Achieving Local Development Agenda through CBMS

Meynard Melo*

Governor Rosa Vilma Santos-Recto believes that in order to improve the lives of her constituents, good governance and professional political leadership must be accompanied by common vision and values and shared responsibility.

Realizing the urgency of addressing poverty, health, and illiteracy problems, the Provincial Government of Batangas adopted measures to effectively combat illiteracy, fight malnutrition, provide health and medical interventions, and wage war against extreme poverty.

As a local government leader since 1998, the governor’s leadership has been centered on socioeconomic and cultural development with emphasis on health, education, employment, peace and order, tourism, and technology. She has maintained her dedication to upholding the welfare of the poor and the marginalized sectors and her devotion in fulfilling these goals has extended to all the municipalities of Batangas now that she is the governor.

The HEARTS Program is the battlecry of Batangas. HEARTS stands for Health, Education, Environment, Agriculture, Roads, Tourism, and Security. The poverty-reduction strategies under this program, as the governor envisions it, will be achieved through collaboration and the integration of efforts and measures using a system that can identify the problem areas of the target population. When she was still the mayor of Lipa, her program was anchored on the Minimum Basic Needs (MBN) approach. Now, her HEARTS program is guided by the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS). As shown in the table below, there are some interesting parallelisms of the CBMS, MBN, and the HEARTS Program of the provincial government as they relate to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

* Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Province of Batangas
Status of CBMS Implementation
Batangas started the dialogue regarding the implementation of CBMS in February 2009. After a period of consultation, we officially commenced implementation on May 13, 2009.

Based on the latest status report, we have already covered 87.4 percent of households. Editing of the Household Profiles Questionnaire (HPQs) now stands at 91.5 percent while encoding of the accomplished HPQs now stands at 61.8 percent.

The governor is confident that CBMS provides techniques that respond to the needs of Batangas with regard to providing information applicable to the local or provincial scenario. Data are generated and produced within the local jurisdiction, through the initiative of the local leaders, and participated in by the local residents, initially with the barangay captains, Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) or Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) or barangay coordinators or enumerators. The participatory nature of CBMS can lead to a better and shared understanding of the system, foster social learning and community building and awareness. Furthermore, because it aims to depict a true picture, the data user may be able to provide a real situationer analysis. With this, the likelihood that the results and issues will be acted upon and used to make decisions is increased. In addition, community participation and empowerment through CBMS leads to transparency, which, in effect, helps foster trust in the government and boosts the government’s credibility.

Since almost all government projects and development plans depend on statistical data and researchers, CBMS is a helpful tool in the implementation of the HEARTS program through the proper identification of areas of concern, the rightful beneficiaries, and assessment of appropriate interventions. Development plans, budget management and allocations will also be properly made and maintained.

The governor’s strong determination to alleviate poverty; lessen unemployment and help provide alternative sources of income; combat illiteracy; provide accessible and affordable health and medical care; alleviate nutrition problems; maintain a safe and secure community for Batangueños, tourists, and investors; make Batangas a first-rate home of healthy, educated, and peace-loving residents; a topnotch tourist destination; and an excellent investment location, has motivated her to implement the CBMS. The CBMS has an easily understood core set of indicators, and it establishes databanks at each geopolitical level—from the barangay up to the province. Using this database, LGUs can easily determine in an objective manner their priorities.

When the original proposal for CBMS implementation was presented to the governor, the total cost of the project, including training costs, supplies, reproduction of survey forms, etc., was pegged at more than Php100 million.
## Table 1. The HEARTS Program vis-à-vis the CBMS and the MDGs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEARTS Program of Batangas</th>
<th>Minimum Basic Needs</th>
<th>Millennium Development Goals (Nos.)</th>
<th>CBMS Core Indicators (Nos.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong> - Enabling adequate health care access for Batangueños</td>
<td>Health, Water and Sanitation, Nutrition</td>
<td>MDG 4, MDG 5, MDG 6, MDG 7</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 6 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong> - Raising the level of literacy of public school children</td>
<td>Basic Education</td>
<td>MDG 2, MDG 4</td>
<td>8 &amp; 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment</strong> - Conservation and clean-up movement of valuable natural resources</td>
<td>Shelter, Water and Sanitation</td>
<td>MDG 8</td>
<td>4, 5, 6 &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agriculture</strong> - Increase and regularized agricultural yields through financial assistance / cooperatives / livestock development</td>
<td>Employment, Nutrition, Income</td>
<td>MDG 1, MDG 4, MDG 9</td>
<td>10, 11, 12 &amp; 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roads</strong> - Development of adequate and proper access to the province's a path to economic vitality</td>
<td>Employment, Income</td>
<td>MDG 8, MDG 9</td>
<td>10, 11, &amp; 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tourism</strong> - Strengthening the province's position as the country's premier tourist destination</td>
<td>Employment, Income</td>
<td>MDG 1, MDG 9</td>
<td>10, 11, &amp; 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Security</strong> - Regular and explicit interactions with the PNP and other agencies</td>
<td>Peace and Order</td>
<td>MDG 9</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
for the entire province. However, the governor said that if we have a common vision and common values, we can also share the responsibility. The provincial government, as a result, had to allot only Php4 million for this project. This was because the barangay and municipal governments shared the cost of implementing the CBMS.

We also shifted from a departmentalized to team approach to project implementation. Traditionally, CBMS work is lodged in the planning and development offices. Since I am the human resources management officer, I know which employees have the skills and commitment to see this project through. I divided them into four groups that are now overseeing the implementation of CBMS in the four districts of Batangas.

It has not been a smooth ride, however. But with the assistance of the Statistical Research and Training Center (SRTC), the University of Batangas, and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Regional Office 4A, we were able to succeed.

Table 2. Status of CBMS Activities, by District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Data Collection</th>
<th>Field Editing</th>
<th>Encoded Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st District</td>
<td>75.73</td>
<td>93.01</td>
<td>27.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd District</td>
<td>89.19</td>
<td>79.54</td>
<td>78.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd District</td>
<td>95.61</td>
<td>98.24</td>
<td>74.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th District</td>
<td>89.12</td>
<td>95.03</td>
<td>67.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>87.41</strong></td>
<td><strong>91.46</strong></td>
<td><strong>61.80</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Good afternoon to everyone.

Let me share with you our vision for the Province of Tarlac.

Tarlac: a progressive, peaceful and environment-conscious province with sustainable and globally competitive agriculture; a major logistics and IT investment, and tourism destination; with well-planned communities that are home to healthy, productive, and principled citizenry. The vision’s translation into concrete programs is summarized under the “Sulong Tarlac” banner.

Our problem then is how to turn our vision into something concrete as well as how to turn our policies into programs. It is in this light that I wish to outline how the CBMS data were able to help us.

The 14 Core Indicators of Poverty are addressed by each of the Four Pillars of Development under the “Sulong Tarlac” banner (Food, Health, Livelihood and Education). And the CBMS Core Indicators complement the priorities of the government, thus allowing for a more evidence-based decisionmaking. The CBMS data can greatly enhance targeting of beneficiaries of our programs since the CBMS provides us with data on food, health, livelihood and education, which are the Province’s priorities.

In particular, we use CBMS to identify new PhilHealth beneficiaries and validate existing ones. It was also used to help develop innovations in health service delivery such as the TeleMed.

In terms of housing, we have the Gawad Kalinga (GK) housing program to address the problem of informal settlers. All our GK sites have livelihood components.

* Governor, Province of Tarlac
And the skills identified through the Household Profiling helped to establish the employment and livelihood opportunities to be provided in the sites.

The Tarlac Water District, meanwhile, has recently held a water summit to address the problem of access to safe water. We are preparing a feasibility study on the Barangay Water Refilling Stations. The CBMS data would be used to identify households that have no access to sanitary toilet facilities for direct service provision.

A province-wide school profiling project will also start in January 2010. For those who are not in school, literacy and numeracy programs are implemented through the Tarlac State University and Tarlac College of Agriculture. For those who are in school, we provide books, school bags, and school supplies.

The CBMS data were also used for the validation of beneficiaries of agriculture programs and projects such as Barangay Gulayan’s Micro Finance Program and of various Farmer’s Groups.

For the 2010 Budget, PhP5 million is allocated to the Easy Access Cooperative Bank, PhP2 million to Micro-Credit and PhP16 million to the Tarlac Placement and Network Office (TNPO). Given these resources, targeting of beneficiaries could be made more effective and efficient with the aid of the data.

Given the benefits of the CBMS, we therefore decided to employ the system in Tarlac to help achieve our vision. Thank you.
Government-Academe Partnership in the Implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)

Krishna Buenaventura*

To follow the steps in the implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS), the Provincial Government of Tarlac (PGT) decided to set up a group that will be responsible in handling all CBMS-related activities. Involved were the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) of Tarlac, the Tarlac State University (TSU), in particular, the Institute of Local Government Administration (ILGA), the University Extension Office (UEO), the University Research Office (URO) and the College of Public Administration (CPA), and other Colleges. This eventually led to the creation of a CBMS Project Management Office under the Provincial Governor’s Office (PGO) through an Executive Order.

Students and faculty members were involved in the conduct of advocacy activities meant to introduce and promote the CBMS. Among the activities were visits to local government units (LGUs), discussion of work plans, setting up of the CBMS organizational structure at the local level and conduct of CBMS orientation sessions for Barangay Chairpersons.

A province-wide training on data collection and field editing was also carried out as facilitated by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) and the Angelo King Institute. This was followed afterwards by municipal-level training on data collection as facilitated by TSU faculty and students.

Enumeration was done through paper-based paraphernalia and handheld personal computers (PCs). Training activities such as refresher courses, and training on the preparation of Barangay Profiles and data validation were likewise conducted per LGU.

* Member of the CBMS-TWG of the Province of Tarlac and of the faculty of Tarlac State University
For the preparation of the Municipal Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs), the URO, UEO, CPA and ILGA took charge in helping local governments come up with the CLUPs.

In sum, the various steps and tasks in the CBMS process were undertaken and made successful by the partnership between the government and the academe.

The partnership was specially made successful by the fact that the PGT has an endless supply of capable faculty and technology-enabled students willing to volunteer in the implementation of the CBMS.

The faculty and students are given opportunities to participate in training activities, research, poverty analysis, and direct service provision in the Province and through its participation, the University fulfills its mandate to provide instruction, research, and extension services to its community. In the process, an enabling environment for the community is thereby created.

**Figure 1. Government-Academe Partnership and the CBMS Process**
Use of Handhelds for Data Gathering: A CBMS Innovation of the Province of Tarlac

Joel Zapanta*

The challenge that Governor Victor Yap of Tarlac gave me was to find a way to innovate the data gathering stage of CBMS. As you can see from the CBMS process illustrated below, the data collection and data encoding are the next sets of activities after the advocacy and organization stage.

