CBMS DATABASE – Tool for Recovery and Sustainable Development

TACLOBAN CITY

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Tool for Recovery and Sustainable Development of Tacloban City

OVERVIEW OF CBMS - TACLOBAN CITY

A. A Background on the Implementation of CBMS in Tacloban City

Wave 1

The Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Wave 1, by the time of its implementation during the last quarter of 2008, was only an offshoot activity of the City Nutrition Office, assigned to handle the poverty reduction program of Tacloban City.

The program needed an updated social data and CBMS was seen as a tool to acquire such database and so, CBMS Wave 1 was implemented during that time.

Drawbacks on the implementation of CBMS Wave 1.

1. No appropriate funding
2. It was not a citywide coverage
3. The program was handled by the City Nutrition Office
4. No proper monitoring of the CBMS activities as to the
   - Enumeration
   - Mapping
   - Matching
   - Encoding
   - Digitizing
   - Validation
5. Data gathered was not reliable given only 78 barangays enumerated out of the 138 barangays in the city

Wave 2

CBMS Wave 2 was implemented on February, 2011 by virtue of a Memorandum of Agreement by the City Government of Tacloban with the Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Network Coordinating

Team of the Angelo King Institute for Economic and Business Studies and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) through the Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD), to be implemented in the city level by the City Planning and Development Office.

In reference to the first implementation, CBMS Wave 2 has been successfully implemented citing the following factors:

- Logistic support - The City Government, realizing the importance of the program, allotted 4M for its implementation.
- Trainings - Key personnel were properly trained on various components of CBMS implementation. Aside from actual and hands-on training for technical knowhow, lead trainers/resource persons conducted the succeeding CBMS workshops for enumerators and encoders in the city.
- Proper implementation - The various phases of implementation were carried out effectively and efficiently in order of the outlined activities.
- Coordination – CBMS was a concerted effort of the different departments specially the City Population Office, having utilized in full force more than 100 Barangay Service Point Officers as CBMS enumerators.

Reasons for implementation of CBMS

As previously outlined, CBMS Wave 1 was not a direct project. It was an offshoot of the poverty reduction program of the city where an updated social data was needed. Nevertheless, after Wave 1, it was seen that CBMS was able to collate raw data that could prove useful to the local government. The Chief Executive saw the need to obtain an updated and reliable first hand data for the proper identification of priorities and projects as needed and where needed, specifically in the social sector which the city government gave priority considerations. Also, CBMS could prove useful in the planning and implementation of programs where appropriate decisions will then be made anchored on an accurate database.

As presented through a project proposal and seeing the merit of the project, the Chief Executive, Hon. Mayor Alfred S, Romualdez entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the CBMS stakeholders to adopt a citywide CBMS Wave 2 in Tacloban City.

CBMS Coverage and Status

Tacloban City has implemented two rounds or two waves of the program. Wave 1 was implemented in the last quarter of 2008 while round 2 or wave 2 was on February, 2011 until October of 2013.

The following are the details as to the coverage of the Tacloban CBMS implementation:

- Tacloban City has gone through 2 CBMS waves
- Wave 1 which was a partial implementation only covered 78 barangays and ____ households
- Wave 2 was a city-wide implementation with a coverage of 138 barangays with 34,574 households

Of the 138 barangays, the following are being undertaken to fully complete wave 2:

- 15 barangays for matching and poverty mapping
- 5 barangays with unfinished enumeration

Availability of Data

The CBMS data is readily available to various data users for their specific data needs. CBMS Tacloban has provided data to the following:

- The academe – student researchers, instructors and professors for their requirements
- Business sector – entrepreneurs, particularly the new locators were provided data for their particular interest
- NGAs, NGOs
- The City Government of Tacloban – the city in itself is a primary user of its own data for reporting and validation purposes. The Urban Heart Program of the national government awarded the City Government of Tacloban in its implementation of said program using the CBMS health indicator for specific barangays.
- Other departments of the city uses CBMS data on specific barangays for their validation such as the City Agriculturist's

Office, City Schools Division, City Social Welfare and Development Office, City Popcom and others.

The CBMS data is readily available to these above-mentioned data users and others who may need the information. The data is disseminated or acquired through soft or hard copies for free. The City Planning and Development Office, as stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement, manages the data as the repository of these raw and processed CBMS data.

Types of Data Available:

In the CBMS database, there are two kinds of data namely:

- Raw data
- Processed data

As it has been stated, these data are readily available to those who will need them. Also, all the indicators has been encoded and so CPDO can disseminate any or all the data indicators from demography to social, economic and others that were specifically asked from the respondents.

Tacloban City adheres to the commitment on transparency and so CBMS guarantees that all information gathered can be used in its raw form or processed form. Correct and reliable data is vital as a catalyst for appropriate action and accomplishment of the data user/s.

B. CBMS Database as a Tool for Recovery and Sustainable Development of Tacloban City

Actual Uses of CBMS

Pre Yolanda:

The CBMS data was very useful in many ways before disaster struck the city. The raw data and some processed data were used by the academe, government agencies, NGOs, private persons and others who needed information. These groups and individuals were provided with their data needs from the CBMS database by the CPDO.

At most, before the disaster, the CBMS data was primarily used for research, validation, evaluation and priority setting to include decision making of various stake holders and data users. It was considered a good start for the city government to be able to use reliable first hand data through the CBMS as it is a fact that LGUs are mostly dependent upon the NSO for their data needs. But now, with the CBMS database, there came a sense of purpose aside from convenience and ease of obtaining and providing data.

Post Disaster Activities:

After Yolanda, CBMS data was the primary data source that Tacloban City used for its various activities and post disaster operations. Together with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) as the guiding map for Tacloban City, the raw and processed data, were used by various stakeholders who committed to the rehabilitation plan of the city. The data was provided/accessed through soft and hard copies, provided to the different data users and rehabilitation implementers.

