generated reports and digitized maps used for presentations are readily appreciated and better understood by decisionmakers and laymen alike. In the case of Sta. Elena, maps were digitized using the CBMS-NRDB software.

### Timetable of activities

The implementation of CBMS in the municipality kicked off with a Training Workshop on Data Collection conducted in May 2003. The data collec-

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# Research Results

tion, which was completed four months after, utilized more than fifty enumerators who came mostly from the ranks of barangay workers and were personally handpicked by the barangay chairmen. The workshop on data collection was followed by the seminar on data processing on June 10, 2003 which included an orientation on computerized data processing and an introduction to the CBMS-NRDB. Meanwhile, the data encoding was completed in April 2004.

## Results of the CBMS survey

A summary of the CBMS survey results is presented in Table 1 and briefly discussed in the succeeding sections.

### Demography

Based on the results of the CBMS survey, the total number of households in Sta. Elena is 7,521 composed of 38,091 individuals. The average household

consists of 5 members. Barangay Poblacion has the highest population count among the barangays with 7,690 persons and 1,559 households while Barangay Villa San Isidro has the lowest population and household count at 329 and 61, respectively.

### Health and nutrition

#### Child deaths

Results of the CBMS survey revealed that out of 7,389 children aged 0-6 years old, 59 died during the past year. Thirty eight were males while 21 were females. The highest rate recorded was in Barangay Sta. Elena (Poblacion) where 32 children died. The deaths were mostly neonatal among infants and due to measles among children.

#### Malnutrition

Data for the municipality showed a 4.6 percent prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 0-5 years old. The

highest number of malnourished children was 38 in both barangays of Bulala and Maulawin. Out of the 285 cases of malnutrition, 262 and 23 cases were classified as moderately malnourished and severely malnourished, respectively. Children who were malnourished came mostly from impoverished households.

### Education

**Elementary school participation rate**  
Data from the CBMS survey showed a 78.8 percent elementary school participation rate among children aged 6-11 years old. Barangay Patag Ibaba recorded the highest elementary school participation rate at 91.3 percent while Barangay Villa San Isidro, which does not have an elementary school facility, registered the lowest rate at only 69.5 percent.

#### Secondary school participation rate

The municipality recorded a 45.2 percent secondary school participation rate. This means that for every 100 children with ages 12-15 years, there were only 45 who were attending secondary school. At the barangay level, Brgy. San Vicente was shown to have the highest rate at 57.3 percent while Brgy. Villa San Isidro had the lowest rate at 19.5 percent. Most of the barangays with low participation rates do not have secondary school facilities in their localities.

### Water and sanitation

#### Access to safe water supply

Data from the CBMS survey showed that 38.2 percent of households in the municipality had no access to safe water supply. A high 96.7 percent was registered by Brgy. Villa San Isidro where 59 out of 61 households do not have access to safe water supply. Barangays Patag Ilaya and Salvacion followed where 96.2 percent of households had no access to safe water supply (Figure 1).

**Table 1. CBMS Core Indicators, Municipality of Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte, 2003**

Area of concern	Indicator	Proportion
A. Health	1. Proportion of households with child deaths	0.8
B. Nutrition	2. Prevalence of malnourished children	4.6
C. Housing	3. Proportion of households living in makeshift housing	2.3
	4. Proportion of households who are squatters	3.0
D. Water and Sanitation	5. Proportion of households without access to safe water supply	38.2
	6. Proportion of households without access to sanitary toilet facilities	40.9
E. Basic Education	7. Elementary school participation rate	78.8
	8. Secondary school participation rate	45.2
F. Income	9. Proportion of households with income below the poverty threshold	70.8
	10. Proportion of households with income below the food threshold	52.4
	11. Proportion of households that experienced food shortage	3.6
G. Employment	12. Unemployment rate	14.2
H. Peace and Order	13. Proportion of households with members who were victims of crimes	0.8

Source of data: CBMS Survey 2003

## Access to sanitary toilet facilities

Out of the total number of households surveyed, 40.9 percent did not have access to sanitary toilet facilities (defined as water-sealed or flush toilet facilities). The barangays of Patag Ilaya and Patag Ibaba showed the highest proportion of households without access to sanitary toilet facilities (94.3 and 92.1 percent, respectively). It was noted that most of the barangays without access to sanitary toilets are also those that had low access to water. These barangays are mostly located in rural upland and coastal areas.

## Shelter

### Informal settlers

Only 3.0 percent or 224 out of 7,521 households living in the municipality are classified as informal settlers. The biggest number of informal settlers was recorded in Brgy. Pulong-guitquit with 94 households. In the Poblacion area, there were 45 squatting households while 30 households were classified as squatters in Brgy. San Lorenzo.

Informal settlers, although minimal, represent migrants who are looking for economic opportunities in the municipality. The rapid population growth has also contributed to this problem.