Figure 1. General Activities in Implementing CBMS

* Member, CBMS-Technical Working Group, Province of Tarlac
These are very critical components of the CBMS because data quality and reliability are determined at this stage. Moreover, these processes are very labor-intensive. Data enumeration actually takes about 30 minutes for each household. So the first question I asked myself was: "What if we try to speed up the enumeration process?" That is, how can we speed it up? We can do this by introducing a computerized data enumeration where the system will guide the enumerator on to the next appropriate question, and where he does not have to do any calculations and simply fills in the questions that need to be answered. At the end of the enumeration, all appropriate questions should have been answered.

**Figure 2. Paper Based Process Workflow**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enumeration</th>
<th>Field Editing</th>
<th>Ready for encoding?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 mins</td>
<td>5 mins</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next step after data collection is field editing. If you remember, we have an existing manual on this as well as actually went through several presentation slides on this topic during the training. In the process-based workflow, field editing actually takes place a number of days after the data collection. So, my next question then was: "What if we eliminate the field editing process?" We can do this if we get all the respondents' answers validated as they are being given. This means that enumerators will not have to return to the households whenever there are discrepancies in the household profile questionnaire (HPQ).

As a result of this innovation, we can actually speed up the process as illustrated below:
Use of Handhelds for Data Gathering: A CBMS Innovation of the Province of Tarlac

Joel Zapanta

Figure 3. Computers/Handhelds Process Workflow

Table 1. Average Time Taken for CBMS Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Paper Based</th>
<th>Handheld</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enumeration</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Editing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encoding</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Localizing the Millennium Development Goals: The Gasan Experience

Victoria A. Lao Lim and Arturo M. Salva, Jr.*

Brief Profile of the Municipality of Gasan
Gasan is located at the western part of the Province of Marinduque. It shares common boundaries with Boac on the north, Buenavista on the southwest, and Tablas Strait on the west. It accounted for 12.44 percent of the province’s total land area and is the fourth largest town.

Gasan is a third class municipality with 25 barangays, 17 of which are coastal. It has a total land area of 11,930 hectares and the major economic activities of the people are farming and fishing.

In 2007, Gasan had an Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of PhP41.1 million (85.4%). Its locally-generated revenues which amounted to PhP6.0 million (14.6%). In 2008, the IRA of the municipality accounted for 86.5 percent while its locally-generated revenues accounted for 13.5 percent.

Gasan has 7,649 households with a total population of 31,591. It has an average household size of four.

Gasan has the following vision statement: Gasan: a God-centered self-reliant and empowered citizenry living harmoniously in an ecologically-balanced community. Its vision statement is as follows: Effective delivery of basic services by harnessing the natural, human and fiscal resources through a capable and people-oriented leadership.
Table 1. Household Size per Barangay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barangay</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Household Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Antipolo</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>1,455</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Bachao – Ibaba</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Bachao – Ilaya</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Bacongbacong</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Bahi</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>1,596</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Bangbang</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>1,468</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Banot</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Banuyo</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>1,379</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Barangay I</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>779</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Barangay II</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Barangay III</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Bognuyan</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Cabugao</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Dawis</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>1,911</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Dili</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>1,586</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Libtangin</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>1,446</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Mahunig</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Mangliol</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Masiga</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>2,257</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Mat. Gasan</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>1,358</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Pangi</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>1,689</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Pinggan</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>1,962</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Tabionan</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>1,146</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Tapuyan</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>1,110</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Tiguion</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>2,905</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,649</strong></td>
<td><strong>31,591</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definition of Poverty Revisited

- Poverty is the denial of opportunities and choices to lead a long, healthy, creative life, and to enjoy a decent standard of living, freedom, dignity, self-esteem and respect of others.
- Poverty is the chronic inability to meet basic needs, shortness of income—lack of access to health, education, and other social services.
- However, poverty is only half the picture, the other half shows resiliency of the poor in coping with their condition and the external shocks that come their way.
Poverty reduction remains to be one of the biggest challenges faced by the nation.

To successfully fight poverty, it is important to know **who are the poor, where they are, and why they are poor.**

It is impossible to reduce poverty without economic growth yet economic growth cannot happen without significantly reducing the number of poor people.

Causes of poverty are complex, and the remedies are equally so. Poverty reduction is not an overnight affair.

Poverty reduction can only be achieved by a mixture of programs, policies and political will.

LGUs play a significant role in the fight against poverty, either as implementer, co-implementer or facilitators.

### Some Tools Used for Tracking MDG Progress

The Municipality of Gasan uses the following tools for tracking progress on the Millennium Development Goals:

1. **Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS)** - The LGPMS is a self-assessment indicator system that allows local governments to determine their limitations and capabilities in the delivery of essential public service.

2. **Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) and Poverty Mapping** - Digitized maps of barangays or municipality using the core local poverty indicators.

3. **Reports** - Accomplishment reports of various department of the local government unit (LGU).

Gasan has implemented two rounds of CBMS already—one in 2004 and another in 2008. A number of indicators monitored during these two rounds can be subsumed under the eight goals of the Millennium Declaration as indicated in the succeeding tables below. As a result, we can now assess and even benchmark our progress on the attainment of the MDGs.

Across barangays, the results of the CBMS survey in 2008 indicate that poverty incidence is highest in Barangay Tabionan with more than eight out of 10 households living below the poverty line.

Barangay Tabionan also recorded the highest subsistence incidence in the municipality at 71.8 percent.

Barangay Tabionan is located 10 kilometers from Poblacion Gasan. Farming is the major economic activity of the residents. Their major crops are coconut, banana, and rootcrops.

Meanwhile, as indicated in Table 5, Gasan’s performance on education has dramatically improved.
Female children, however, need to catch up with their male counterparts as indicated in Table 6.

Gasan has 28 daycare centers, 17 public elementary schools, and two private elementary schools. It also has five public high schools, two private high schools, and two colleges. Literacy rate is 98 percent which is higher than the national figure of 93.4 percent.

The number of child deaths during the two surveys did not change with 22 deaths during both periods.

The municipality has been declared as malaria-free. The top five causes of mortality for all ages during the two surveys are presented in Table 9.

The first column in Table 10 below shows the ideal ratio of public health workers to the population while the second column shows current situation or ratio for the municipality of Gasan. Based on this, the LGU can be seen as having an appropriate structure and facilities for health and nutrition but lack human resources to implement it.

Meanwhile, the performance of the municipality on other key indicators are presented in Tables 11-15.

The local government of Gasan has also issued a number of ordinances and resolutions, as well as created special bodies with the participation of nongovernment and civil society organizations to help attain the MDG targets (Table 16).
### Table 3. Households with Income Below the Poverty Threshold, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
<th>Households with Income Below the Poverty Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Magnitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antipolo</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachao Ibaba</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachao Ilaya</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacongbacong</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahi</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangbang</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banot</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banuyo</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bognuyan</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabugao</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawis</td>
<td>488</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dili</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libtangin</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahunig</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mangliol</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masiga</td>
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<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mat. Gasan</td>
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<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pangi</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pingan</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabionan</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tapuyan</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiguion</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GASAN</strong></td>
<td><strong>7649</strong></td>
<td><strong>4298</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 4. Subsistence Incidence, by Barangay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barangay</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
<th>Households with Income Below Food Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Magnitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antipolo</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachao Ibaba</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>106</td>
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### Table 5. Gasan’s Performance for MDG 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

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<tr>
<td>Proportion of children 6-12 years old who are attending elementary school</td>
<td>4,635/5,296 or 87.52%</td>
<td>5,646 / 5,885 or 95.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of children 13-16 years old attending high school</td>
<td>2,436/2,865 or 85.03%</td>
<td>2,969 / 3,172 or 93.6%</td>
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Table 6. Gasan’s Performance for MDG 3: Promote Gender Equality

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<tr>
<td>Elem: Male Participation Rate</td>
<td>52.48%</td>
<td>51.63%</td>
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<td>47.52%</td>
<td>48.37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female Participation Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sec : Male Participation Rate</td>
<td>52.60%</td>
<td>52.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>47.40%</td>
<td>47.20%</td>
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<td>Female Participation Rate</td>
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Table 7. Gasan’s Performance for MDG 4: Reduce Infant and Child Mortality

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<tr>
<td>Proportion of children 0-5 years old who died</td>
<td>22 / 4,606 or 0.5%</td>
<td>22 / 4,552 or 0.5%</td>
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Table 8. Gasan’s Performance for MDG 5: Improve Maternal Health

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of women who died due to pregnancy related causes</td>
<td>1/672 or 0.1%</td>
<td>0 / 719 or 0%</td>
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Table 9. Gasan’s Performance on MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Infectious Diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Five Causes of Mortality in All Ages</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>Top Five Causes of Mortality in All Ages</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Senility</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1. Pneumonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Pneumonia</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2. Hypertension</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Hypertension</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3. Senility</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Heart Diseases</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4. Cancer, All Forms</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Cancer, All Forms</td>
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<td>5. Heart Diseases</td>
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## Table 10. Public Health Workers to Population Ratio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratio of Public Health Workers (PHW) to Population</th>
<th>LGU</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor - 1/20,000</td>
<td>1/31,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses - 1/15,000</td>
<td>1/15,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentist - 1/20,000</td>
<td>1/31,591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwives - 1/5,000</td>
<td>1/7,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All public PHW - 1/600</td>
<td>1/3,949</td>
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## Table 11. Gasan’s Performance for MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

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<th>2004HH = 6,686</th>
<th>2008HH = 7,649</th>
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<tr>
<td>Proportion of households without access to safe water</td>
<td>514 or 7.7%</td>
<td>653 or 8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households without access to sanitary toilets</td>
<td>2,091 or 31.3%</td>
<td>1,908 or 24.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households who are squatters/ informal settlers</td>
<td>191 or 2.9%</td>
<td>305 or 3.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proportion of households living in makeshift housing</td>
<td>274 or 4.1%</td>
<td>252 or 3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households with access to electricity</td>
<td>4,742 or 80%</td>
<td>5,339 or 69.8%</td>
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Table 12. Households Without Access to Safe Drinking Water

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Table 14. Households who are Informal Settlers

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Table 15. Households Living in Makeshift Housing

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<td>1</td>
<td>Executive Order organizing the Municipal Poverty Reduction Action Team (MPRAT)</td>
<td>Public Employment Service Office (PESO)</td>
<td>Cooperative Gasan Insect Farmers MPCGasan Vendors Multipurpose Cooperative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Memorandum Order approving the Scholarship Program Executive Order organizing the Municipal Technical Education &amp; Skills Development Committee Executive Order creating the Municipal Council for the Protection of Children (MCPC)</td>
<td>Local School Board Gasan Scholarship Council</td>
<td>PTCA Fed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Executive Order creating the Gender and Development (GAD) Council</td>
<td>Local School Board</td>
<td>Gasan Women’s Welfare Association (GAWWA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Executive Order creating the Municipal Council for the Protection of Children (MCPC) Resolution on Memorandum of Agreement for the Inter Local Health Zone</td>
<td>Local Health Board</td>
<td>Gasan ECCD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 6</td>
<td>Executive Order Creating the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council Resolution on the Memorandum for the Inter-local Health Zone Executive Order organizing the Municipal Technical Working Group (MTWG) for PhilHealth Promotion and Program for Healthy Places</td>
<td>Local Health Board</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Executive Order organizing the Ecological Solid Waste Management Board Executive Order organizing the Gasan Marine Reserve Council Executive Order organizing the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (MFARMC) Executive Order organizing the Coastal Resources Management (CRM) Council</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns (MACEC) Center for Agricultural &amp; Rural Development (CARD) Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MDG-Responsive Programs, Projects and Activities

