



The Many Faces of Poverty in Eastern Samar*

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Cover photo (left): Daily scenes of rural life in the Province of Eastern Samar. (Source: www.batch2006.com)

In 2006, the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) was implemented in Eastern Samar. The partial results of the CBMS survey covering 94 percent of the total number of barangays in the whole province (562 out of 597) are now available. This article presents a summary of these partial results.

Of the total population, about 176,798 or 51.7 percent are male while 165,032 or 48.3 percent are female. Males outnumber their female counterparts with a sex ratio of 107.1 males for every 100 females. This is higher than the national sex ratio of 101.43 recorded in the 2000 Census on Population and Housing.

Population Profile

Based on the available results, Eastern Samar has a population of 341,830 and a total of 70,523 households with an average of 4.8 persons per household.

Borongan City, the provincial capital, has the largest population in Eastern Samar, contributing 15.0 percent, followed by Guiuan (10.9 percent), Oras (7.7 percent), Llorente (5.3 percent) and Canavid (5.3 percent). The least populous municipality meanwhile, is Maslog (1.1 percent).

CBMS core indicators

Table 1 summarizes the list of CBMS core indicators for the province of Eastern Samar. Each indicator is discussed in greater detail in the succeeding paragraphs.

Child Deaths

Of the 49,495 children under five years of age, 384 or 0.8 percent died 12 months before the census period. Overall, the percentage of male child deaths was 55.5 percent while that of female child deaths was 44.5 percent. [O next page](#)

* Excerpts from the paper on the partial results of the consolidation of the CBMS data of 562 out of 597 barangays in the Province of Eastern Samar. Note that the ranking of the top five municipalities in terms of population may not yet be consistent with the results of the 2000 Census on Population and Housing pending submission of CBMS data from the remaining 35 barangays.

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Indicator	Households		Population					
	Magnitude	Proportion	Magnitude			Proportion		
			Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Children 0-5 years old who died			384	213	171	0.3	0.3	0.3
Women who died due to pregnancy-related causes			72	0	72	1.3	0.0	2.4
Malnourished children 0-5 years old			2,965	1,400	1,565	6.0	2.8	6.2
Household living in makeshift housing	1,875	2.7						
Household that are informal settlers	2,368	3.6						
Household without access to safe water	13,013	21.3						
Household without access to sanitary toilet facilities	21,194	30.1						
Children 6-12 years old not attending elementary school			13,532	3,642	9,890	23.5	23.6	23.9
Children 13-16 years old not attending high school			14,823	9,009	5,814	40.2	30.3	35.3
Children 6-16 years old not attending school			16,320	10,332	6,000	46.6	39.9	43.2
Household with income below the poverty threshold	44,773	65.2						
Household with income below the food threshold	27,118	39.6						
Household that experienced food shortages	19,128	28.3						
Members of the labor force who are unemployed			21,892	11,430	10,462	30.1	23.8	26.7
Victims of crime			1,409	600	809	0.4	0.3	0.3

Table 1. Summary of CBMS Core Indicators, Eastern Samar, 2006

Among the municipalities, Jipapad had the highest under-five mortality rate where 58 out of its 941 children died before they reached age five. On the other hand, Mercedes had a zero under-five mortality rate.

Meanwhile, among the 562 barangays, Brgy. 13 Poblacion in Salcedo recorded the highest proportion of child mortality with 4 deaths out of 22 children under five years of age.

Women deaths

There were a total of 72 cases of women deaths due to pregnancy-related causes in the province. The highest proportion of maternal deaths was observed in Jipapad where 7 out of 166 women died of complications related to pregnancy and child birth. Meanwhile, the municipalities of Giporlos, Mercedes and Sulat recorded zero maternal deaths.

Malnourished children

A total of 2,965 out of the 49,495 children in the province whose ages ranged from 0 to 5 are malnourished.

There was almost parity between male and female who are malnourished (50.3 percent for males and 49.7 percent for females).

Across municipalities, the highest proportion of malnourished children was recorded in Jipapad with more than 50 percent of children 0-5 years old being moderately or severely underweight. Meanwhile, Brgy. Recare, also in Jipapad suffered from severe malnutrition with 62 out of 67 children being malnourished.

Households living in makeshift housing

Among the province's 70,523 households, 2.7 percent lived in houses whose walls and roofs were made of makeshift materials.

The Municipality of Can-avid registered the highest proportion of households living in makeshift housing while among barangays, the highest proportion was recorded in Brgy. Minanod in the Municipality of Llorente.