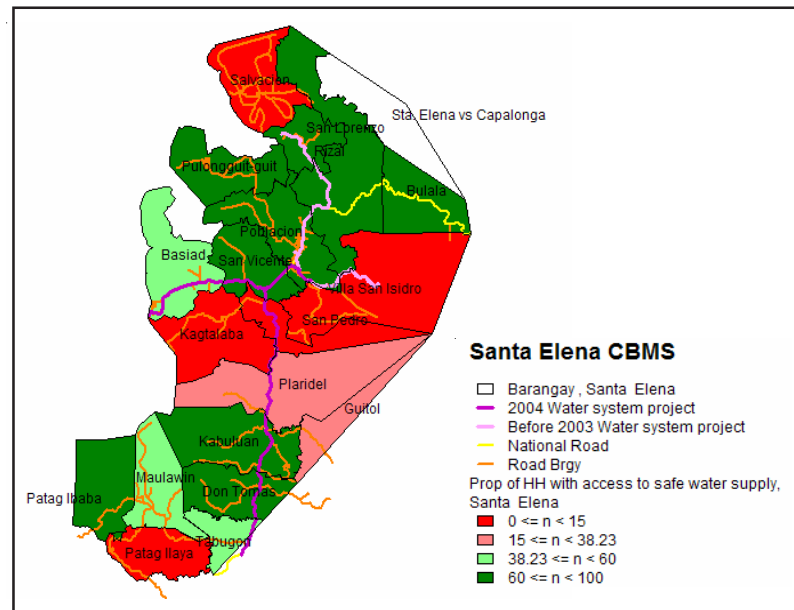
### Makeshift housing

Brgy. Poblacion had the highest number of households living in makeshift housing with 37 households. Barangays San Lorenzo, San Pedro and Bulala were found to have 26, 24 and 22 households living in makeshift housing, respectively.

## Employment

Unemployment rate in the municipality stood at 14.2 percent or a total of

**Figure 1. Proportion of households with access to safe water supply, Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte, 2003**



Source of data: CBMS Survey 2003

1,750 unemployed individuals from its 12,357 labor force population. Barangay Poblacion had the most number of unemployed individuals with a total of 322. Barangays Basiad and Patag Ibaba both had the highest proportion of unemployed individuals at 24.7 percent.

Programs in employment generation are enhanced by providing skills development training and establishing linkages for job generation through the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of the municipal government.

## Income and livelihood

### Households with income below the poverty<sup>1</sup> and food<sup>2</sup> threshold

Even though the municipality registered a low rate of unemployment, more than 75 percent of the households can still

be classified as poor and more than 50 percent are subsistence poor. Barangay Salvacion was found to have the highest proportion of households with incomes below the poverty threshold (94.0 percent) while Brgy. San Pedro registered the lowest at 55.9 percent.

Meanwhile, Barangays Patag Ibaba and Salvacion had the highest proportion of households with incomes below the food threshold (84.9 and 82.0 percent, respectively).

Barangay Salvacion is noted to be the poorest barangay in the municipality. This can be attributed to the lack of barangay roads which hampers residents from transporting their goods to the market.

Farming and fishing are the main sources of income for the residents. However, the development of these sectors is hampered by financial con-

<sup>1</sup>The poverty threshold used was P12,006 for rural and P15,300 for urban areas for 2003. The poverty threshold was computed by inflating the provincial poverty threshold by the average provincial consumer price index in the last 12 months.

<sup>2</sup>The food threshold used was P8,278 for rural and P9,776 for urban areas for 2003. This means that for every 100 households, 52 households did not have enough income to satisfy their food needs.

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straints. In response to this, short term programs have been initiated to provide livelihood projects to farmers and fishermen. Aside from loan assistance for farm inputs ranging from fertilizer to seed inputs, skills development trainings are regularly conducted to increase the capability of the workforce. In the case of women, they were also provided with training through skills development to contribute to the expansion of household income opportunities.

## **Food shortage**

Food shortage was experienced by 274 households in the municipality. Brgy. Maulawin had the most number at 83, followed by Brgy. Pulong-guitguit and Brgy. Kagtalaba with 49 and 38, respectively.

In order to partially address the situation, food programs geared toward agricultural production or backyard food production such as vegetable gardening and swine dispersal are continuously being promoted and funded at the municipal level.

## **Peace and order**

### **Victims of crime**

Sixty out of 7,521 (0.8%) households in the municipality had members who were victims of crime. Fifty-nine cases of theft were recorded with a total of 84 victims. Barangay San Lorenzo had the most number of households with members who were crime victims at 32. Meanwhile, only six out of 19 barangays had households with members who were crime victims.

Notwithstanding this, the shortage of police personnel in the municipality does not augur well for the peace and order situation. The present police force of the municipality stands at 18 policemen serving 38,091 residents in sharp contrast to the standard where there should be 1 policeman for every 1,000 population.



*Mr. Bimbo Doria presenting the results of the CBMS survey in their locality during the PEP Research Network Meeting in June 2005 in Sri Lanka.*

In summary, the results of the CBMS survey conveyed that the municipality of Sta. Elena is performing poorly, particularly in basic education, water and sanitation, and income and livelihood. It is, however, performing well in health and nutrition, housing, and peace and order.

## **Uses of CBMS Data in Sta Elena, Camarines Norte**

The Sta. Elena experience demonstrates anew the concrete uses of CBMS, particularly in local governance and poverty monitoring. It shows that CBMS data can:

### **Facilitate efficient and needs-based resource allocation**

A fourth class municipality such as Sta. Elena has an average annual budget of Php35,000,000.00, of which 20 percent or roughly Php7,000,000.00 should be utilized for development projects. With the implementation of the CBMS program and the establishment of a social sector database, major improvements in the budget allocation of the social sector have been realized. For instance, an additional Php1.5 million or a 54 percent increase was earmarked for social services. These included an increase in funding for child welfare programs, particularly the Child Friendly Movement under the Fifth Country Program for Children (CPC V).

While a four percent decrease in social sector development allocation was programmed for 2005, the municipal government of Sta. Elena is still confident that efficiency in fund utilization can be achieved since development plans are now based on the results of the CBMS survey.