Thus far, the local government of Gasan has implemented the following programs, project and activities which are expected to contribute to the attainment of the MDGs:

- **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**
  - Adoption of Butterfly and Coco-based Products as the One-Town-One Product (OTOP) assisted by Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); Awarded as Best OTOP Implementer in Region IVB DTI, Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan (MIMAROPA)
  - Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) Program – 866 Families
  - Emergency Assistance – 826 Families
  - Food Assistance – 1206 Families
  - Implementation of PhilHealth program for indigent families – 1,886 families
  - Implementation of Visionaries for Lifegiving Labours (VLL Programs)
  - PhP2M Financial assistance to accredited cooperatives and organizations
  - Livelihood Training Programs assisted by TESDA and DTI
  - Fish Net and Gear Distribution Programs – 140 Fisherfolks
  - Implementation of labor-based Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)-assisted programs – cost sharing scheme
  - Implementation of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHII) Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS) Program assisted by provincial government
  - Implementation of Katas ng VAT Para kay Lolo at Lola – 1,144 Senior Citizens

- **Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education**
  - Implementation of Expanded Scholarship Program
  - Sustainability for the Early Childhood Development (ECCD) Programs
  - Donation of government-owned property for the construction of elementary schools under the School-in-every-Barangay Program
  - Support for the SIBOL Initiatives – Gawad Kalinga Pre-schoolers Learning Program

- **Goal 3: Promote gender equality**
  - Formulation of a Gender and Development Code
- Establishment of a women’s-desk at the Municipal Police Station to deal with women affairs
- Construction of a separate detention cell for women

- **Goal 4: Reduce infant and child mortality**
  - Implementation of Maternal and Child Health Care Program
    - Expanded Program on Immunization
    - Garantisadong Pambata
  - Construction and rehabilitation of Barangay Health Stations through the ECCD Program

- **Goal 5: Improve maternal health**
  - Implementation of Maternal Health Care Program
  - Promotion of PhilHealth maternal package
  - Adaptation of Inter Local Health Zone
  - Implementation of Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BeMONC)

- **Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases.**
  - The municipality has been declared as malaria free.
  - Health education campaign and surveillance
  - Promotion of Botika sa Barangay, Botika Binhi.

- **Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**
  - Repair/Improvement of various waterworks system (PhP 600,000) in Brgy. Pinggan, Masiga, Bahi, Mat. Gasan and Tiguion (UNDP PhP 120,000).
  - Implementation of Waterworks Project in Brgy. Antipolo (PhP 1M) through the Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF)
  - Distribution of 100 sets of jetmatic pumps and pipes
  - Distribution of 50 diamante Toilet Bowls
  - Construction of communal toilet in Brgy. Bachao Ibaba and Masiga
  - Establishment of Pawikan Sanctuary in Brgy. Masiga (CRM Project)
  - Establishment of Morion Village in Brgy. Cabugao as Core Shelter Site in the north
  - Acquisition of lot in Brgy. Bachao Ibaba as resettlement site of informal settlers of the south
  - Provision of skilled labor for the completion of 90 housing units for Gawad Kalinga
  - Completion of 15 housing units thru CSAP/DSWD and another 14 units still in the pipe line

- **Goal 8: Develop partnership for development.**
  - Establishment of a sisterhood with Marikina City.
Key Areas for Strategic Decisions and Action to Address the Gaps, Issues, and Challenges

The Municipality of Gasan has identified the following as key areas for strategic decisions and action to address the gaps, issues, and challenges:

1. Governance:
   - Local Investment Code
   - Strengthen Feedback Mechanism

2. Administration:
   - Workable Comprehensive Revenue Generation Plan

3. Social Services:
   - Increase proportion of immunized children
   - Decrease proportion of malnourished children
   - Better access to non-formal education program
   - Improve secondary graduation rate

4. Economic Development:
   - Increase crop yield
   - Increase job opportunities

5. Environmental Management:
   - Increase forest cover
   - Sustain waste management program

In closing, we would like to share the following quotation from Vivian Longbian-Bureros:

“We can only say that planning is successful and development is achieved when most, if not all of the people in the locality have a decent way of living. This is when they have food to eat, sufficient health care when they are sick, livable environment and have opportunity to improve their status in life. This, is the human face of development.”
The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report of the Province of Agusan del Sur

Edna S. Tongson*

Introduction
Agusan del Sur is a landlocked province located in Northeastern Mindanao with a total land area of 896,550 hectares, 76 percent or 681,378 hectares of which are timberland, and 24 percent or 215,172 hectares are alienable and disposable lands. It is composed of 14 municipalities, 318 barangays, and two congressional districts.

Based on the 2005 CBMS Survey, household population was 550,332 with a ratio of 107 males for every 100 females.

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood with 70 percent of the total households in the province engaged in farming.

Poverty incidence in the province is high (70%). In response, the provincial government implemented various strategies and programs to uplift the living condition of the poorest households. This includes the provision of: (1) basic social services to households with a monthly income of PhP3,500.00 and below, and (2) livelihood program known as Diversified Farming System (DFS) to households with a monthly income of PhP3,500 to PhP6,500. There are 26,653 target households for DFS until 2015 costing PhP1.27 billion.

The poverty gap ratio of the province is low at 0.3 compared to the national figure of 7.7. This is the average gap in order for the poor people to reach the poverty threshold per capita. Or if it is converted into cash, all the poor should be given the amount of PhP4,785.00 per capita per year in order to reach the poverty threshold of PhP13,290 as of 2005.

Although the employment rate in the province is high, poverty remains widespread. This is mainly due to the nature of employment - most of the people are employed as farm laborers.

---

* Chief, Evaluation, Research and Statistics Division, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Agusan del Sur
The prevalence of underweight children five years old and below is lower than the national figure. Feeding programs for malnourished children are implemented in the province. Moreover, the proportion of underweight children among girls is higher than boys in the province.

Table 1. Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population with income below poverty threshold</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>32.9 (FIES, 2006)</td>
<td>22.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Gap</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>7.7 (FIES, 2006)</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Rate</td>
<td>89.87</td>
<td>88.7 (NSCB, 2005)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of underweight children under 5 years of age</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>Male: 4.5</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female: 5.2</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

There are nine municipalities whose poverty incidence is higher than that of the province which is 69.4. Of these, seven are river towns such as Esperanza, La Paz, Loreto, San Luis, Sta. Josefa, Talacogon, and Veruela; and two are highway towns such as Rosario and Sibagat. The worst condition is observed in San Luis with 85 percent, followed by La Paz and Sibagat.

Figure 2 shows that the municipality of San Francisco has the lowest poverty incidence in the province. There are four municipalities with fair poverty incidence. The rest of the municipalities are the problem areas that need intervention such as Sibagat, Esperanza, San Luis, Talacogon, Loreto, Veruela, Rosario, and Sta. Josefa.

Poverty gap measures the shortfall of the poor from the poverty line. San Luis has the highest poverty gap ratio of 0.55 followed by Loreto with 0.51 and La Paz with 0.43. Six municipalities exceeded the provincial poverty gap ratio of 3.36 — La Paz, Loreto, Rosario, San Luis, Sta. Josefa, and Sibagat.

Trento has the highest employment rate, followed by Veruela, and Bayugan. Trento is a growth center of the development areas classified as Commercial Center. It has an existing Oil Palm plantation and mill, which provide employment to the people. Moreover, some are also engaged in cultivated farming both rice and corn, palay seed growing, and in wood-based products like furniture. Veruela ranked second because most of the people are engaged in seasonal economic activity such as farm labor and forest products laborer. Bayugan ranked third because it is one of the growth centers of the
Figure 1. Proportion of Population Below Poverty Threshold, by Municipality

![Bar graph showing proportions of population below poverty threshold in different municipalities.]

Figure 2. Proportion of Population Below Poverty Threshold, by Municipality

![Map showing population distribution in different municipalities.]

Legend:
- Municipality Agusan del Sur
- Proportion below poverty threshold:
  - 40% = n < 50
  - 50% = n ≥ 50
  - 60% = n ≥ 70
  - 70% = n ≥ 90

Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) scale 1:100,000
**Figure 3. Poverty Gap, by Municipality**

![Poverty Gap Bar Chart](image)

**Figure 4. Employment Rate, by Municipality**

![Employment Rate Bar Chart](image)
province, and it has many commercial establishments, and many people are engaged in farming.

The elementary education among the 6-12 year-old children is lower at 73.8 than that of the national figure’s 90.6. Elementary enrolment for girls is higher than that of the boys. Elementary schools in the province are limited in numbers and inaccessible to children in far-flung barangays. Moreover, teachers are lacking. The provincial government offered honoraria for 58 voluntary teachers in order to augment the problem. Access to library through the establishment of 203 Pagtuon Library Centers supplemented the book requirements, especially of the hard-to-reach barangay. Counterpart funds for the construction of the school buildings was also provided under the Third Elementary Education Program (TEEP), a World Bank-funded project. The province is also a recipient of 4s Program (Pamilyang Pantawid Pilipino Program) which also helps the children of poor households. The target of the province for 2015 is only 90 percent participation rate in elementary. The 4Ps is anticipated to help fill the gap which will reach about PhP1.4 B in 2015.

At the provincial level, the cohort survival rate among the children in elementary school is only 54.32. It means that only half of the population of children from Grade I are able to reach Grade VI. Moreover, female population is greater than the male which is 61.91 percent compared to boys with only 47.84 percent. Boys usually assist their parents in various field works. The reason for low cohort survival rate among children aged 6-12 years old are poverty, access to school, and lack of motivation of the parents.

The province has a very high literacy rate (97.77%) among the youth ages 15-24 years old. It is higher than the national figure. There is no problem with literacy rate at this level.

There are seven municipalities that have the same or higher proportion of 6-12 year-old children enrolled in elementary than the provincial figure of

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of children aged 6-12 enrolled in elementary</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>National: 90.6 (Annual Poverty Indicators Survey, 2004)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male: 72.1 Female: 75.5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cohort Survival Rate in elementary</td>
<td>54.32</td>
<td>75.3 (2007)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male: 47.84 Female: 61.91</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy rate of 15-24 years old</td>
<td>97.77</td>
<td>96.6 (2003)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Figure 5. Proportion of Children Aged 6-12 Enrolled in Elementary School, by Municipality**

![Proportion of Children Aged 6-12 Enrolled in Elementary School, by Municipality](image)

**Figure 6. Literacy Rate of 15-24 Year-Olds, by Municipality**

![Literacy Rate of 15-24 Year-Olds, by Municipality](image)
73.8. These are Bunawan, Prosperidad, Rosario, San Francisco, Sta. Josefa, Talacogon, Trento which have more schools compared to the other towns. The school age population has easy access to schools especially in Prosperidad and in San Francisco. San Luis has the lowest proportion of only 65.5, followed by La Paz, and Loreto. These are river towns with big area of land and the populace has less access to school.