Households that are informal settlers/squatters

The province recorded a total of 2,568 informal settler or squatter households. In terms of magnitude, most of these informal settlers can be found in Borongan City (13.7 percent). In terms of proportion to households, meanwhile, the highest was observed in Brgy. Gayam in the Municipality of Taft where 96 percent or 48 out of 50 households were considered squatters. The least number of squatters, on the other hand, was in Balangkayan with only 24 squatter households out of a total of 1,762. Moreover, only 3 out of 561 barangays namely, Barangays Naga, Cambilla and Poblacion 4 in the Municipalities of Oras, Quinapondan and Lawaan, respectively, registered zero cases of squatter households.

Access to safe water

The 2006 CBMS survey revealed that 2 out of 10 households in the entire province have no access to safe water. This problem is magnified in the Municipality of Maslog where all of its 680 households have no access to safe water.

Meanwhile, a total of 32 barangays in the province are entirely without access to safe water which affects a total of 2,215 households. On the other hand, 21.4 percent or 120 out of 561 barangays in the province reported having already access to safe water.

The main sources of drinking water were shared faucet from community water system (30.95 percent), shared artesian well (21.88 percent) and shared deep well (9.74 percent).

Access to sanitary toilet facilities

The proportion of households with own water-sealed flush to sewerage/septic tank was 54.42 percent. Of the 23 municipalities comprising the province of Eastern Samar, Maslog

recorded the highest proportion of households without access to sanitary toilet facilities, with 57.6 percent or 392 out of 680 households without access. At the level of barangays, 2 (Brgys. San Isidro and San Miguel in the Municipalities of Lawaan and Giporlos, respectively) had no access to sanitary toilets. Only 15 out of the 562 barangays in the whole province reported having access to sanitary toilets.

Elementary school non-participation

The elementary non-participation rate of school-aged children (6-12 years old) in the Province of Eastern Samar stood at 23.5 percent. This means that 2 out of every 10 children in the province are not attending elementary school.

This problem is especially prevalent in the Municipality of Hernani where the elementary non-participation rate is almost twice the provincial average. Among barangays, the highest proportion of children aged 6-12 years old who are not attending elementary school was registered in Brgy. Padang in the same municipality. Out of 187 children, 181 or 96.8 percent were not going to elementary school.

Secondary school non-participation

For secondary school non-participation rate of children aged 13-16 years old, the figure stood at 43.2 percent, meaning that 4 out of every 10 children in this age range were not attending high school.

This problem was widely felt in Maslog where 78 percent or 294 out of 377 children were not attending secondary schools.

Meanwhile, all children aged 13-16 years old in at least three barangays in the province were not attending high school. Two of these affected barangays are in the Municipality of Maslog.

Only one barangay in the entire province registered 100 percent secondary school participation: Brgy. 5 Poblacion in the Municipality of Llorente.

Male non-participation rate in high school exceeded that of females at 60.4 percent vs. 39.6 percent.

School non-participation of children aged 6-16 years old

A total of 16,820 out of 101,421 children in the province aged 6-16 years old are not attending school with the highest proportion among municipalities recorded in the Municipality of Hernani at 34 percent or 789 out of 2,321 children while at the barangay-level, this problem was very prevalent in Brgy. Padang, also in the Municipality of Hernani where 97.4 percent or 261 out of 268 children were not attending school.

Households with income below the poverty threshold

Poverty incidence or the proportion of households with income below the poverty threshold (P13,257 for Rural and P13,704 for Urban) in the province stood at 63.5 percent or a total of 44,773 out of 70,523 households.

Except for 8 municipalities, all municipalities in the province had poverty incidence rates that exceeded the provincial figure, with Jipapad, Maslog and Arteche topping the list at 84.2 percent, 80.6 percent and 77.2 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, all households in at least 5 barangays in the province had incomes below the poverty threshold. Two of these barangays are in Borongan City. The city however, also registered the lowest poverty incidence at 47.2 percent. Across barangays, Brgy. Trinidad in the Municipality of Oras posted the lowest poverty incidence at 3.6 percent.

Households with income below the food threshold

The subsistence incidence in the province was posted at 52.6 percent, meaning that more than half of the households in Eastern Samar had incomes that cannot provide for their basic food requirements.

Jipapad, Arteche and Hernani were the top 3 municipalities with the highest subsistence incidence rates, while, Borongan City registered the lowest subsistence incidence at 36.3 percent. All 23 municipalities had subsistence incidence rates in the double-digit range.

Across barangays, the highest proportion of households with income below the food threshold (P9,442 Rural / P9,430 Urban) was observed in Brgy. San Andres in Borongan City where 98% or 99 out of 101 households had incomes that cannot meet their basic food requirements.

Food shortage

A total of 10,120 out of 70,523 households in Eastern Samar experienced food shortage. A wide disparity among municipalities was observed, ranging from a high of 68.4 percent (Maslog) to a low of 4.2 percent (Dolores). Only 11 municipalities had incidence rates of food shortage that were less than the provincial average of 14.3 percent.