An example of focusing funds may be seen in the supplemental feeding program where Php120,000.00 was allocated in calendar year 2004 to improve the nutritional status of 300 Grade 1 pupils. A counterpart fund in the amount of Php 100,000 was also provided by the Department of Education (DepEd) for de-worming and other related health projects. With the success of the program, planning for replication was shifted to a different age group that was not previously covered: children aged 6 to 36 months who are severely and moderately malnourished. After validating the data, it was found out that the said age group has only 97 cases of malnutrition and funds needed for the program shall amount only to Php 40,000.00. Thus, the proposal was approved with less fund allocation without sacrificing the objectives of the program.

Utilizing the CBMS database, the local government of Sta. Elena was also able to invest in programs with additional benefits of providing safe water to more

households. Currently, the Municipal Water System is providing safe water to 1,300 households and with the additional investments in 2004 and 2005, 700 more households will be provided with the same service.

*Aid the design, targeting and impact monitoring of social services and development programs*

## 1. Fifth Country Program for Children (CPCV)

Launched in CY 2002 was the advocacy on upholding child rights through the UNICEF program called the Fifth Country Program for Children. CBMS data on children can supplement the data generated through the Minimum Basic Needs Program of the Social Reform Agenda.

## 2. Malnutrition

In the past, agencies such as the DepEd, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Health (DOH) implemented separate nutrition programs based on their target recipients. For instance, the Municipal Health Office covered the nutritional needs of infants aged zero to two years old while the Municipal Social Welfare Office covered the nutritional needs of children aged three to five years old. The DepEd, on the other hand, catered to school children with ages ranging from 6 to 12 years. With the CBMS database and the CPCV, convergence of available funds and focus on the most number of children in need of the nutrition program has been addressed.

## 3. Maternal health

Noted in the survey are cases of child death (neonatal) due to lack of awareness on maternal health. This in turn led to programs that address the situation through trainings and re-trainings of birth attendants (hilot)

and replenishment of their birth attendant kits.

## 4. Scholarship and literacy program

Enacted this year is an ordinance implementing an Educational Assistance Program geared to provide scholarships for deserving members of indigent families. One of the reliable tools for determining residency and whether an applicant belongs to an indigent family or not is the CBMS database. In addition, literacy classes were conducted for adults through the "Education for All" program.

## 5. Water supply program

Data from the CBMS were used to monitor the impact of the program on the construction of a water supply system. Results, as gleaned from Figure 1, show that the project was indeed constructed accurately and led to an expansion of areas with access to safe and potable drinking water.

The local government of Sta. Elena is now utilizing the CBMS-NRDB to prepare its Land Use Plan. CBMS data were also used in the preparation of project proposals that can be funded by international organizations. For instance, the local government of Sta. Elena was

able to submit a Php 54 million project proposal that can be funded under the Infrastructure for Rural Productivity Enhancement Sector Project.

## Cost of the implementation

Table 2 shows the breakdown of the cost of the CBMS implementation in the municipality. Funds for the activities came from various sources such as the development and general funds of the municipality. The barangays have likewise contributed. Total cost for the project amounted to Php150,000 (US \$2,778.00) or Php20.00 per household.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the CBMS program has provided the local government of Sta. Elena with a good tool that gives realistic and timely information to local decisionmakers and other stakeholders. It also provides an assessment of the needs of the locality and serves as a guide in charting their course of action for poverty alleviation. \*

**Table 2. Cost of CBMS Implementation in Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte**

Activity	Fund Source	Amount (Php)	Amount (US \$)
CBMS trainings	Development fund	30,000.00	556.00
Data gathering	Barangay fund	15,000.00	278.00
Capital outlay	Development fund	35,000.00	648.00
Additional encoder	General fund	48,000.00	889.00
Miscellaneous expenses	General fund	22,000.00	407.00
<b>Total project cost</b>		<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>2,778.00</b>

# CBMS Gains Strong Following in Eastern Visayas\*

A total of 16 municipalities from four provinces in Eastern Visayas have recently agreed to implement the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) as a tool to aid them in identifying who and where the poor are in their respective communities, and why they are poor. The municipalities include Capoocon, Jaro, Pastrana, Sta. Fe, Tabon-tabon and Tolosa in Leyte; Basey and Pinabacdao in Samar; Balangiga, Can-avid, Jipapad, Maslog, San Julian, San Policarpio and Sulat in Eastern Samar; and Cabugcayan in Biliran.

An "Orientation on CBMS and Trainers' Training Workshop" held on January 11-14, 2005 at the Jasmine Beach Resort in Marabut, Samar marked the start of the CBMS project. With the CBMS Network Coordinating Team led by Dr. Celia Reyes together with Kenneth Ilarde and Joel Bancolita as resource persons, the orientation brought together 80 local government unit personnel, staff from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and non-government organizations, Social Action Directors, parish priests and representatives from the academe.

During the training, the participants formed themselves into the CBMS Network-Eastern Visayas that will serve as the region's poverty reduction cadres. The Network is composed of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinators (MPDCs), Local Poverty Reduction Action Officers (LPRAOs) and Municipal Local Government Officers (MLGOOs). One of the network's major

*Mayor Floro Katangatang of Jaro (right) and Mayor Hilario Caadan of Tolosa (third from left) together with some municipal planning and development coordinators from the municipalities in the Eastern Visayas region attentively listen to the discussions during the mayor's forum.*



tasks is to monitor poverty information and assist their respective LGUs in crafting poverty reduction programs that effectively and truly target the poor.