There are eight municipalities with literacy rate higher than the provincial figure of 97.77. These are Bunawan, Prosperidad, Rosario, San Francisco, Sta. Josefa, Talacogon, Trento, and Veruela. San Luis has the lowest literacy rate for 15-24 years old because of the municipality’s insurgency problem. Moreover, its far-flung barangays’ school age population has less access to school.

The ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education is 1:1. It means that there is no gender disparity.

There is 1:1 ratio also in literacy rate of persons aged 15-24.

The proportion of elective seats occupied by women in the province is lower than the national figure. There are only 25 women (16.23%) out of the 154 in the elective seats in the province and municipalities.

The province supports the Gender and Development Program and strengthens women organizations through Livelihood Skills Trainings for

| Table 3. Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Indicator**                   | **Survey Estimate (2005)** | **Benchmarks National** | **National Target (2015)** |
| Ratio of girls to boys in primary education | 1.0 | 1 (2007) | 1 |
| Ratio of girls to boys in secondary education | 1.2 | 1.1 (2007) | 1 |
| Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education | 1.2 | 1.2 (2005) | 1 |
| Ratio of literate females to literate males aged 15-24 years old | 0.9 | 1 (2003) | 1 |
| Proportion of elective seats held by women in municipality and province | 16.23 | 20.2 (2007) | 50 |
Women such as fossilized flower making, and corn husk utilization skills training. There has been a yearly allocation for Gender and Development Program in Agusan del Sur.

The province has only 0.77 percent proportion of child death (one child death per 1,000 children aged 0-4 years old) which is very much lower than the national figure. The number of male and female deaths for the said age range are the same. The existence of child health programs in the province like immunization programs, availability of Botika ng Barangay with cheaper medicines helped avoid sickness and death among children.

The province has only 2.06 percent of infant death or about two infant deaths per 1,000 live births, much lower than the national figure. The death of

Table 4. Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of children aged 0 to less than 5 years old who died</td>
<td>0.77</td>
<td>Male: 0.80 Female: 0.69</td>
<td>33.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of infants who died</td>
<td>2.06</td>
<td>Male: 2.35 Female: 1.60</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Figure 7. Proportion of Children Aged 0 to Less than 5 years old who Died, by Municipality
male children is greater than the female which is about two deaths in male and about one death in female per 1,000 live births.

The proportion of deaths due to pregnancy-related causes is only one; very much lower than the national figure. It is because the rural health personnel are promoting health programs along pregnancy and is supported by the barangay officials.

Birth attendance by health personnel is only 54.69, which is lower than the national figure and implies that almost half of the deliveries are attended by non-skilled birth attendants like *hilots*.

There are three municipalities with no maternal death such as Talacogon, Sta. Josefa, and Rosario. Rural health workers are keen in advocating for

**Figure 8. Proportion of Infants who Died, by Municipality**

![Figure 8. Proportion of Infants who Died, by Municipality](image)

**Table 5. Goal 5: Improved Maternal Health**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of deaths due to pregnancy related causes</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>162 (2006)</td>
<td>52.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</td>
<td>54.69</td>
<td>72.9 (2007)</td>
<td>100</td>
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</table>
maternal care, hence, more pregnant women become aware of prenatal care. The rest of the municipalities have one maternal death per 1,000 live births. Maternal death in the province is low because several health programs for pregnant women are already in place.

The province has zero death rate associated with malaria since 2003 because the province has implemented Malaria Control Program, an AusAID Funded Project with provincial counterpart which began in 1999. This project, which is currently being sustained by the province, includes distribution of treated mosquito nets and provision of drugs to those areas considered high-risk for malaria.

Death rates associated with tuberculosis is still lower than the national rate at only 6.9 compared to 33. This is mainly due to the availability of free medicines under the TB DOTS Program of the Department of Health.
Table 6. Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death rates associated with malaria</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.3 (2003)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death rates associated with tuberculosis</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>33 (2003)</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

Figure 10. Death Rates Associated with Tuberculosis, by Municipality

Sibagat has the highest death rate caused by tuberculosis with 11.6, followed by Prosperidad with 10.2, Bunawan ranked third with 9.1. The lowest is Bayugan with only 1.0, followed by Trento with 4.2, and Veruela with 5.6.

The proportion of land area covered by forest is 68.45, which is higher than the national figure. With this, Agusan del Sur has not experienced drought.

As to access to safe drinking water, the province has only 66.70 compared to the national figure of 80.20. Although Agusan del Sur is crisscrossed by 13 rivers and several lakes, potable water is scarce unless these rivers are utilized into drinking water which involve huge capital. To reduce the percentage of waterless households, Agusan del Sur implemented Project TINA (Tubig Imnonon Natong Agusanon). For this year, PhP6.48 million is allocated for this for the production and distribution of concrete water dispensers containing bio-sand filters. It is targetted that 90 percent (31,461 HHs) of the waterless
households will be provided with safe water through TINA by the year 2015 with a total project cost of PhP70 million.

**Table 7. Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of land area covered by forest</td>
<td>68.45</td>
<td>52.6</td>
<td>increasing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population with access to safe drinking water source</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>Male: 66.3</td>
<td>80.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population with access to sanitary toilet facility</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>Male: 78.8</td>
<td>86.2</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female: 79.5</td>
<td>(2004)</td>
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**Figure 11. Proportion of Population with Access to Safe Drinking Water, by Municipality**

Access to sanitary toilet is 79.10, a little lower than the national rate of 86.20. Access is slightly higher for females at 79.50 while it is 78.80 for males. Households with no toilets are those which are located in areas that are far from water sources like rivers and creeks.
Rosario, Esperanza, San Francisco, and Bayugan have a higher level of accessibility to safe drinking water. These are the municipalities having Level III water supply projects. While the municipalities of La Paz, Talacogon, and Loreto have lesser access to safe water since these are located along the Agusan River. Several Level I water supply projects have been implemented but the water produced is not potable. These municipalities are the top priority for the TINA Project, including other municipalities situated along the Agusan River.

Veruela ranked lowest in terms of access to sanitary toilets, followed by Prosperidad. Third is Esperanza. These municipalities have many far-flung barangays in which most households do not have water-sealed and closed pit type of toilet facilities. Moreover, 35 percent of the population of Esperanza are indigenous people, which is also one factor to be considered. On the other hand, La Paz, Loreto, and San Luis are the top three municipalities without access to sanitary toilet if closed pit type will not be considered as sanitary based on the health standards. The graph below shows that Bunawan, Bayugan, and Rosario have high access to sanitary toilets. This means that more households are aware of sanitation and health concerns.

The province has provided sanitary toilets to all pilot barangays of Convergence Development Areas such as Rosario, Sibagat, Esperanza, San Francisco, and Prosperidad. Moreover, the municipalities have a regular project under Rural Health Units (RHU), which is the provision of sanitary toilets to barangays.

**Figure 12. Proportion of Population with Access to Sanitary Toilet Facility, by Municipality**
The province has a lower proportion of population with cellular phones than the national figure. It is only one-third of the proportion of the national population with access to telephone/cellphones. Although all of the 14 municipalities have cell sites, the households have less access to telephones/cellular phones because not all can afford to buy. Moreover, there are nine municipalities with landlines such as Veruela, Sta. Josefa, Trento, Bunawan, San Francisco, Prosperidad, Bayugan City, Sibagat, and Esperanza.

The top three municipalities with high proportion of households with cellular phones/landlines are San Francisco, Trento, and Bayugan.

Table 8. Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households/population with telephone/cellphones</td>
<td>HH: 21.08</td>
<td>65.9 (2007)</td>
<td>increasing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population: 21.9</td>
<td></td>
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Figure 13. Proportion of Households with Telephones/Cellular Phones, by Municipality
Using the Community-Based Monitoring System in Drug Abuse Prevention

David A. Ponce de Leon*

Program Overview
The Province of Palawan was one of the first local government units (LGUs) in the country to adopt the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS). For over 10 years now, the CBMS in Palawan has been an effective guide and support system to the Provincial Government for its policymaking, resource allocation, project implementation and monitoring of anti-poverty programs province-wide.

For the communities in Palawan, the CBMS is an empowerment tool in that it has enabled them to become recipients of government undertakings adopted through community participation. No longer are they the passive recipients of inappropriate public programs but active movers of needed interventions.

For a province like Palawan, whose land and maritime geography is bigger than any other province in the country, with 23 municipalities, 12 of which are island-municipalities, and whose financial resources are barely sufficient, the CBMS has become an organized way of collecting the right and correct information at the ground level on community needs to address the poverty problem.

With the CBMS in Palawan, need-based provincial government interventions in the various component municipalities had become the rule.

CBMS as Used in Palawan’s Anti-Drug Abuse Program (DAP)
A. Adoption of CBMS by the Palawan Anti-Drug Abuse Council (PADAC)
The drug problem in Palawan, while not a serious one, is a matter of continuing concern for the Provincial Government. In May of this
year, the PADAC decided to adopt the CBMS in its anti drug-abuse program, considering the proven CBMS effectiveness in poverty reduction initiatives which are believed to be complementary to the province’s drug program. The PADAC’s drug demand reduction activities would surely benefit from the better and more accurate statistics or benchmark information for evidence-based policymaking as made possible by the CBMS.

B. PADAC’S Anti Drug-Abuse Program (DAP) consists of:
   a. Preventive Education
   b. Information Dissemination and Trainings
   c. Intake and Referrals
   d. Primary Intervention
   e. After-Care and Follow-Up
   f. Establishment of Community Outreach Centers
   g. Volunteer Services
   h. Research and Documentation
   i. Monitoring

C. PADAC’S recognition of CBMS’ advantage over traditional planning even in drug programs

D. Program implementation
   a. Initial Measures
      i. Identification of target communities and areas province-wide with or without reported drug incidence based on reports obtained by PADAC’s auxiliary municipal anti-drug councils and the Philippine National Police. For the first five months of the CBMS-DAP, a total of 166 barangays in Palawan were covered (66 in Puerto Princesa and 97 in southern municipalities). A total of 17,000 participants from various social and community groups were involved.
      ii. Strategic Clustering of Communities and Areas. This is done to maximize the use of limited resources. The clustering process is based principally on geographic location and social and cultural affinity of target areas.
      iii. Identification of monitors who are from the different sectors of the community, namely:
         1. Barangay Leaders
         2. Barangay Health Workers
         3. Barangay Nutrition Scholars
         4. Educators
Table 1. Traditional Planning versus Community-Based Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Planning</th>
<th>Community-Based Planning</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emanates from the top level</td>
<td>Emanates from the members of the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selective composition of planners</td>
<td>Comprehensive composition through the inclusion of MSGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on “perceived” needs</td>
<td>Based on the actual needs of the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermittent, depending on the “lifespan” of the program or tenure of policymakers</td>
<td>Sustainable, since it is the community which carries out the planning and the monitoring activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitized data and reports</td>
<td>Reports reflect the true situation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Religious Leaders
6. Senior Citizens
7. Youth (in-school, out-of-school)
8. Women
9. Others

Program Activities
1. Convening of barangay and other community leaders as monitors
2. Conduct of two-day CBMS seminar/workshops in the target areas
3. Modular discussion such as introduction of the paradigm of drug abuse prevention, barangay assessment of local drug situation, barangay mapping, introduction to community organizing and mobilization, preparation of information flow process, and the adoption of the CBMS and the barangay anti-drug program

Important Results and Findings
Based on the first day modular discussion, the following important results and findings emerged:
1. Correlation of poverty and drug abuse incidence
   Contrary to the conventional belief, even among some drug enforcers, drug abuse incidence can be high in areas of poverty as in areas of affluence. The drug market is often in the rich areas but retail distribution is often strong in the poverty-stricken areas where employment even for illicit illegal activities is easily taken. The income would relatively be higher than ordinary jobs; however, exposure to drugs often leads to acceptability of drug abuse in a continuing manner.
2. Out-of-school youth (OSY) involvement in drug distribution
   The drug pushers are often the out-of-school youth. Relative to this, the LGUs are being enjoined to review their OSY programs or adopt such program if they have none.