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Across barangays, the highest proportion of household which experienced food shortage during the past three months before the survey period was registered in Brgy. Mabuhay in the Municipality of Oras (95.2 percent or 99 out of 104 households).

Unemployment

The number of persons in the labor force in Eastern Samar who were 15 years old and above and were either employed or unemployed at the time of the survey was registered at 124,587.

Meanwhile, the number of unemployed was recorded at 25,092 which resulted in the provincial unemployment rate of 20.1 percent. Of the 25,092 unemployed, 45.6 percent were male and 54.4 percent were female. All 23 municipalities exhibited double-digit unemployment rates, with Hernani recording the highest proportion of the unemployed.

At the barangay level, this problem was widespread in Brgy. Bacjao in the Municipality of Balangiga where 70.6 percent were unemployed.

Victims of Crime

Out of the total population of 341,830, a total of 1,409 persons were victims of crime. About 66.1 percent of these victims were male while 33.9 were female.

The highest proportion of persons who were victims of crime was registered in the Municipality of Oras at 2.1 percent and in Brgy. Minap-os in the Municipality of Oras at 30.4 percent.

CBMS simple composite indicator

The CBMS simple composite indicator (SCI) essentially summarizes the characteristics of each population unit by just counting the number of unattained indicators out of the 14 core indicators of CBMS. This is particularly useful for planners and policy implementers at the local level who need to derive a ranking of households, puroks and barangays to facilitate the targeting of their anti-poverty programs.

The SCI at the household level is simply derived by assigning the values of zero (0) for attained and one (1) for unattained indicators. With a minimum of zero (0) and maximum of fourteen (14), a ranking of households can thus be derived.

Approximately, 57 percent (13 out of 23) and 54 percent (286 out of 527) of the total municipalities and barangays, respectively, have simple composite indices (or the number of unmet needs) that are much higher than the provincial average of 2.5 percent.

Benchmarking Eastern Samar's performance

Table 2 compares the performance of the Province of Eastern Samar, based on the indicators on health, housing, water and sanitation, income and employment, vis-a-vis similar indicators from regional and national censuses and representative surveys. As clearly shown, the province had exceeded regional and national figures in 5 and 7 out of 10 indicators, respectively.

Meanwhile, the province had very good performance on the following

indicators: prevalence of child malnourishment, incidence of households living in makeshift housing and households regarded as informal settlers. Notwithstanding this, a watchful eye is still needed with respect to the following situation particularly for local government units that are lagging behind:

■ The Municipality of Jipapad posted a 54.5 percent child malnourishment rate which is almost twice the national average. At the barangay level, a total of 31 barangays had proportions of underweight children higher than the national average of 27.6 percent.

■ At least 10 barangays in the province registered proportions of households living in makeshift housing that are higher than the national figure.

■ Four barangays posted proportions of informal settler households that are much higher than the 35.6 percent recorded in the Annual Poverty Indicator Survey (APIS) conducted in 2004.

Poverty Reduction Framework of the Province of Eastern Samar

Poverty reduction remains a major challenge faced by the provincial government of Eastern Samar. While a report from the National Census and Coordination Board (NSCB) revealed that poverty incidence in the province declined from 45.8 percent in 2000 to 33.9 percent in 2003, the latest CBMS survey results showed a much higher rate. The CBMS data showed a comprehensive picture of the different dimensions of poverty in the province not only in terms of income but also in terms of poverty dimensions like basic education, health and nutrition,

housing, water and sanitation access, and other social indicators.

After having known the nature and extent of poverty in the province as well as who the poor are, where they are, and why they are poor, there is now a need to provide directions for cooperation, coordination and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve a unified stand in addressing core issues of poverty.

Many poverty reduction programs and projects have been implemented in the province by foreign donors, national agencies, non-government organizations, and the local government units. These interventions, however, have been largely implemented in isolation from each other, thus reducing the impact in dealing with the many forms of poverty in Eastern Samar. The scarcity

of donor and government resources makes it all the more imperative to have a convergence of efforts and collaboration among poverty reduction stakeholders.

In response to this, the Eastern Samar Reduction Program, as shown in Figure 1, provides guidelines in the planning and implementation of poverty reduction interventions in the form of policies, programs and projects. It presents the goals and targets to be achieved by 2015, the strategies, and priority actions (see Box 1).

Priority Actions

Poverty assessment and profiling using CBMS as main tool. Poverty profiles need to be updated regularly to serve as guide in policy formulation and focused targeting of poverty groups.

Poverty profiles of municipalities should include information on the assets base of the poor.