The orientation-workshop was a follow-through of the Consultation on Core Local Poverty Indicators Monitoring System that took place on December 14-15, 2004, and was sponsored by the Institute for Democratic Participation in Government (IDPG), Philippines Misereor Partnership-Eastern Visayas (PMP-EV) Cluster, and the National Anti-Poverty Commission Office of the Vice-Chair for Basic Sectors in coordination with the Regional Offices of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), DILG, National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), and the Office of the Vice Governor of Leyte.

Said consultation resulted in the formation of the CBMS Technical Working Group-Eastern Visayas Chapter composed of Leyte Vice-Governor Mimiette Bagulaya, Cabugcayan Vice-Mayor and PMP-EV Cluster Claire Napoles, IDPG Chair and Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU) Professor Castor Gamalo, DILG's Blanca Cercado and Carol Opeña, NSCB Regional Director Eva Paran, DSWD Assistant Regional Director Letty Corillo, Regional Development Council (RDC) Co-Chair Pauline Nyara, Regional Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAH)

Convergence Group (RKCG) Vice Chair Dr. Johnny dela Cruz and NAPC Vice Chair for the Basic Sectors, Oscar Francisco.

To date, the municipalities have already conducted their respective training for enumerators and have finished administering the CBMS survey instruments. An estimated 850 enumerators have been mobilized to gather household level information from 80,431 households in the 486 barangays of the 16 municipalities.

The two-part training on data processing have also been conducted with technical assistance from the CBMS Team. The first part, which focuses on data encoding and digitizing of spot maps, was held on April 27-28, 2005 while the second part, which focuses on generating and mapping results from the encoded data, was held on July 26-27, 2005. Both trainings were held at the Ritz Tower de Leyte in Tacloban City.

The partnership between the CBMS Network Team and the CBMS-TWG Eastern Visayas Chapter is expected to pave the way for a better understanding and appreciation by the LGUs of the importance of having data banks in their respective areas that can inform them on the welfare status and needs of the communities at the household level. \*

\*This article was prepared by Don Romero and Carol Opeña of the CBMS-Eastern Visayas Project Team.

## DILG Advocates Use of CBMS for MDG Benchmarking and Poverty Diagnosis\*

With its forging of a partnership with the CBMS Network Coordinating Team, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) has adopted the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) as the data collection and processing mechanism for the Core Local Poverty Indicator Monitoring System (CLPIMS). CBMS as a tool for generating the Core Local Poverty Indicators (CLPIs) at the local level would complement the national level poverty monitoring systems. CBMS would fill in the void of information at the local level by supplying disaggregated information to be able to diagnose poverty and identify appropriate interventions to targeted beneficiaries at the local level.

The CBMS has also been incorporated in the various projects of the DILG particularly on poverty diagnosis and benchmarking of local MDG indicators. Under the project “Strengthening Local Government Capacity for Poverty Assessment, Plan Formulation and Monitoring” of the World Bank-ASEM Technical Committee for Poverty Monitoring and Analysis, for instance, three pilot provinces, namely, Marinduque, Camiguin and Masbate, are in various stages of institutionalizing the monitoring system in their respective provinces.

CBMS is also being advocated to be used by the following pilot cities supported

by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in localizing the MDGs, namely:

- Marikina, Muntinlupa, and Pasay in the NCR;
- Antipolo, Tagaytay, San Jose Del Monte, Science City of Munoz, and Sorsogon in Luzon; and
- Calbayog and Mandaue in the Visayas.

These areas were chosen because of their potential for success as well as their capacity to influence and trigger multiplier effects in surrounding municipalities.

The Science City of Munoz of Nueva Ecija, for one, has already used the generated information from CBMS in secur-

ing assistance from donor agencies while the City of San Jose City Del Monte in Bulacan is currently in the process of fully implementing the CBMS. Tanuan City, through its own initiative, is already half-way in completing the process of institutionalizing the monitoring system.

In addition, the DILG is now in the process of scaling up the establishment of CBMS as the instrument to generate the CLPIs for poverty diagnosis and planning and monitoring local progress on MDGs. With the conclusion of the National Trainers Training for Regional MDG and poverty focal persons, the regional offices are now in full blast advocating the establishment of the CBMS at the local levels. \*



*Governor Carmencita Reyes of Marinduque during the training on data collection in Boac, Marinduque.*



*Selected staff of the City Planning and Development Office of the city of Muñoz during the training on data encoding and digitizing.*

\* This article was prepared by the Bureau of Local Government Development of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

# Bulacan CBMS Goes Full Blast\*

To ensure the success of the province-wide implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) in Bulacan — the first time that such an organized system of monitoring and data collection for the whole of Bulacan is being adopted—Governor Josie Mendoza-dela Cruz announced that the Provincial Government of Bulacan has allocated P10 million for the project. Governor dela Cruz further pointed out that the results of the project shall be used as basis in policymaking and in the formulation of responsive programs and projects that will address the needs of the Bulakeños.

Funding for the project, which will cost around Php10.7 million, shall come from two sources: 50 percent will be shouldered by the provincial government and the other 50 percent will be shared among the 22 municipalities and two cities of the province.

The province has tapped the expertise of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team led by Dr. Celia Reyes, head of the CBMS International Coordinating Network, in the implementation of the project.

The province, in coordination with the municipalities and cities, has also mobilized survey enumerators to gather data on poverty indicators including health, nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation, basic education, income, employment, and peace and order. Governor dela Cruz noted that these core indicators have been identified on the basis of the multi-dimensional aspects

of poverty. She is thus hopeful that this monitoring system will be institutionalized and sustained by the various local government units to reflect the significant concerns of the communities especially in their fight against poverty.