3. Communities where family ties and moral and spiritual values are weak are "good" areas for drug use and distribution. Curfew hours for the youth have been a common suggestion.

4. The idea of "spying" on neighbors, friends, schoolmates is not good but the realization that it is for the greater good makes it more acceptable albeit under strict conditions.

5. Entry points for illegal drugs are the open ports in Palawan. The open ports in the remote municipalities have become the preferred entry points for illegal drugs, particularly the backdoor ports in southern Palawan. These findings have been endorsed to the Philippine National Police (PNP), Coast Guard, Navy and other investigative offices for appropriate action as well as for visibility and vigilance.

**Action Plans Based on the First CBMS-DAP**

1. Continuing analysis of CBMS-DAP findings and results
2. Institutionalization of the CBMS-DAP in target communities through barangay and municipal resolutions.
3. Expansion of the CBMS-DAP to cover the rest of Palawan’s 23 municipalities
4. Integration of the CBMS-DAP in PADAC’s provincial drug abuse prevention programs
Implementation and Uses of the Community-Based Monitoring System for Improving Local Planning and Program Implementation

Arnold G. Guyguyon*

Introduction
Sometime in November 2006, the Municipal Local Government Operations Officer (MLGOO) gave a copy of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Project Proposal of the Province of Benguet to the Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO) of Asipulo as a basis for the drafting and submission to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The year 2007 being an election year, however, led to the CBMS proposal probably being forgotten or lost along the way to the DILG.

The change in local government unit (LGU) leadership in 2007 brought about changes and the need to update existing LGU development plans to fit the development thrusts of the new administration. The local chief executive (LCE) believed in preparing a development plan based on data that reflect the true situation of the LGU and its people. The existing LGU data were outdated, however, and since planning could only be made with updated primary and secondary data, heads of offices of the LGU supported the idea of gathering data for planning purposes and a “task force” was created composed of service provider offices and led by the planning and development office to discuss and come up with a tool for data gathering.

All offices were requested to submit a list of the data needed by their respective offices while other offices were tasked to look for old survey questionnaires used by other past programs like the CECAP BDP RRA Survey, MBN Survey, IRAP Survey, LAPP II Survey, Health Survey and other surveys as a basis for the LGU survey tool. A final draft consisting of 14 pages was finally approved but the LGU being a UNFPA pilot area, the project implementors thought it best to include a questionnaire on the program. Thus, another page was included making the LGU Household Survey Questionnaire into 15 pages.

* Municipal Planning & Development Coordinator, Municipality of Asipulo, Province of Ifugao
How the LGU’s CBMS Household Survey was Implemented

Since data gathering is part of the work of the Planning & Development Office, the “Task Force” gave the operationalization of the project to the municipal planning and development coordinator (MPDC) as lead implementor and team leader.

Since it was already the third quarter of the year, the following questions had to be answered first before the project is implemented: (1) where to get funds for the printing of the questionnaire, (2) how to finance the orientation and training of enumerators on the survey questionnaire and the honoraria for the actual enumeration, and (3) how to finance the consolidation of barangay data and the conduct of barangay data validation.

Upon review of the 2007 LGU budget, only the printing of the household questionnaire could be charged from the excess MOOE of the different LGU offices, the bulk of which would come from the MPDO.

Due to the limited funds available for the conduct of the household survey and in order to ensure the proper implementation of the survey and the quality of data gathered, a plan of action to implement the project was proposed to the municipal mayor.

The Plan

- Mobilize all LGU employees who have a minimum of two years college education, including all department heads, as enumerators and group them into teams with two heads of office to lead each team.
- All female employees and heads of offices shall be grouped into a team with 6-9 members to conduct survey in the six accessible barangays.
- A special mobile group of 15 selected male employees led by the MPDO shall conduct the survey in the far flung areas composed of three barangays and four special economic zones which could only be reached by hiking 8–12 hours.
- All enumerators assigned to accessible barangays are given the option to conduct the survey during working days or to offset a maximum of five work days if they prefer to conduct the survey during the weekends.
- Meal allowance of PhP100.00 for accessible barangays and PhP120.00 for the mobile group per day may be claimed subject to availability of funds; and use of LGU vehicles for transportation may be allowed whenever possible to support the enumerators.
- All household questionnaires are to be completed, checked for data entry errors and submitted by the team leaders to the MPDO by the end of October 2007.
Implementation and Uses of the CBMS for Improving Local Planning

Arnold G. Guyguyon

- Expenses for the conduct of orientation and training of enumerators and the collation and preparation of questionnaires are to be charged to the lead implementing office.

The Timetable
- The project started with the canvassing of printing services in September 2007.
- Upon delivery of printed questionnaire, the enumerators’ orientation and training was conducted in the last week of September, including the field testing and final briefing for all enumerators.
- Actual survey started on October 3, 2007 by the mobile group and ran through the end of November 2007.
- While the household survey was ongoing, the MLGOO updated the Provincial and Regional DILG Offices on the LGU’s activity and requested assistance for the consolidation of data.
- A copy of the LGU survey questionnaire was sent to the DILG-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) but this was referred instead to the BLGD Central Office.
- In the third week of November, the LGU received an invitation from the BLGD to attend the CBMS Module II Training at the BLGD Conference Hall in the first week of December to train the LGU on how to go about the consolidation of the household data.

There was no update from the DILG regarding the LGU CBMS proposal in 2006; thus, we never knew about the joint program of the CBMS Network and the DILG. Unknowingly, though, our efforts to gather data were parallel with the CBMS Program.

During the CBMS Module II Training, our LGU joined other LGUs from South Cotabato and Quezon Province but on the first day of training, the BLGD-CBMS Team found that we had a different questionnaire from that of the other LGUs.

The Team was surprised to find out that our questionnaire was similar to the latest version of the CBMS Survey questionnaire, the Minalin Version. We were relieved that at least, even if not all the questions in our household survey could be consolidated using the CBMS software, consolidation of most of the data could be done easier and faster.

After the LGU “CBMS Team” successfully completed the three-day training and was ready to share the knowledge gained using the CBMS software, another problem came up: that is, the need for computers and encoders. Since Module II entailed the encoding of the data and the digitizing of maps for the presentation of the 13 + 1 Core Indicators, these were needed.
To remedy the problem, computer sets submitted to the Treasury Office as waste materials were retrieved and repaired and the “LGU CBMS Team Leader” requested the LCE to issue an Administrative Order for all offices to send one staff each to be trained in encoding and help in the encoding of the LGU-CBMS Household Survey Questionnaires.

Training of the encoders was done by the team that attended the Module II Training without funding except for free snacks provided by the MPDO. Additional funding for the wages of encoders working on weekends was requested from the UNFPA and was subsequently granted. This thereupon fast-tracked the encoding of the survey questionnaires.

**Uses of the CBMS Softwares**

**CBMS Encoded Data:**
- Household data could be readily retrieved or located
- Household data are processed to rank households based on the number of unmet needs as a basis for the LGU to provide services, i.e., enrollment to the PhilHEALTH Program).

**Statistics Simulator:**
- Data on the 14 core indicators of poverty are easily prepared and transferred to Excel file format for presentation and backup of data.
- Disaggregated data by sex and age could be presented by purok, barangay or municipality.
- Data under question could be easily traced out to the household level.

**CS PRO:**
- Tables consisting of numerical data could be generated faster and transferred to Excel file format for presentation and backup of data.

**NRDB PRO:**
- Household data are matched with the digitized maps to present data in color-coded map format for presentation of the 14 Core Poverty Indicators, which can easily be understood by a layman.

**Uses of CBMS Data**
- Identification of unmet needs of the community based on the 14 Core Indicators of poverty
- Community people are able to analyze, identify and prioritize their needs
- Communities are able to suggest/contribute and participate in decisionmaking
- Communities are able to identify and prioritize programs/projects in a collective manner to overcome their problems
• Community people are able to decide the direction of their development and decide what priority programs and projects should be funded out of the Barangay and Municipal Development Funds
• Community people are able to lobby for the funding of their priority projects with LGU officials and to source out funds from other funding sources
• People are able to implement, monitor and maintain projects and become accountable for their project funds
• And finally, people empowerment is achieved through the institutionalization of the “Kapantutubtubi Program.”
Integrating the LGPMS and CBMS into the Comprehensive Development Plans of LGUs

Manuel Q. Gotis*

We cannot disassociate the Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS) from the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS). Knowledge and information are power. In any endeavor, especially in local governance, where the welfare of the people is at stake, there really is a need to have very good and very accurate information. And with that idea, the Department of Local and Interior Government (DILG) came up with two tools that started with the LGPMS. The DILG is advocating both the LGPMS and CBMS as tools that will enhance the present system of analyzing the planning environment as inputs to local planning. My brief discussion will focus on integrating the LGPMS and CBMS to reinforce the analysis of the five development sectors—social, economic, environmental, physical/infrastructure, and institutional. To a large extent, CBMS can readily give out household-level information on the social development sector and, to a limited extent, on the economic and environmental sectors. The CBMS can also generate information on accessibility to infrastructure services at the barangay level.

The LGPMS, on the other hand, can generate information on the five development sectors using secondary data.

The Simplified Planning Process
This is the simplified process for the preparation of the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) as advocated by the DILG. It shows how the LGPMS and CBMS can be utilized in the whole process of CDP preparation down to plan implementation. Both systems are now in place in all the steps of the planning process—setting the vision; determining the vision-reality gaps (VRGs); setting the goals, objectives, and targets; screening of projects, services,
and legislation; and plan monitoring and evaluation as basis for the next term plan.

Consistent with the DILG’s mandate to provide technical assistance to local government units (LGUs) to improve their fiscal, administrative, and technical capabilities, we have already completed the nationwide roll-out on CDP preparation to all our regional, provincial, and highly urbanized cities (HUC) CDP trainers, including the provincial planning and development coordinators (PPDCs) and the HUC planning coordinators. This nationwide roll-out was designed to better prepare our people next year when LGUs update their CDPs. Corollary to this, we also continue to provide support to LGUs adopting the CBMS through technical assistance for modular trainings.