Service delivery improvement. There is a need to review existing interventions in the province to increase effectiveness, and expand and refocus them in a convergent manner to poverty areas for better impact on the lives of the poor.

Increase and intensify the pro-poor focus of programs and projects. There is a need to increase the opportunities for the poor to be freed from their poverty situation. This should be emphasized in the following sectors for sustainable economic growth and equitable social development:

Agriculture and Fisheries

The agriculture sector has the biggest potential for employment generation. Farmers need to be assisted in various manner such as in achieving high productivity through access to cost-effective appropriate technologies and gaining access to more markets for their products as well as to credit facilities. The Agrarian Reform Community approach of support services needs to be replicated and expanded as an effective way of addressing the needs of the agriculture sector.

Small-sized farms need to be consolidated into larger production units for economy of scale and higher productivity. The utilization of idle public lands for productive purpose should be explored.

The campaign against destructive fishing methods needs to be intensified. There is a decreasing productivity in the fishery sector especially in municipal waters as a

Table 2. Comparison of the Performance of Eastern Samar on Selected Indicators with Similar Indicators from National Censuses and Representative Surveys

	Eastern Samar		Regional Average	National Average
	Magnitude	Proportion		
Malnourished children 0-5 years old	2,965	6.0	31.1a/	27.6a/
Households living in makeshift housing	1,879	2.7	-	19.5b/
Households who are informal settlers	2,568	3.6	-	35.6b/
Households without access to safe water	15,013	21.3	20.5b/	19.8b/
Households without access to sanitary toilet facilities	21,194	30.1	26.1b/	13.8b/
Children 6-12 years old not attending elementary school	15,752	25.0	20.0d/	9.3b/
Children 13-16 years old not attending high school	14,923	50.8	-	25.5b/
Households with incomes below the poverty threshold	44,773	63.5	35.3a/	24.4b/
Households with incomes below the food threshold	37,118	52.6	15.4a/	10.2b/
Members of the labor force who are unemployed	25,092	20.1	-	7.8c/

a/ National Human Survey 2005

b/ Annual Poverty Indicators Survey 2004

c/ Labor Force Survey, July 2007

d/ Basic Education Information System, 2004

e/ HCEI estimates based on the results of the results of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey of the National Institute of Statistics (NCS)

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result of the destruction of coral reefs and mangroves, and overfishing.

Trade and Industry

Micro and small industries need to be encouraged and supported as major income and livelihood sources. The vast resources in the province need to be transformed into marketable finished products for value adding. Technology support, credit facilities, and market linkage are some of the assistance that can be given to the sector.

Tourism

Eco-tourism has the potential of helping the poor improve their lives through income and employment generation. The province has to be promoted as an eco-tourism destination considering its pristine beaches, scuba diving sites, surfing areas, forest trekking areas, caves, and historical and cultural sites. The current massive campaign to promote Calicoan Island in the municipality of Guiuan as a beach resort and surfing destination par excellence is an

advantage that the province can exploit.

Health and Nutrition

Current health programs and projects on the improvement of health facilities, immunization, nutrition, reproductive health and primary health care shall be improved and expanded to benefit the poor. The indigent health insurance program of PhilHealth shall be supported by local government units through enrollment of more indigents and provision of subsidies.

The water and sanitation programs shall likewise be given extra push to drastically reduce the number of households that have no access to safe drinking water and sanitary toilet facilities.

Education

Programs aimed at increasing participation rates, cohort survival rates, and achievement rates in both elementary and secondary levels shall be intensified and expanded. These

include building more schools and equipping them with basic facilities, assigning more teachers in these areas, and improving the capability of teachers and administrators. The expansion and improvement of Early Childhood Care and Development Program shall also be prioritized.

Tertiary institutions shall be encouraged to reposition themselves to offer school curricula that are responsive to the development needs of the province.

The Special Education Fund of LGUs shall be utilized to improve basic education in the province.

Social Welfare

Ensuring that the marginalized groups like differently-abled, elderly, children, and other vulnerable sectors have access to social and economic opportunities shall be given particular importance.

Infrastructure

The unreliability of the power and energy sector has remained a major hindrance in poverty reduction initiatives. Efforts therefore need to be exerted not only to increase service area coverage but more importantly, to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

The improvement of the national road, particularly the Taft-Borongon-Guiuan section and the completion of the road that connects Eastern Samar to Northern Samar via the Arteche-Lapinig Road should also be given importance. This shall be complemented with the construction and improvement of farm-to-market roads to benefit farmers and rural interior communities.