The first week of January 2005 marked the start of the simultaneous conduct of the CBMS survey in 569 barangays. Prior to the conduct of the survey, various training and orientation workshops were provided by the Provincial Planning and Development Office of Bulacan and the CBMS Network Coordinating Team to all the municipalities and cities of the province. The series of training included sessions on data enumeration, digitizing of spot maps, data encoding and processing.

To date, 90 percent of the total households in the entire province have already been surveyed, with approximately 30 percent of the household information gathered during the data collection phase already encoded and

ready for initial processing. In this connection, a rigorous monitoring by the LGUs concerned has taken place with regard to the survey completion and encoding of data.

Finally, with the CBMS in place, Governor dela Cruz said that the people of Bulacan will become even more empowered, citing that their active participation and involvement in the project will guide policymakers and program implementers in their communities in the crafting of poverty alleviation programs. This will enhance the program on Constituent- Responsive Governance that the Governor had also previously introduced which underscores the importance of satisfying the priority needs of the customers and relating to them in a better way through a systematic means of getting citizen feedback. \*



*Conduct of Training on Data Encoding and Digitizing led by the CBMS Network Team and the PPDO Technical Staff held at the Bulacan Polytechnic College Computer Center last May 2005.*

\* This article was prepared by the Provincial Planning and Development Office of the Provincial Government of Bulacan.

## Agusan del Sur Responds to the Challenge of Development Governance\*

The Province of Agusan del Sur marks this month its first year in implementing the community-based monitoring system (CBMS), a tool for planning, program formulation, policy-impact and poverty monitoring at the local level.

### Early beginnings

The vision for a CBMS project in Agusan del Sur took root in August 2004 when a team of provincial government officials visited the Planning and Development Office (PPDO) of the Province of Palawan which was spearheading the successful implementation of CBMS in the province.

Upon their return to the province, they sought the approval of Governor Adolph Edward Plaza in adopting and institutionalizing the system through the issuance of an Executive Order (EO), a move supported by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP). An EO creating a CBMS project team under the PPDO swiftly followed, headed jointly by the Macro Development Sector Chief Edna Tongson and SP Member Allan Santiago.

The immediate tasks of the 11-member team were to create a detailed plan of action, secure financial resources needed to implement the plan, and together with the Voluntary Services Organization, enter into a MOA with the CBMS Network Coordinating Team.

Advocacy activities and discussions of concerns were immediately conducted. Tentative arrangements were made on

*Ms. Josephine Escaño (sitting) of PPDO Palawan explains to the officials of the PPDO Agusan how the CBMS was able to help the provincial government of Palawan in the development of their plans and programs.*



the budgetary requirements. Additional measures were also agreed on such as the creation of CBMS technical working groups at the municipal and, where possible, barangay levels. These collaborations were later formalized through a MOA between the Governor and the Municipal Mayors. Funding of the project was covered under cost-sharing arrangements between the province and the 14 municipalities.

### Technical assistance and capacity-building

Technical collaboration between the Provincial CBMS Team, the 14 municipalities and related agencies started with the design of the survey instruments and the determination of additional indicators. The survey questionnaire was created and field-tested with the guidance of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team,

A 4-day "Training of Trainers" was likewise conducted in March this year. Afterwards, during the months of April and May, almost 2,000 enumerators throughout the province were trained by the trainers from the municipalities.

Before the survey operation, an information dissemination campaign was conducted, including interviews with the project team leader over the local radio station and regular announcements over the airlines during the survey operation.

As the survey operations were nearing completion, the CBMS Network Coordinating Team returned to Agusan del Sur in May to conduct a 2-day training on data encoding and map-digitizing for personnel from the 14 municipalities, together with the Provincial CBMS Team.

Meanwhile, training on data processing using the CBMS Simulator and CBMS-NRDB softwares was conducted on August 30-September 1, 2005, with more than 50 participants from the 14 municipalities and staff from the provincial government in attendance.

According to the PPDO, all of the 14 municipalities in the province are set to reveal their welfare conditions based on the CBMS survey results by the end of September. Meanwhile, the fully consolidated province-wide picture of the development status of Agusan del Sur is scheduled to be unveiled before the end of the year. \*

\*This article was prepared by the CBMS-Agusan del Sur Project Team.

# Palawan Adds New Dimension as it Prepares for 3rd CBMS Round\*

After successfully adopting the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) as part of its annual planning process, the Provincial Government of Palawan has recently ventured into another related project that aims to produce the poverty map of the entire province. The project is in collaboration with the Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF) and the Palawan Network of NGOs, Inc. (PNNI) and it will help in targeting priority areas and sectors for development work by ranking municipalities according to the bottom 20 percent or 20 percent worse-off in terms of their welfare status. CBMS-generated data will be used as input in the preparation of the poverty map.

This latest undertaking further enhances the use of the CBMS as a tool for planning, program formulation and impact monitoring of government interventions in the Province of Palawan which started in March 1999. It also promises to provide more useful information for the next *Palawan Human Development Report*. The *Report*, the first such report at the provincial level in the country, not only contains an updated basic demographic information about the province but also assesses the condition of Palawenos across municipalities in terms of income and livelihood, sanitation, health, nutrition, security and shelter



*Participants from the municipalities in Palawan were provided hands-on training on data encoding and digitizing of spot maps.*

and education. The inclusion of a poverty map for the entire province will thus give an added dimension that can help in easily pinpointing who the poorest of the poor are – the ones who should get the priority attention for poverty interventions.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) is currently gearing up for the third round of CBMS implementation in the province. To date, it has conducted orientation seminars on the CBMS for the enumerators in the barangays of Cuyo, Magsaysay, Agutaya, Linapacan, Cagayancillo, Dumarán, El Nido, San Vicente, Aborlan, Narra, Española, Brooke's Point, Bataraza, Rizal, Quezon and Balabac. It has also undertaken follow-up visits to check the extent of survey coverage and edit accomplished household questionnaires and processing forms (purok and barangay tally sheets). In addition, the PPDO has held validation workshops in Aborlan and

Dumarán with the barangay chairmen and enumerators to confirm the CBMS initial results. Similar validation workshops shall be conducted in the remaining municipalities. To facilitate the computerized processing of household questionnaires, a training on computerized encoding and processing of CBMS data was also conducted by the PPDO in the second week of August 2005.