The Value of LGPMS and CBMS in Determining the Current Realities
The CBMS has the ability to produce a qualitative dimension to statistical information generated by the system. It also allows further observations and projecting the implications of the observed conditions. The LGU can therefore use relevant CBMS data to add a qualitative dimension to the statistical data in the ecological profile as a direct input to the statistical compendium or the Local Development Indicator System (LDIS).

On the other hand, the LGU may use the Display Data Utility (DDU) of the LGPMS Reports Generation Module to measure and determine its performance in that indicator against national standards.

Figure 1. The Simplified Process
The Value of CBMS in Generating Information Pertaining to the Social Development Sector

The CBMS as a system also has the ability to generate information on poverty at smallest geopolitical unit. It can provide socioeconomic information at the individual and household levels that are disaggregated by barangay, municipality, and province. This can be useful in the comparative analysis of data between one planning unit vis-à-vis another, i.e., municipality with higher- and/or lower-level LGU. This allows an appreciation of the differences between these areas with respect to certain indicators or attributes.

The CBMS adopts either output or outcome indicators, such as child morbidity rates, malnutrition rates, educational attainment, and participation rate. These indicators can provide a direct, more accurate, and meaningful measure of the state of local development.

Both the LGPMS and CBMS can generate information that will help in the analysis of infrastructure development concerns, such as, but not limited to, housing and basic utilities, support for agriculture and fisheries, solid waste facilities, percentage of irrigated land to total irrigable lands, use of special education and general funds in education, and accessibility through digitized maps and barangay profiles.

Both the LGPMS and CBMS can also generate information that will help in the analysis of institutional development concerns, such as, but not limited to, LGU administrative capacity and service delivery productivity. This consists of major indicators on administrative governance and valuing the fundamentals of good governance.
The CBMS also generates information on the participation of household members in civic organizations and other useful and related LGU specific indicators.

The illustration below explains the utilization of related data generated from the CBMS and LGPMS.

All input, output, and outcome indicators can be profiled in the CDP’s data organizer that we call the LDIS. The LDIS, which is spatial and temporal in nature, can facilitate the organization of the planning database by sector, by geographical location, and timelines.

The results of extracting intelligence or determining the VRGs will then serve as the bases for setting the sectoral goals, objectives, and targets and will be applied to the prioritization of projects, services, and legislation.

**Figure 3. Utilization of Related Data Generated from the CBMS and LGPMS**

How can the CBMS and LGPMS be Integrated in the Local Planning Process?
In any planning activity, the need for reliable, accurate, and updated information cannot be overemphasized. The various sets of information generated by the CBMS, LGPMS, and the System Competency Assessment for Local Government (SCALOG) all contribute to the establishment and building-up of a database that can contribute to, and facilitate, the conduct of planning as a major function of LGUs.

The output of LGPMS called the State of Local Governance Report (SLGR) can serve as an important tool for local development planning since it can help
identify issues and concerns in the LGU as well as list and prioritize programs, projects, and activities that can respond to the identified needs of the community. The SLGR can also serve as the “launch pad” for the preparation of the Executive and Legislative Agenda (ELA) that charts the course of development efforts for the local officials’ three-year term of office.

Household income was added as a good catch-all indicator of well-being because it shows whether or not a family can afford the goods and services that the members need to sustain a good quality of life.

**Direct Use of CBMS in the Formulation of the CDP**

Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 001 Series of 2007 provides for the updating or formulation of the CDP after the 2010 elections. Following this policy and using the framework of the Rationalized Planning System (RPS), CBMS can be directly used as basis in revisiting the vision elements down to the setting of sectoral goals, objectives, and targets, which will be used as input in the review of the Local Development Investment Program (LDIP) and the preparation of the Annual Investment Program (AIP).

In the screening of priority projects, services, and legislation, CBMS can also be used as reference in sifting the projects and ensuring that the local investments and, eventually, the budget for the ensuing year are consistent with the actual needs and aspirations of the people as shown in the CBMS results.

The system for monitoring and evaluation of the CDP is strengthened by reviewing the impacts of antipoverty programs and studying how the implementation of such programs can be improved in the next term.
Enhancing Local Development Planning and Poverty Diagnosis through CBMS

Merlita Lagmay*

Enhancing Local Development Planning and Poverty Diagnosis through CBMS
Let me first congratulate the CBMS Network Team for making this gathering possible for the sixth time. As Director Manuel Gotis mentioned earlier, for those who are not implementing CBMS yet, it is time to start now.

I had attended the Department of the Interior and Local Government’s (DILG) training on the preparation of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP). Let me recapitulate here why we, as per this training, need to rationalize:

- To fully comply with the Local Government Code’s (LGC) requirements;
- To reduce the number of plans to be formulated by local government units or LGUs. There were a number of plans asked of us: e.g., there were plans for women, children, and senior citizens, among others. Now, however, we only need to pass two. We would have to harmonize all plans and consolidate them into the two plans, namely, the CLUP and the CDP;
- For the national government agencies (NGAs) to harmonize or dovetail their planning guidelines to avoid further confusing the LGUs; and
- To reconfigure the planning process (from technocratic to multi-stakeholder participation).

* City Planning and Development Coordinator, City of Pasay
The Planning System

Why a planning system? The answer is founded on the dual functions of the LGU. One, as a political subdivision of the National Government, LGUs are in charge of the management of their entire geographical territory for and in behalf of the national government (Physical-CLUP). And two, as a corporate entity, LGUs are responsible for representing their inhabitants and delivering basic services and facilities that will enable such inhabitants to develop fully into self-reliant communities (Multisectoral-CDP).

One of the two mandated plans is the CLUP, which is the plan for the management of local territories. The second plan is the CDP, which is the plan with which the LGU promotes the general welfare of its inhabitants in its capacity as a corporate body.

So this is what Director Gotis has been talking about earlier. In the Local Governance Performance and Management System (LGPMS), if you fail to answer even one question, you cannot generate a table. However, most of the indicators there could be taken from the CBMS. The CBMS is therefore used to answer the questions in the LGPMS. For instance, there is one question in the LGPMS that I cannot really answer: the proportion of the labor force who still wants to work more. Fortunately, the CBMS has this as one of the areas it aims to focus and shed light on.

After implementing two rounds of the CBMS, we are proud to present below the results in Pasay City. Using our the 2005 data as our baseline, we are able to see the real performance of the local government.

Finally, the CBMS indicators were used as bases during the preparation of our Annual Investment Plan for 2010 and will be used for the CDP preparation for 2010.

Figure 1. The CDP and the LGPMS
### Table 1. Pasay CBMS Core Poverty Indicators, 2008 & 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Indicators</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of children 0-5 year old who died</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of women who died due to pregnancy related-causes</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of children 0-5 years old who are moderately and severely underweight</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households living in makeshift housing</td>
<td>2,799</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>4,218</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households who are informal settlers</td>
<td>3,139</td>
<td>4.47</td>
<td>2,440</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households with no access to safe water</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td>1,160</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households with no access to sanitary toilet facilities</td>
<td>2,517</td>
<td>3.58</td>
<td>1,787</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of children 6-12 years old not in elementary school</td>
<td>7,027</td>
<td>19.27</td>
<td>8,216</td>
<td>22.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of children 13-16 not in secondary school</td>
<td>5,507</td>
<td>29.08</td>
<td>5,709</td>
<td>29.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of household with income below the poverty threshold</td>
<td>7,785</td>
<td>11.07</td>
<td>8,933</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households with income below the food threshold</td>
<td>2,342</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>2,497</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of households who experienced food shortage</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of persons in the labor force who are unemployed</td>
<td>15,557</td>
<td>14.47</td>
<td>21,760</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of persons who are victims of crime</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>1,260</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Uses of CBMS for Local Planning and Revenue Allocation in Candon City, Ilocos Sur

Naulie Cabanting*

On behalf of our humble City of Candon, Ilocos Sur, I would like to thank the organizers for inviting us and giving us a chance to share to each and every one our experience in making the CBMS a very useful tool in local planning, especially in the newly implemented Rationalized Planning System and Revenue Allocation in the City, to address the needs of our constituents, particularly the less fortunate.

Candon City is a “C” shaped land mass located along the shores of Ilocos Sur, with a land area of 10,328 hectares. It has 42 barangays, four urban and 38 rural. It is strategically situated being 132 kms. south of Laoag City, 72 kms north of San Fernando City, La Union, 100 kms north of Baguio City and 347 kms north of Manila.

Candon City has great potentials to become a sub-regional growth center complementing the regional growth center - San Fernando City, La Union. It has also become the center of trade and commerce in the Southern Ilocos Sur area as it serves about 15 nearby towns in the provinces of Ilocos Sur, La Union and Abra even when it was still a municipality. Its 12-kilometer stretch of the National Highway is the only entry point to the eastern upland towns of the 2nd District of Ilocos Sur. Candon City consists of mountains and hills in the east; a bountiful farmland plains in the center; a 16-km shoreline; and a diverse setting of natural resources and solid agricultural-based economy. It is also bounded by four municipalities in the north, two municipalities in the east and one in the north.

* City Planning and Development Coordinator, City of Candon, Province of Ilocos Sur
Why Did Candon City Adopt the CBMS?
Several reasons could be cited in the decision of the City to adopt the CBMS. Among them are:

- Survey results were updated manually every four years
- Secondary data from other LGU Departments were not regularly updated
- Data from national government agencies like the National Statistics Office (NSO) could hardly be obtained and are sometimes unrealistic

Who Introduced CBMS?
The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Officer was the one who presented the CBMS to the Local Chief Executive, Punong Barangays and the Planning Office. Realizing that CBMS could be a very useful and a “real-time” tool for planning, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between the City of Candon and Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) Director Manuel Gotis in 2005.

The CBMS Project
On the initial implementation of the CBMS, two staff from our MIS office and the CSWD Office attended the Orientation/Workshop on CBMS conducted by the BLGD and DILG Regional Office. The DILG Officer, the City Social Welfare and Development Officer and the City Planning and Development Coordinator held orientation sessions for all punong barangays and they were asked to organize a team to conduct household surveys composed of the barangay secretaries, day care workers and barangay health workers. The latter were tapped as enumerators since they are more familiar with the households in their respective barangays. We conducted a separate orientation for the survey teams to familiarize them with the Survey Forms. After the conduct of the survey, the barangay secretaries were trained on how to encode, especially those with computers in their barangays. To make the encoding faster; the city government hired encoders to complete and help the barangay secretaries in the encoding of data. With the expertise of the staff in the MIS under the City Planning Office, they conducted the map digitization.

Cost-Sharing in the Implementation of the CBMS Between the City and the Barangay
For the city government, they were tasked to conduct the orientation and workshop, reproduction of the survey forms, encoding of data (80% was done by the hired encoders), map digitizing, data management and consolidation of data for the 42 barangays.
For the barangays, they conducted the survey through the survey teams with their honorariums coming from the barangay coffers; 20 percent of the data were encoded by the barangay with computers and computer literate barangay secretaries; and the sketch maps were provided by them.