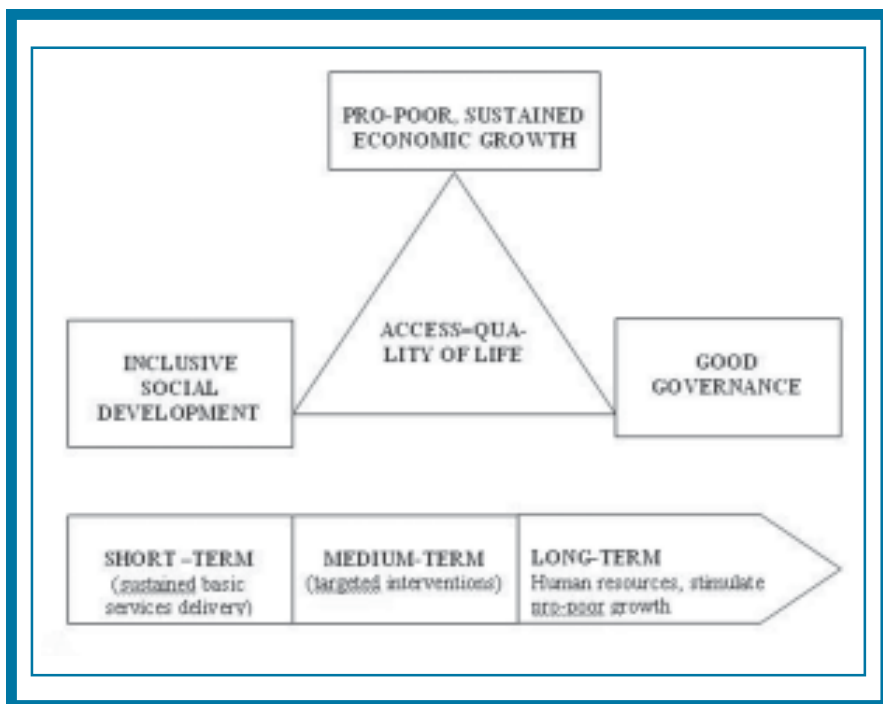


Figure 1. Poverty Reduction Framework of the Province of Eastern Samar

Governance

The elimination of red tape in the access by the poor to services shall be given renewed effort. Other measures like the establishment of a Financial Management Information System encouraging cost-saving and transparency shall also be institutionalized.

The procurement procedures of both national and local governments need to be reviewed to make them graft-free and transparent.

Environment

The degradation of the province's forest and marine resources hurt the poor. Extra efforts should therefore be exerted to minimize and eventually obliterate anti-ecological practices like illegal logging and mining and destructive fishing.

Building capacities of structures and service providers

An integrated human resource development program to include cooperative development, training and capability building of NGOs and POs, and the organizational development of LGUs shall be implemented as part of the overall human development and institution building goal. Current institutional arrangements need to be reviewed and new ones established to facilitate the planning and implementation of cost-effective program and project interventions.

Mobilizing resources for poverty reduction

Finally, the resources of the government, particularly the local government units, to address the multi-dimensional poverty problem are limited given the magnitude of the funding requirements. Hence, the assistance of government financial institutions, and the business sector shall be pursued. *

Box 1:

POVERTY REDUCTION GOALS AND TARGETS

By 2015, the following poverty reduction targets shall be attained :

- The proportion of malnourished children reduced from the current 6 percent to 4 percent;
- The proportion of households without access to safe water reduced from 21.3 percent to 5 percent;
- The proportion of households without access to sanitary toilet facilities reduced by half from 30.1 percent to 15 percent;
- The proportion of children 6-12 years old not attending elementary school reduced from 25 percent to 5 percent;
- The proportion of children 13-16 years old not attending high school reduced from 50.8 percent to 25 percent;
- The proportion of households with income below the poverty threshold reduced from 63.5 percent to 20 percent;
- The proportion of households with income below the subsistence threshold reduced from 52.6 to 25 percent;
- The proportion of members of the labor force who are unemployed reduced from 20.1 percent to 5 percent;

- Significant economic growth achieved through increased investments in eco-tourism, micro, small and medium industry development, aqua-marine development, agricultural diversification and modernization;
- Provincial, municipal, and barangay profiles using CBMS data updated once in every three years and used as basis for anti-poverty planning and focused targeting;
- Poverty concerns mainstreamed in local development plans;
- More families involved in sustainable livelihood activities supported by LGUs;
- Civil society organizations, church groups, business groups to serve as active partners of both the national and local governments in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of poverty-reduction interventions;
- An anti-poverty forum conducted annually to assess the poverty situation and the results of poverty initiatives, draw up new ones, and derive lessons;
- Monitoring and evaluation done regularly as basis for formulating new poverty-reduction initiatives.