Governor Joel Reyes, a staunch supporter of the project, credits the CBMS for giving direction and guidance in crafting the province's development agenda as well as in enhancing the recognition and credibility of the province's local governance and political leadership. \*

\* This article was prepared by Ms. Josephine C. Rabang, Economist II, Research Statistics and Evaluation Division, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Provincial Government of Palawan

## CBMS Gains New Ground in Pasay City\*

After a slow start, the Pasay City CBMS Team is steadily gaining ground in the data collection stage of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) project, recently completing the enumeration phase in 75 out of the total 201 barangays in the city. This covered 40,078 households with a total population of 183,763. Records from the National Statistics Office show that Pasay City had more than 78,000 households in 2000.

Meanwhile, household level information from 45 barangays have been completely encoded using the encoding system developed by the CBMS Network Coordinating Team. The City Planning and Development Office also reported that eight barangays in the pilot zone (Zone 19) were already able to digitize their maps.

### Advantages of CBMS

Implemented last year, the conduct of the CBMS in Pasay City aims to establish a regular source of information that can be used for planning, program formulation and impact monitoring by the city officials. The data gathered through the CBMS are expected to help the city in its barangay poverty mapping as well as in monitoring the impact of the development programs that the city has implemented in recent years such as the Bayanihan Credit and Iodized Water Programs.

During the CBMS National Conference in 2004, Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad lamented the shotgun ap-

proach commonly used by local chief executives in addressing poverty issues, noting that "they aim the shotgun, pull the trigger and cross their fingers with the hope that at least one shot will hit all targets." He praised the CBMS Network Coordinating Team for providing local government units (LGUs) with a tool that will not only determine the actual number of poor people in their communities but will also help them diagnose the extent of poverty, determine its causes and formulate appropriate and relevant policies to address the problem.

Based on the initial results of the CBMS survey in selected barangays, Engr. Merlita Lagmay, head of the City Planning and Development Office, acknowledged the problems and stressed that the City Government is already taking concrete steps to alleviate the plight of their constituents. She added that the city's implementation of the CBMS not only affirms the seriousness of the City Government in improving the lot of the people of Pasay but also demonstrates its unwavering commitment to implement cost-effective programs that will benefit the targeted sectors in the community. \*



*Some of the participants during training on the preparation of the socioeconomic profile (SEP) discuss among themselves their strategy in drafting their first ever SEP.*



\*This article was prepared by Maria Norian Alvarado of the City Planning and Development Office of the City Government of Pasay City.

### ...in Camarines Norte

As part of the continuing implementation of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in Camarines Norte in the Bicol Region, the CBMS Network Coordinating Team conducted a Trainer's Training on Data Collection in Daet, Camarines Norte on August 3-5, 2005.

The training was in line with the implementation of the CBMS in the 12 municipalities of the province. The implementation will be the second round for the municipalities of Basud, Labo, San Lorenzo, San Vicente, Sta. Elena and Talisay while it will be the first round for the municipalities of Capalonga, Daet, Mercedes, Panganiban, Paracale and Vinzons. Among these 12 municipalities, eight are starting the implementation this year while the remain-

ing municipalities will start early next year.

Three to five representatives from each of these municipalities attended the training. The participants were from the planning and development office, social welfare and development office, department of interior and local government office, agriculture office, health office and other municipal offices. Several municipal councilors and a representative of the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) also attended the activity. The PPDO, having taken an active role in the CBMS implementation, will be providing technical assistance for the municipal trainings as well as some funding for the direct costs to be incurred in the implementation. \*

### ...in Mandaue

Two training seminars were conducted by the CBMS Team for Mandaue City's lead CBMS personnel. The first training, which was held on June 8 to 10, 2005, focused on digitizing of spot maps. The second training, meanwhile, which was conducted on September 8-9, 2005, focused on data processing using the CBMS Simulator and CBMS-NRDB softwares. Both trainings were held at the Angelo King International Center in Manila. The personnel came from Mandaue's City Administrators Office (CAO).

As of this date, Mandaue is in the processing stage and is expected to finish the first wave of CBMS activities within the year. The ultimate objective, of course, is to be able to come up with the City's development plans and activities for the benefit of the Mandaue constituents. \*

## CBMS Field Visit for Bhutan Delegates

The CBMS Team has recently organized a field visit for the delegates from the Royal Government of Bhutan. The field visit organized for the Statistical Research and Training Center was part of a 7-day workshop on "Strengthening MDG Monitoring with the Development of Poverty/MDG Indicator Maps for the National Millennium Development Goals Task Force of the Royal Government of Bhutan." The workshop was intended to enhance the capacity of the Royal Government of Bhutan in the preparation of plans for the development of a Bhutan Poverty/MDG mapping and

monitoring system. The weeklong activity entailed technical sessions, hands-on write-shop sessions, and a field visit to areas where CBMS is being implemented. The CBMS field visit, in particular, aimed to provide the workshop participants with an opportunity to interact with CBMS implementers and stakeholders, and obtain first-hand information on how CBMS is being operationalized and utilized for development planning and monitoring at the local level.