Disaster Operations and CBMS Utilization:

Tacloban City conceived three phases of the disaster operations namely:

- Retrieval and clearing operations
- Relief operations and
- Normalization operations

Retrieval and clearing –

Relief Operations –

CBMS data was used in the validation of residents in the barangay level for distribution of relief goods as accessed by:

- City Social Welfare and Dev. Office
- CDRRMO
- Barangay Affairs Office
- NGAs and NGOs
- LGUs

- International Organizations such as: UNICEF, UNDP, UN for Habitat, CRS, Oxfam, Save the Children, Tzu Chi, UNESCO, USAID, JICA, CFSI, etc..
- Governments of other nations
- Religious and sectoral groups
- Others

Data Accessed:

- Household previous residency
  a. List of families affected as to extent of damage
  b. List of beneficiaries of bunkhouse
- Household membership
  a. List of families affected as to extent of damage
  b. List of beneficiaries of bunkhouse
- Age bracket (barangay level)
- Barangay Demography (Core Indicator)
- Household Location on Digitized Map
  a. Initial list of household within the 40-meter no build zone.

Normalization Operations –

The City Government of Tacloban is serious in its goal to rehabilitate the city and bring everything into normal condition, although it will not come as easy as planned. The utilization of the CBMS database has proved useful and convenient considering it was in its culminating period just months before the disaster. The various international organizations, NGAs, NGOs and nations that committed to the rehabilitation of the city were using the CBMS database as their basic information with regards to the various identified indicators such as:

- Demography
- Households
- Status of residents
- Status of occupancy
- Educational indicators
- Type of dwelling unit
- Health indicators
- Skills available
- Employment

- Others

Given the needed data, the City Government of Tacloban prepared a Disaster Rehabilitation and Sustainable Development Plan for the city as it formed the Tacloban Recovery and Sustainable Development Group, in collaboration with UN Habitat. It is a composite group with various stakeholders and local and international relief groups, government agencies, NGOs and other such groups committed to help in the rehabilitation of the city.

The CBMS database, in accord with the city's CLUP provided needed information for a sustainable rehabilitation plan of Tacloban City. Taking this into account are the specific indicators that were processed.

- Housing
- Demography
- Digitized maps
- Education
- Health and sanitation
- Employment and skills
- Status (occupancy, residency)

CBMS processed data provided information for specific data needs for the rehabilitation groups such as:

- Identification of beneficiaries for new communities with permanent housing units
- Identified sites for construction of new school buildings
- Identified sites for the construction of new safe and secured evacuation centers
- Identification of beneficiaries for employment opportunities
- Identification of beneficiaries for livelihood programs for skilled and non-skilled workers
- Identification of households along danger zones
- Continuous provision of needed health care programs to identified vulnerable communities   and
- Other programs and projects deemed priority for the rehabilitation of identified affected households and communities

Challenges in the course of the CBMS Implementation

- Politics
- Indifference/passive attitude of the constituents
- Constant change and movement by the CBMS composite staff. With the team's work status as Job Order and meager salary they are being "pirated" by other agencies or private companies due to their technical knowhow and expertise in their respective field of assignment.
- Mobility
- Barangay Level validation
- Household Map location
- Data Collection Refusal

Addressing the challenges in the course of the CBMS Implementation

The CBMS Team were well aware that although everything has been planned and details were outlined for its implementation, it is far from easy as outlined in the activities of implementation. The following strategies were drawn to address the problems.

- Personal contact by the administrative implementers of the program with barangay officials
- End-user of the data were advised to do on-site validation since all data were validated only at the city level.
- Lobbying for the retention of key CBMS staff or for additional field personnel
- Fielding enumerators/field workers in their own barangays
- Digitized maps must be compatible with the GIS map data
- Coordinating with barangay officials during barangay caucus to insert info dissemination on the importance of CBMS and the importance of being counted.
- Evaluate reasons of household refusal and consider their inclusion in the list (affected by the typhoon)

C. Recommendations

Institutionalization of CBMS Tacloban

Considering the importance of an updated, reliable database, it is paramount for an LGU to keep a databank that is readily available for all its needs in terms of evaluation, assessment, priority setting and other similar activities for efficient and effective delivery of basic services.

CBMS Tacloban has only done 2 waves of CBMS and it has proved its point in data usage in the time of dire need. With this fact, we see the need to institutionalize CBMS as a regular project under the City Planning & Dev. Office with corresponding annual budget allocation.

For it to be reliable and successful, it must be implemented with the following components:

- City-wide implementation with adoption of the Climate Change indicators with zero household refusal as target
- GIS data on mapping
- Hired personnel for the duration of the project - from preparatory activities to validation of data

Reasons for Institutionalizing CBMS

It is a known fact that most LGUs are dependent upon the data coming from the NSO and NSCB. Moreover, the data from these offices are updated every 5-10 years after which it will take another 1 to 2 years before the result is released and published. Most often than not, the data is no longer applicable to some extent due to period considerations.

Likewise, there is a mandate that agencies have to use the NSO data and their methods of calculations as the official data in their respective agencies regardless of the period it has been collated.

Fortunately for LGUs, CBMS collated data has been accepted as an official data of any CBMS implementing LGU. This is a milestone for LGUs with CBMS data base. Moreover, these are some of the added advantages of institutionalizing CBMS in LGUs particularly Tacloban City, the first HUC of Eastern Visayas.

- Reliable and updated local raw data
- local programs/projects in consonance with needs – as needed, where needed
- precise executive policies and decisions
- efficient and effective delivery of service