STRATEGIES

- Make national and local governments, non-government organization and other institutions more effective and efficient by building their capabilities to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate poverty reduction programs and projects;
- Strengthen local structures like the local development councils and other special bodies to enable them to better perform their poverty reduction tasks; and
- Integrate all anti-poverty interventions in the province which are funded by national government agencies, non-government agencies, and donors for better results.
- Converge all poverty reduction efforts in areas that are the most deprived shown by CBMS data;



CBMS gains foothold in Bicol

Participants of the 3-day Training on CBMS Module 2 held in Sto. Domingo, Albay last May 17-19, 2006, pose for posterity with the trainers from the CBMS Network Coordinating Team.

The Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) continues to gain new ground and support from local government units in the Bicol Region as the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Regional Office V conducts advocacy campaigns and briefings on the program to newly elected officials.

The newly elected local officials and functionaries were oriented about the CBMS during the E-LOG and CBMS Orientation for the 6 provinces in the region. A separate CBMS Orientation for the newly elected officials of the 1st District of Camarines Sur was also conducted by the DILG Regional Office in coordination with the League of Mayors of the 1st District of Camarines Sur and the Office of Congressman Dato Arroyo.

Other LGUs which signified their interest on the CBMS Project and whose local officials and functionaries were provided with an orientation briefing are the Municipalities of Tiwi in Albay, and Tinambac and Bombon in

Camarines Sur. The other LGUs which manifested their interest for the project through the official letter they sent to the DILG office are the municipalities of Castilla in Sorsogon; Tiwi in Albay; Ragay, San Fernando, Pasacao, Pamplona, Libmanan, Del Gallego, Cabusao and Sipocot in Camarines Sur.

CBMS Implementation in the Bicol region

The Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS) was pilot tested in 2005 in selected local government units in the provinces of Sorsogon, Albay and Camarines Sur which include the City of Ligao and Municipality of Libon, City of Sorsogon; and City of Iriga and the Municipalities of Lupi and Minalabac.

Out of the 6 LGUs implementing the project, the Municipality of Lupi has so far completed the project requirements. Except for Sorsogon City, the other remaining 4 LGUs are in the process of completing the project. As of December 2007, the Cities of Iriga and Ligao and the Municipalities of Minalabac and Libon are completing the preparation

of the Socio-economic Profiles and Barangay Development Plans. The delays in the completion of the project requirements of the abovementioned LGUs are due to the other programs, projects and activities being implemented by them, the technical problems experienced in the operation of the system(virus), lack of computer units and manpower, and the major typhoons that devastated the region.

Use of CBMS data

Despite the problems encountered, though, they continue to struggle in order to carry-out the project. Moreover, the LGUs implementing the project particularly the City of Ligao and the Municipality of Libon were able to utilize the CBMS data during the relief operations when the region was devastated by Typhoons Milenyo and Reming. On the other hand, Ligao City found the data to be beneficial in the preparation of their LGUs' Local Development and Investment Plans, the Executive and Legislative Agenda and in updating their Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

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programs and projects, particularly in meeting the minimum basic needs of poor communities/ families.

Selection criteria will focus on how the project or program will meet UNDP's mission and how consistent the proposed project or intervention is with the validated CBMS survey results. The deadline for submission of proposals is December 14, 2007. The grants will be awarded on the

occasion of the 5th National Conference on CBMS and funded projects may begin February 2008. From 2005-2006, the UNDP-Philippines and the Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF), through the CBMS Development Grant Program, have provided close to Php3.2 million to 31 communities to assist them in implementing barangay-based poverty reduction initiatives which were identified using CBMS data. *

In the case of Minalabac, they were able to use the CBMS data particularly their data on Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) with respect to the Operation Smile Project and the employment of Persons with Disability. Likewise, the data on Out-of-School Youth, Gender and Sources of Income were used for the preparation of the School Improvement Plan of Teachers. The Municipal Government of Lupi is currently sourcing funds from possible donor institutions with respect to the projects they intend to implement in response to the needs identified in the CBMS survey. *

Coverage of CBMS Implementation in the Philippines

(as of December 31, 2007)

With TA from CBMS Team and MIMAROPA CBMS TWG

- MARINDUQUE (Provincewide)
- PALAWAN (Provincewide)
- ROMBLON (Provincewide)

With TA from CBMS Team

- PALAWAN (Provincewide including Puerto Princesa City)
- CAMARINES NORTE (Provincewide)
- BULACAN (Provincewide)
- AGUSAN DEL SUR (Provincewide)
- BATAAN (Provincewide)
- LIGAO CITY and LIBON, ALBAY
- IRIGA CITY, MINALABAC and LUPI, CAMARINES SUR
- MANDAUE CITY, CEBU
- SORSOGON CITY
- PASAY CITY