Among the CBMS sites that were visited by the delegates were Pasay City

in Metro Manila, Municipality of Norzagaray and the provincial government of Bulacan. Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad of Pasay City and Mayor Matilde Legaspi of Norzagaray, together with some of their technical staff, were on hand to welcome the visitors and presented the strategies they utilized in their CBMS activities. Meanwhile, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator Ms. Arlene Pascual shared the strategies they employed in the implementation of the CBMS in the whole province of Bulacan. \*

## Broadening the CBMS Reach: Linking with Potential Local Partners

Over the past several months, a number of local government units (LGUs) have expressed interest in implementing the CBMS in their respective localities. Among these LGUs are:

### Region IV-B

The CBMS Team was recently invited in the Regional Development Council (RDC) meeting of Region IV-B to present the concept and components of the CBMS so that the Council may have a better appreciation of the system as a possible development planning instrument. Region IV-B is composed of the provinces of Palawan, Marinduque, Romblon, and Occidental and Oriental Mindoro.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of Marinduque Governor Carmencita Reyes, acting chairperson of the RDC IV-B, of the initial results of the CBMS in her locality. The province of Marinduque is implementing the CBMS with technical assistance from the CBMS Team in collaboration with the Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). Governor Reyes mentioned that CBMS has been instrumental in providing vital information in the province that can be used for planning and program implementation.

To date, the RDC IV-B, through the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Technical Secretariat for Region IV-B, has already passed a resolution on the adoption of the CBMS as the database management system in

the region. Aside from Marinduque, Palawan, for the third time, is also implementing CBMS (see related article on this issue).

### Region V

The Regional Statistical Coordination Committee (RSCC) has recently passed Resolution No. 01-05 "Recommending the Adoption of the Community-Based Monitoring System by Local Government Units in the Bicol Region" during a committee meeting.

Upon the passage of the resolution, the Regional Inter-Agency Monitoring Task Force on LCPC Functionality, as chaired by the DILG, advocated the adoption of the CBMS as a tool in establishing benchmarks that could be used as basis in formulating local plans and policies as well as a tool in monitoring and evaluating the results of the planned local interventions in five provinces and seven cities of the region.

### Eastern Samar

The province of Eastern Samar has also expressed interest in implementing the CBMS as a direct result of the discussions held during the "Second Consultative Conference on Institutionalizing Poverty Alleviation Initiatives in Eastern Samar" on July 29, 2005 at the Provincial Capitol Building in Borongan, Eastern Samar.

### Oriental Mindoro

In line with the issuance of DILG Memorandum Circular 2003-2 directing the "Adoption of Core Local Poverty Indicators for Planning", the province of Oriental Mindoro has sought technical

assistance from the CBMS team in its plan to implement the CBMS as a tool for gathering information for the Core Local Poverty Indicator Monitoring System (CLPIMS).

At the moment, the province does not have an existing monitoring system that will help them formulate a Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan as mandated in the circular. As such, the province sought the help of the CBMS team in the undertaking of data collection, processing and analysis, and establishment of a databank for the baseline information to be gathered for poverty monitoring.

### Municipality of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte

Selected staff of the municipal government of San Nicolas in Ilocos Norte visited the CBMS office on September 8, 2005 for a briefing on the CBMS. The briefing was in line with the interest of Mayor Alfredo P. Valdez, Jr. to implement the CBMS in his locality.

Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, Ms. Edna Tolentino, Municipal Administrator, Ms. Marilyn Tolentino, and Municipal Local Government Officer, Ms. Janette Duarte, accompanied by Ms. Nona Londonio, consultant of CONCEP, were provided by the CBMS team with background information on the CBMS as well as with some of the preparatory activities needed to jumpstart the implementation of the CBMS.

January 2006 was set as the tentative date for the start of the CBMS activities in the municipality. \*

# CBMS Team Gears up for Launch of CBMS Development Grant Program

The CBMS Network Coordinating Team will open a call for expressions of interest for a total of 40 small grants amounting to PhP6M under the CBMS-Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF) Development Grant Program. The program, which will be launched during the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on Community-Based Monitoring System on September 28, 2005, will award grants to partner local government units (LGUs) of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team to help them implement programs that will address specific development needs identified through the CBMS.

A total of 40 municipalities from the priority provinces (Agusan del Sur, Camarines Norte, Eastern Samar and Palawan) of the PEF will be qualified to avail of the grant. The activities that are eligible for funding are programs and interventions which meet community preferences and respond to the vision of PEF to have empowered communities that (a) have the basic needs of life—food, health, education, shelter, water; (b) engage in socio-cultural and economic activities; and (c) participate meaningfully in local governance.

The PEF is a non-stock, non-profit organization that manages and preserves the value of the PEACE Bonds endowment fund to promote opportunities for the poor to liberate themselves from poverty.

### Financing poverty reduction

Citing the program's rationale, Dr. Celia Reyes, PEP Co-Director and CBMS Network Leader, said that development

grants are expected to encourage LGUs and NGOs to formulate interventions based on the actual situation of the community, assist only those who are eligible beneficiaries and assess the impact of this intervention. "We believe that these could be done if all of these activities are based on solid data such as the data they get from the CBMS," she added.

A number of donor agencies have already signified their interest to support the project and to use the CBMS as a tool for their grant selection and impact monitoring. According to Dr. Reyes, these agencies have found the program very attractive since this would only mean modifying their evaluation procedure without increasing the grants that they are giving. "It may just mean realigning some funds toward projects in their priority areas that are more data-based," she added. Meanwhile, a series of meetings are already scheduled with other development partners to also get their commitment to support the program.