Benefits and Uses of CBMS
The CBMS data are very beneficial and useful because they are good data for planning not only in the barangay but also for the city as well. It is through the CBMS that the indigents are easily identified. Households without the basic facilities like toilets, water system, and electricity can easily be identified, too. Households with substandard housing facilities can easily be pinpointed. Children who are not in school by age bracket can also be identified and located. Resources are rationalized and judiciously allocated.

Application of CBMS to Rationalized Planning System (RPS)
With the Rationalized Planning System through the JMC 001 between the HLURB and DILG harmonizing the HLURB’s CLUP and the DILG’s Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) Guidelines, it is timely that we are in the process of updating our CLUP. We therefore decided to simultaneously update and formulate our CLUP, CDP, LDIP and Ecological Profile, respectively. It is good now that the HLURB realized the usefulness and importance of the CBMS data that they now allowed their use in the CLUP preparation in lieu of the NSO data, which are sometimes unrealistic and controversial. The CBMS data are very rich and comprehensive and specific in location particularly in sectoral planning data for the CLUP and CDP than that the NSO data as previously required. Linkage of planning and budgeting is clearly manifested using CBMS because targets for investment are cleverly identified. Land use allocation will be easier because target beneficiaries are specifically located and identified through the CBMS data. They are also gender-responsive because data are gender disaggregated. They are likewise rights-based data, MDG-responsive and child-friendly.

CBMS-Based Programs and Projects
Through the CBMS, we have identified the recipients of the FACES (Family-based Action for Children and Enviroms in the Slum) in which a certain amount of grant from the UNDP, then a counterpart from the city government and from the office of the Deputy Speaker Cong. Eric Singson, were used for the initial construction of low-cost housing (Gawad Kalinga), sanitary toilets and water system.

With the idea of FACES, we came out with a wider and more comprehensive program called “SHEPHERD” with the involvement of other national government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and the recipients as well.
Candon City’s Next Step Regarding the CBMS

The city of Candon envisions to institutionalize the CBMS process through an ordinance that requires that surveys be conducted regularly with the different concerned city departments as point offices in their particular sectors; the creation of a unit in the MIS Division to handle the CBMS data processing exclusively; the upgrading of the system into a CBMS-based Geographical Information System (GIS) capable system; and the institutionalization of the CBMS at the barangay level.
Use of CBMS for Development Initiatives in Sarangani

Rene Paraba*

Sarangani Province has a total land area of 400,000 hectares. It has seven small towns and 140 barangays. It has a total population of 480,000, 34 percent of which are indigenous peoples and 14 percent Muslim. Eighty one percent are rural dwellers while 61 percent of the total population are agri-fishery dependent.

Statistics generated by Small Area Estimates (SAE) of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) revealed that Sarangani was the fourth poorest province in the Philippines with 63 percent poverty incidence. Using the same methodology (SAE) in 2006, Sarangani was ranked the 11th poorest province. Hunger incidence in the province was also reported to be one of the highest in the country in 2007.

This situation was unacceptable and seemed unrealistic to all development stakeholders in the province. Thus, the province decided to implement Community-Based Management System (CBMS) in February 2008. The whole process was completed in July 2009. The province and its municipalities and barangays adopted a cost-sharing scheme where the provincial government and the LGUs absorbed 70 and 30 percent, respectively, of the total project cost. As stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the National Anti-Poverty Commission and the PEP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team provided the system and technical assistance.

Some of the best practices in the project implementation are as follows:

1. The Municipality of Alabel tapped residents of the puroks to serve as enumerators and establish reliability of the survey results.

2. The Municipality of Glan showcased the potency of inter-agency collaboration by sharing manpower, equipment and other resources.

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* Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Province of Sarangani
3. The Municipality of Kiamba demonstrated proficiency in using the CBMS technology. It also adopted a systematic project phasing arrangement and took steps to ensure sustainability of the CBMS project.

4. The Municipality of Maasim demonstrated commitment to the initiative; it was one of the LGUs that started late but finished the entire CBMS process still within reasonable time.

5. The Municipality of Maitum had an early start and finished the CBMS process ahead of the other municipalities.

6. The Municipality of Malapatan showed commitment and teamwork despite low capacity and technology deficiencies.

7. The Municipality of Malungon used the strategy of clustering the barangays to facilitate smooth CBMS project implementation.

With regard to roles and responsibilities, the municipalities were in charge of harmonizing data requirements, validating the results, establishing protocol on data usage, etc. Meanwhile, the provincial government was in charge of data consolidation and formulated policy on data utilization.

Some of the results of the CBMS survey are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Total No. of Households</th>
<th>HHs w/ Income Below Poverty Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Magnitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabel</td>
<td>11924</td>
<td>8216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glan</td>
<td>7378</td>
<td>4233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiamba</td>
<td>11402</td>
<td>6929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maasim</td>
<td>8962</td>
<td>5406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maitum</td>
<td>8581</td>
<td>5359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malapatan</td>
<td>12958</td>
<td>10225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malungon</td>
<td>18101</td>
<td>11263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarangani</td>
<td>79306</td>
<td>51631</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2. Proportion of Households with Income Below Poverty Threshold, Top 10 Barangay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Barangay</th>
<th>No. of HHs</th>
<th>HHs w/ Income Below Poverty Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Magnitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maitum</td>
<td>Bati-an</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malungon</td>
<td>San Juan</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabel</td>
<td>Datal Anggas</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malapatan</td>
<td>Upper Suyan</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malungon</td>
<td>Panamin</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabel</td>
<td>Paraiso</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malapatan</td>
<td>Kinam</td>
<td>1,302</td>
<td>1197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malapatan</td>
<td>Kihan</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malapatan</td>
<td>Libi</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malungon</td>
<td>Kawayan</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Proportion of Children 6-12 Years Old not Attending Elementary School, by Municipality
What will become of our children under our care? The responses of the provincial government are enumerated below:

1. **Education** – The 25 percent participation rate in ECCD program in 2007 is projected to increase to 60 percent by 2010. This will be done through household targeting. With regard to the low elementary and high school participation rates, the province is now implementing the Quality Education for Sarangans Today (Project), which has the following components: (1) upgrading of teachers’ instructional prowess, prudence and values; (2) mobilization of youth for children education; (3) elimination of gaps in teacher-student ratio; and (4) establishment of integrated and boarding schools. On the other hand, the Paaral sa Sarangans project which was launched in 1992 and was rationalized through CBMS now produces 50-100 graduates from priority courses, including medicine. Also, in partnership with the Mindanao State University and the private sector, 240 scholars from indigenous peoples’ (IP) communities are now pursuing baccalaureate degrees in education.

2. **Health** – the provincial government has started rationalizing its health services through the crafting of evidence-based health plans at the provincial and municipal levels. It is also implementing universal health coverage, which hopes to eliminate disparities in health services delivery and generate revenue from capitation, thereby ensuring a sustainable health care program. The provincial
government is also pursuing a household-based nutrition program that focuses on the preparation of nutritious menus from locally-available food variants.

3. Poverty - Project 1021 was launched to address extreme poverty in Sarangani. The project is a multi-sectoral initiative and a collaborative effort of every department in the provincial government. It targets 35 disadvantaged barangays based on the 14 indicators of the CBMS. These disadvantaged barangays are considered the most deprived communities in terms of delivery of basic services and are mostly located in the province’s upland/rural areas.
Use of CBMS for Development Initiatives in Zamboanga del Sur

Loy Cañales*

Geographical Location
Zamboanga del Sur occupies the southern section of the Zamboanga Peninsula (ZamPen) Region that forms the western part of Mindanao Island. It is bounded by the Province of Zamboanga del Norte in the north; Moro Gulf in the south; Lanao del Sur, Misamis Occidental and Panguil Bay in the East, and; Zamboanga Sibugay in the southwest. Pagadian City is the provincial capital and the new regional center of Region IX.

The province’s demographic profile is presented in the table below:

Table 1. Demographic Profile of Zamboanga del Sur

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population (2007 NSO Census)</th>
<th>914,278</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population of children (47.6%)</td>
<td>435,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Size</td>
<td>5.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Growth Rate</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Density</td>
<td>193 per sq km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP Population</td>
<td>15.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Rate</td>
<td>77.46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, Province of Zamboanga del Sur.
CBMS in ZDS: Status and Results
The CBMS work in the Province of Zamboanga del Sur started with a Memorandum of Agreement entered into by the provincial government, the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) and the PEP-CBMS Network Coordinating Team in July 2007. To date, 288 barangays representing 42 percent of the total were able to write their socioeconomic profiles and formulate their Barangay Development Plans; 573 barangays (84%) were able to validate the CBMS results at the community level; 579 barangays (85%) were able to process their CBMS data; 580 barangays (85%) digitized their barangay maps; 627 barangays (92%) encoded data using the CBMS encoding system; and 643 barangays (94%) were able to collect the data using the prescribed CBMS Household Profile Questionnaire.

Of the 27 component municipalities, only 22 (81%) have fully completed their municipal CBMS databases. The lone city of Pagadian and four municipalities of Dimataling, Dinas, Lapuyan and Pitogo have yet to complete their respective databases before consolidation into the provincial database. Meanwhile, the municipalities of Dimataling, Margosatubig, Dinas and Dimataling are being assisted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), using a software version that is slightly different from the one provided by NAPC and CBMS.

Figure 1. CBMS Composite Index, by municipality
The CBMS survey results indicate that the provincial government needs to focus on its top development issues as shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2. Top 5 issues in Zamboanga del Sur**

- **1st**: 66.92% of HH with income below poverty threshold
- **2nd**: 51.17% households with income below food threshold
- **3rd**: 36.48% of households is without access to sanitary toilet
- **4th**: 33.72% children 6-12 yrs old not attending elementary school
- **5th**: 31.22% of households is without access to safe water

The following interventions have been identified to help scale-up poverty alleviation in the province: preparation of CBMS-based development plans; reduction in the number of waterless barangays; improvement in access to livelihood opportunities; increase in health insurance coverage; rationalization of resource allocation, formulation of social policy memos; and preparation/update of Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan—Comprehensive Land Use Plan—Comprehensive Development Plan (PDPFP-CLUPs-CDPs).

**Benefits Derived from CBMS**

1. Available CBMS data at the municipal/barangay levels enhances preparation of Barangay Socio-Economic Profile (SEP) and Barangay Development Plan (BDP)
   - In barangays covered by foreign-assisted projects such as CPC6, MRDP2, ARCP2, etc., CBMS data were used for resource profiling and as basis for sectoral analysis
   - CBMS data facilitated community participation during the BDP preparation
2. CBMS easily helps in identifying waterless communities, prioritizing them province-wide, municipal-wide, then barangay-wide
• Focused targeting is facilitated and readily justified
• Priority water supply (WS) projects in identified barangays/communities are ranked for endorsement to donor agencies
  – Three WS Projects located in Lapuyan, Midsalip, and Tigbao were endorsed to NAPC and approved funding under the President's Priority Program for Water (P3W). The identification of these projects was supported by CBMS results.