With TA from CBMS Team and DILG-BLGD

- MARINDUQUE (Provincewide)
- BUKIDNON (Provincewide)
- CAMIGUIN (Provincewide)
- MASBATE (Provincewide)
- SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIIJA
- TANAUAN CITY, BATANGAS
- 13 LGUs, ILOCOS NORTE
- 25 LGUs, ILOCOS SUR
- 5 LGUs, LA UNION
- 8 LGUs, PANGASINAN
- ILIGAN CITY, LANA DEL NORTE
- TANGUB and OROQUIETA CITIES, MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL
- CAGAYAN DE ORO and GINGOOG CITIES, MISAMIS ORIENTAL
- LUNA, APAYAO (LMP site)
- JORDAN, GUIMARAS (LMP site)
- AJUY and CONCEPCION, ILOILO (LMP sites)
- BINDOY, NEGROS ORIENTAL (LMP site)
- APARRI, CAGAYAN (LMP site)
- MINALIN, PAMPANGA
- ASIPULO, IFUGAO

With TA from CBMS Team, DILG-BLGD and DILG Region VII

- SIQUIJOR (Provincewide)

With TA from CBMS Team, DILG-BLGD and DILG Region IX

- 7 LGUs, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

With TA from CBMS Team and DILG-BLGD through UNFPA Project

- 3 LGUs, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE
- STO NINO, SOUTH COTABATO

With TA from CBMS Team, DILG-Region VIII, EVTWG, IDPG (selected sites)

- BILIRAN (Provincewide)
- EASTERN SAMAR (Provincewide)
- NORTHERN SAMAR (Provincewide)
- 16 LGUs, SOUTHERN LEYTE
- 33 LGUs, LEYTE
- 10 LGUs, SAMAR

With TA from CBMS Team and NAPC through SIMCPAE Project

- AGUSAN DEL NORTE (Provincewide)
- ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR (Provincewide)
- SARANGANI (Provincewide)

With TA from CBMS Team and DAWN Foundation

- ESCALANTE CITY and EB MAGALONA, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

With TA from CBMS Team and Social Watch Philippines

- KIANGAN, IFUGAO
- Upcoming LGUs



Eastern Visayas LGUs now starting to reap benefits from CBMS

A progress report from the Technical Services Division of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region 8 Office on the status of the CBMS implementation in Eastern Visayas highlights how CBMS information has, among others, influenced local policymakers in the formulation of their poverty reduction frameworks, in coming up with a common set of local development priorities as well as in the configuration of their priority programs, projects and activities.

The report from the DILG Regional Office which is coordinating the implementation of the CBMS in the region, also noted that the implementation of the CBMS is now in full swing, less than three years after it was pilot-tested in 16 municipalities. At present, CBMS is being implemented in four cities, 113 municipalities and 3,255 barangays all over the region. These account for approximately 30 percent of the total number of local government units that implementing the poverty monitoring system all over the country.

Anti-poverty summit in Eastern Samar

After being able to consolidate all CBMS data from the 22 municipalities and 1 city in the province, the Provincial Government of Eastern Samar conducted a 2-day anti-poverty summit last November 8-9, 2007 at the Provincial Capitol.

The summit provided a venue for poverty alleviation stakeholders to

interface and in the process facilitate the drawing up of a poverty reduction framework. The consolidated provincial CBMS data was presented as information source for the setting up of poverty reduction targets and identifying appropriate interventions to address the same.

Governor Ben Evardone noted that while a report from the National Statistical Coordination Board revealed that poverty incidence in the province declined from 47.3 percent in 2000 to 33.9 percent in 2003, the latest CBMS census results showed a much higher rate. This, he said, galvanized the Provincial Government into action to provide directions and facilitate collaboration among stakeholders towards a unified stand to address the core issues of poverty.

The anti-poverty summit has the following expected outputs: provincial poverty profile based on CBMS indicators, agreements on areas for convergence of poverty alleviation efforts, commitment of donors and partners to assist the province in its poverty reduction initiatives and summit declaration to reduce poverty in Eastern Samar signed by the participants.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo graced the event and lauded the efforts of the province to sustain its gains in poverty reduction.



Development stakeholders sign the Anti-Poverty Summit Declaration during the Eastern Samar Anti-Poverty Summit held last November 8-9, 2007

CBMS-based ELAs & AIPS

Meanwhile, CBMS-partner LGUs in Biliran and Southern Leyte reported that CBMS-generated data were used to update information on malnutrition, unemployment and other poverty indicators that led to evidence-based identification of development issues and appropriate interventions in their Executive and Legislative Agenda (ELA).

The ELA is a planning document that is mutually developed and agreed upon by both the executive and legislative branches of the local government units. It is an integrated plan that contains the major development thrusts and priorities of both the executive and legislative branches toward a common vision for the LGU.