### CBMS Development Grant Program: a background

An initiative of the CBMS Network Coordinating Team of the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies-De La Salle University, in collaboration with various development partners, the CBMS Development Grant Program aims to promote good governance and greater transparency in resource allocation through evidence-based needs identification, program design and impact monitoring.

A screening committee headed by the CBMS Network Leader will lead the evaluation of proposals to assess the project's viability, feasibility and sustainability. Meanwhile, the following minimum conditions must be met for a project to be eligible under the CBMS Development Grant Program:

- Proponent must be a local government unit (barangay, municipality/city, province) or a registered non-government organization or people's organization based in the project site;
- If an LGU, proponent should have completed at least one round of CBMS implementation;
- Proposed project or intervention must be consistent with the validated CBMS survey results and should meet community preferences;
- Proposal must contain a description of concrete activities for the intervention and steps for monitoring and evaluation of the project; and
- The activity must be completed between January and August 2006.

Complete program information, eligibility guidelines, and application procedures will be unveiled during the National Conference on CBMS this September. \*

## CBMS as an Approach in Localizing the MDGs

### *DILG Memorandum Circular No.2004-152*

To assist local government units (LGUs) in contributing to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and uplifting the quality of life of their constituents, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Memorandum Circular No. 2004-152 which provides guidelines to LGUs in the localization of the MDGs. The Philippines, together with 189 UN member states, committed to address the global targets set against the eight MDGs.

In a decentralized system of government like the Philippines, the LGUs have significant roles to play in achieving the MDGs. As provided under the Local Government Code of 1991 or Republic Act 7160, LGUs assume the primary responsibility for the provision of basic services and facilities and the improvement of the quality of life of their constituents. Likewise, the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act of 1997 gives the LGUs the frontline role in the fight against poverty. The law tasks the LGUs to be responsible in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Anti-Poverty Reduction Agenda within their area of jurisdiction.

The DILG, through its Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD), has taken on the responsibility of localizing the MDGs by virtue of Social Development Council (SDC) Resolution No.1 Series of 2003 mandating the DILG to take the lead in MDG localization.

#### The MDG localization framework

The national government provides the enabling environment for the LGUs to be aware, committed and capacitated to address the MDG targets in the locality. The DILG developed the MDG localization framework to guide all localization efforts and initiatives. The MDG localization framework identified a set of desired outcomes for an MDG-responsive LGU which includes the following:

1. a local development plan incorporating the MDG targets and corresponding increase in budget allocation for MDG-responsive PPAs;
2. local policies that facilitate the achievement of the MDGs;
3. local monitoring system to benchmark LGU contribution in the attainment of MDG targets and to track down accomplishments vis-à-vis targets;
4. improved delivery of basic services through replication of good practices; and
5. inclusion of accomplishment of MDG targets as one of the performance commitments of the LGUs.

To carry out these outcomes under the localization framework, LGUs need to be equipped with knowledge and skills through the following interventions: (a) advocacy, (b) policy formulation, (c) development of tools and instruments, and (d) documentation of good practices.

For LGUs to perform all these tasks, they need to know the nature and extent of poverty in their localities. These information will not only provide them with data on the conditions of the people in the community but may also assist them

in developing policies, plans and programs, aid them in proper allocation of resources, and help them in the delivery of basic services which are all attuned to the attainment of the MDGs.

To generate these information, LGUs may choose from the following monitoring instruments such as:

1. Local Government Performance Measurement System (LGPMS),
2. Minimum Basic Needs-Community Based Poverty Indicator System (MBN-CBIS); and Community Based Poverty Indicator Monitoring System (MBN-CBPIMS),
3. Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP),
4. Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), and
5. Other local monitoring tools.

The CBMS is being used by the BLGD-DILG in their implementation of localizing the MDGs in Tanauan City in Batangas Province and Muñoz City in the province of Nueva Ecija (see related article in this issue).

LGUs may also diagnose their situation using the Core Local Poverty Indicators Monitoring System (CLPIMS). These are the sets of carefully selected human development and income-based indicators (Table 1) dedicated to diagnose and monitor poverty situation which was adopted during the 7<sup>th</sup> En Banc Meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission through En Banc Resolution No. 7 and disseminated at the local levels through DILG Memorandum Circular 2003-92 in April 2003. An additional indicator on maternal health was included to harmonize the CLPIs with the MDGs. O 16

\*\*This article is an excerpt from a report prepared by the Bureau of Local Government Development of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

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**Table 1. Core Local Poverty Indicators Harmonized with the Millennium Development Goals**

MDG	Indicator
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Proportion of households with income less than the poverty threshold
	Proportion of households with income below the food threshold
	Proportion of persons 15 years old and above who are not working but are actively seeking work
	Proportion of children 0-5 years old who are moderately and severely underweight (below normal-low and below normal-very low)
	Proportion of households who eat less than three full meals a day
	Proportion of households with members victimized by crime
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	Proportion of 6-12 year-old children who are not in elementary school
	Proportion of 13-16 year-old children who are not in secondary school
Goal 3: Promote gender equality	(can be generated from indicators of Goal 2 since data are gender disaggregated)
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	Proportion of children under five years old who died
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	Proportion of women who died due to pregnancy-related causes
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases	Proportion of households without access to safe water
	Proportion of households without access to sanitary toilets
Goal 7: Ensure Environmental sustainability	Proportion of households who are squatters
	Proportion of households with makeshift housing

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