Southern Leyte LGUs likewise reported using CBMS data to benchmark their performance in the prioritization of issues and concerns. This then served as inputs in their process of identifying programs, projects and activities for their 2008 Annual Investment Plan (AIP).



MIMAROPA RDC sees increased role of CBMS in charting regional development

Personnel from the 17 local government units in the Province of Romblon encode their accomplished CBMS Household Profile Questionnaires which was part of the requirements during the Training on CBMS Module 2 last July 7, 2007.

The Regional Development Council of MIMAROPA reinforced its commitment anew to use the CBMS in directing its path to development by working with the CBMS Network Coordinating Team in coming up with a customized CBMS questionnaire that focuses on its two resource sectors: agriculture and tourism. Specifically, the CBMS Household Profile Questionnaire (HPQ) was modified to collect more agriculture and tourism indicators since most of the households in the region are

located in rural agricultural areas. The region is likewise host to many and diverse tourism attractions.

The RDC which is the highest policy-making body in the region and serves as the counterpart of the NEDA Board at the sub-national level, consider these two sectors as its twin engines of growth and development. It intends to use CBMS in order to be able to establish a baseline data and generate situational analysis of these two sectors and subsequently direct the path of the region's development.

The RDC will specifically use CBMS in its efforts to pinpoint specific interventions/services even at the household level; validate and monitor development plans; prepare and evaluate project proposals and review of policies and strategies that it is implementing.

On August 31, 2005, RDC IV-B during its meeting approved the use CBMS as a database management system for the region. As a commitment, all provinces signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on September 29, 2006 to implement CBMS in their respective provinces. The CBMS was adopted as the common database management system of all the LGUs to facilitate generation, processing and utilization of data for development planning and decision-making purposes.

The provinces of Palawan and Marinduque were the pilot areas of CBMS implementation in the region. At present, these provinces are already in their second round of implementation. On the other hand, the province of Romblon is in the stage of processing their first CBMS datasets. Meanwhile, Oriental Mindoro is finalizing all its documents to start CBMS on February 2008 while Occidental Mindoro is still mobilizing resources in order to be able to implement CBMS in the immediate future. *

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Convergence of poverty alleviation efforts

The report also underscored how CBMS can facilitate convergence of poverty alleviation efforts. It noted that local government units are now empowered to link up and seek the assistance of donor as well as other organizations operating in their areas.

Plan International has for instance committed to provide computer hardware to their partner LGUs in Southern Leyte so that they can fast-track the processing of CBMS data.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) office in Eastern Samar funded a training on the preparation of municipal socioeconomic profiles of their priority areas in Sulat, Llorente and Maydolong held last November 26-28, 2007.

On the other hand, CBMS information were identified as baseline data for the eventual impact assessment of the implementation of the *Infrastructure for Rural Productivity Enhancement Sector Program (InFRES)* in the Municipality of Leyte.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines, through the CBMS-UNDP Development Grant Program, has also provided close to Php 1 million to assist 5 communities in implementing barangay-based poverty reduction initiatives which were identified using CBMS data.

The DILG Regional Office No. 8 likewise linked with the GTZ to fund a training on the updating of socioeconomic profiles and databases of the 8 municipalities in Biliran. The training was successfully conducted last August 1-3, 2007. *

News Updates

Call for Project Proposals



Awarding of grant funds. Mr. Kyo Naka, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Philippines assisted by Ms. Corazon Urquico, Manager, Empowerment of the Poor Portfolio and Dr. Celia Reyes, CBMS Network Leader presents the ceremonial check to one of the LGU-Grantees during the 4th CBMS National Conference last November 2006.

The PEP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines, is once again looking for innovative programs and interventions that will address specific development needs identified through the CBMS.

Following the success of the first two calls for applications, Dr. Celia Reyes, PEP-CBMS Network Leader, hopes that CBMS-partner LGUs will once again rise to the challenge of putting together some highly competitive ideas. "We are looking for innovative proposals that can make a real difference in reducing poverty and development disparities across barangays and municipalities all over the country," she added.

Formed to build partnerships among communities and various sectors in the design and implementation of appropriate interventions in pursuit of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular, poverty reduction, the CBMS-UNDP Development Grant Program has a total of PhP1.6M grant funding available to be disbursed. It is anticipated that 8 proposals will be funded. Awards will be made up to a maximum value of PhP200,000 to produce the following desired outcomes: improved access of the poor to basic services and productive resources, decision-making mechanisms for socio-economic empowerment, and strengthened capacity of national and local government units in planning, formulating, implementing and monitoring anti-poverty

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The **Updates** may be downloaded in Adobe Acrobat format for free from the Project's website. The site can be accessed through <http://www.pep-net.org>.

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