3. Local poverty diagnosis aided by CBMS
• Disaggregated and detailed profiling of community/household needs enabled local officials and functionaries to assess causes and extent of poverty in the community
  – In MRDP2-assisted areas, local chief executives issued executive orders requiring the use of CBMS in identifying beneficiaries for the Community Fund for Agricultural Development (CFAD) Projects of MRDP2

4. The List of Poorest Households by Municipality/Barangay generated thru CBMS provided a ready list of eligible beneficiaries for reference of various PhilHealth partners (e.g., PLGU, MLGUs, PHIC, Congressmen, etc.). The poorest households in all municipalities/barangays were ranked using composite indicators used for identifying PhilHealth beneficiaries and for other specific programs/projects.

5. Provincial-level CBMS results provided factual basis for targeting the annual sectoral allocations of Local Development Funds to priority and most needed projects and services. It served as basis for detailing project profiles related to target municipalities and barangays, and specific groups (e.g., women, children)

6. As community needs and problems are identified through CBMS information, local functionaries were able to prepare draft policy memos that are evidence-based and analytical. Local policymakers were able to identify, prioritize, and adopt appropriate policy interventions needed to address inadequacies in affected communities

7. Data from CBMS will definitely enrich the existing local development indicator system and certainly help in analyzing sector-specific indicators that would result in better identification of interventions and beneficiaries. The CBMS sector and spatial data facilitate the interface between the CLUP and the CDP, as well as, strengthen the
link between sectors and physical resources in the preparation of the PDPFP.

Policy Support for CBMS
The provincial government has issued the following resolutions in support of CBMS:

1. PDC Resolution No. 06-2009
   - Adopting 2007 CBMS Survey Results as a common database for all component LGUs to facilitate generation, processing and utilization of data for planning, programming and implementing poverty alleviation interventions
   - Recommending to RDC-IX the use of the same by RLAs/Offices as basis for identifying, prioritizing and allocating resources throughout the ZamPen Region

2. SP Resolution No. 2K9-1037
   - Approving the use by component LGUs of the Results of 2007 CBMS Survey as basis for allocating funds to ensure that resources/benefits accrue to the legitimate poor and disadvantaged sectors

Next Steps
During the following months, we envision that we will now be able to use our CBMS database in enriching project proposals for external funding. We also expect that we will be busy with dissemination and advocacy campaigns for CBMS data utilization and with gathering support from all stakeholders. Finally, we look forward to our second round of the CBMS survey in 2010.
Uses of CBMS for Development Initiatives in Agusan del Sur

Allan Santiago*

Agusan del Sur is a landlocked province located in Northeastern Mindanao, with a total land area of 896,550 hectares, of which 76 percent (681,378 hectares) are classified as timberland, and 24 percent (215,172 hectares) as alienable and disposable lands. It is composed of 14 municipalities, 318 barangays and two congressional districts.

Based on the 2005 CBMS Survey, the province’s household population stood at 550,332 with a ratio of 107 males for every 100 females.

Being an agricultural province, agriculture is the main source of livelihood with 70 percent of the total households engaged in agriculture.

Our vision for the province is to be an agri-industrialized, eco-tourism province with God-centered, caring, healthy, productive and self-sustaining communities. Based on this vision, we formulated our Mission: Improve the quality of life of the Agusanons, especially the marginalized sectors, through effective, accountable, and participatory governance in Mindanao.

In consonance with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in reducing the province’s poverty incidence, our goals and objectives are the following: (1) to increase income and productivity through agri-industrialization and eco-tourism; (2) to improve access to quality and sustainable social services; (3) to enhance the financial management systems and procedures for an increase in revenue generation, effective allocation and utilization of resources; (4) to improve strategic alignment; and (5) to enhance and enforce policies and legislative measures.

Anchored on our vision is the Eight-Point Program of Government: Education, Health and Sanitation, Moral and Spiritual Renewal, Peace and Order, Economic Development, Social Cultural & Tourism Development, Ecological

* Provincial Board Member and CBMS Team Leader, Province of Agusan del Sur
and Environmental Protection, and Information and Communication Technology. All of these programs were set on the basis of reliable data gathered from the CBMS survey.

CBMS has indeed been a helpful tool in poverty reduction. It was started in our province in 2005 by former Governor Adolph Edward G. Plaza and now, the second round is being implemented. I believe our province is the first to implement the second round and province-wide implementation.

We are very thankful to the CBMS Network Team headed by Dr. Celia M. Reyes for its continued support to Agusan del Sur. CBMS has been helping us improve the governance of our province. Resource allocation has been made effective and efficient because through CBMS, targeting beneficiaries is made easy. Household information is readily available with complete name, address and the households’ specific needs.

The CBMS data have several uses. We used them in identifying beneficiaries of the following programs and projects: PHILHEALTH in identifying eligible enrollees, Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP) especially in the preparation of the Barangay Development Plan, Convergence Development Program (CDP), CPC MDG Monitoring, Project TINA (Tubig Imnonon Natong Agusanon), Validation of 4Ps beneficiaries, and Granting of Scholarships to IPs and Non-IPs. The data have also been used in planning and decisionmaking as well as utilized by other data users like students, researchers, private sector and program implementors.

We also envisage making use of gender-disaggregated data, and other additional indicators related to socially disadvantaged groups such as disabled persons and senior citizens, agro-forestry and fishing activities, and natural resource land management data, among others.

Currently, the 13+1 Core and 23 Non-Core Indicators are summarized and each indicator is ranked so that particular areas can be prioritized according to their severity.

Toward this end, the Province of Agusan del Sur has the following interventions:

1. For households with income below PhP3,500.00/mo.:
   - Philhealth Beneficiaries
     There were 25,596 total enrollees of Philhealth in 2008 in which CBMS data were used in the identification of beneficiaries. The province has provided a counterpart of PhP8.5 million; so with the municipal government’s counterpart while the total counterpart of the barangays/members was PhP9.7 million.
• **Project “TINA”**  
This project is known as Tubig Imnonon Natong Agusanon or the provision of safe water to those barangays without access. There are two pilot municipalities for this project, namely, the Municipality of San Luis and the Municipality of Talacogon. There were 34,956 households (or 32.03%) without access to safe drinking water. The total target number of households for the TINA project was 31,461 for which the province has allocated PhP6.8 million for this year, 2009.

• **“Family Welfare Trainings”**  
The Population Services of the province has provided Family Welfare Trainings such as Family Planning, Marriage Counseling, and Nutrition Classes.

2. For households with income of PhP3,500-PhP6,500.00/mo.:  
Of the 14 Core indicators, we give the highest priority in reducing poverty by providing livelihood opportunities to poor households whose incomes range from PhP3,500 to PhP6,500. We have allocated PhP1.5 million for every year with the help of our partner private sector, the People’s Bank of Caraga. This is the third year of implementation. Another intervention is the Diversified Farming System Program for our farmers. This provides financial assistance as well as training to our poor farmers. For 2009, we have released PhP12 million for this project.

   The province’s intervention for households with incomes of PhP3,500.00 to PhP6,500.00 per month relates to economic aspects such as the provision of livelihood projects. Among these are the Diversified Farming System (DFS) which is a livelihood program designed for farmers, and the Off-farm Livelihood program which is designed for the non-farmers. There were 267 farmers who benefited from the DFS, which has a total budget of PhP13 million for this year, 2009.

3. Several projects were implemented in the Convergence Development Areas, including the establishment of Botika ng Barangay, Bagsakan Center, Material Recovery Facility, vegetable production, banana production and others.

4. Reforestation Projects for upland farmers were also given priority to rehabilitate some of our forestlands.
Several other projects toward poverty reduction have also been implemented, to wit:

5. Scholarships
   Among these are: Scholarships Grants to Deserving Students - as of 2009, we have 188 scholars which consist of the following: Doctor of Medicine – 10 scholars, B.S. in Nursing – 10, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – 5 scholars, Masteral Degrees – 7, Scholarships for IPs -44, Scholarships for non-IPs -105, People with Disability -7.

6. The five-year ‘F1’ (Formula 1) strategy spearheaded by the Provincial Health Office, has likewise availed of CBMS information in its planning stages. Agusan del Sur is one of the few provinces in the country (16 in total) to be selected for the F1 strategy which is designed to fast-track major health improvement projects. The Formula 1 strategy includes four components: Financing, Regulation, Service Delivery and Governance.

7. AGP (Agusan del Sur Goat Program)
   This is a goat dispersal program consisting of one male and five females; to be paid in kind (six offsprings).

8. BAKAS (Baka Alang sa Kalambuan sa Agusan del Sur) – This Program is open to households identified in the CBMS database as living within the timberland areas.

9. ISDA (Integrated Sustainable Development of Aquaculture) - As of 2008, we have distributed 6 million tilapia fingerlings which produced 697,000 kilos of tilapia valued at PhP34.9 million. These fingerlings were grown from our Provincial Fish Hatchery, the only provincial government-operated hatchery in the Caraga Region.

10. BUGAS (Boosted Utilization of Grains in Agusan del Sur)
    This Program provided seed and fertilizer inputs to 14,294 farmers in 28,588 hectares planted to rice, thus having a surplus of 87,809 metric tons of clean rice. Supporting the BUGAS Program is the provision of pre- and post-harvest facilities such as thresher, power tiller, shallow tube wells, and multipurpose drying pavement.

Gains and Benefits
Through the use of CBMS data, the province was able to receive a flow back of PhP8 million equivalents to the amount counterparted. Meanwhile, even if the CBMS was not used by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in identifying the 4Ps beneficiaries since the Department has its own tool, the Proxy Means Test (PMT), we nonetheless used the CBMS data in
validating the list of 4Ps beneficiaries in our province. The 4Ps allocation for Agusan del Sur will reach PhP1.48 billion in 5 years. Likewise the Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP) especially in the preparation of the Barangay Development Plan used CBMS data wherein we were able to access funds for the FMR in the amount of PhP89.2 million and for the Community Fund for Agricultural Development (CFAD), PhP7.5 million. For Tubay ng Pangulo in Convergence Development areas, a total of PhP116 million was allocated for the construction of bridges.

The province is also a recipient of the DAR MINSSAD (Department of Agrarian Reform Mindanao Settlements for Sustainable Agricultural Development) for the implementation of FMR with a total cost of P335 million, and for Shallow Tube Wells (STWs), PhP70.6 million. The Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives and Resource Management Program (NMCIREMP) are also still under the DAR project, funded by the European Union (EU), for which the province was allocated PhP90 million for infrastructure and PhP10 million for livelihood for the IPs. AusAID-PACAP provided financial assistance to various projects of NGOs, IPs, and People with Disability. PATSSARD (Philippines-Australia Technical Support for Sustainable Agricultural Development) has also provided funds for capability building in the amount of PhP50 million. These are some of the projects that Agusan del Sur has been enjoying through the use of CBMS data.

Current Status
We are now in the second round of the CBMS Survey, most of which is conducted in paperless mode.

There were 246 barangays out of 318 barangays (or 77% of the barangays) which were using paperless survey by means of encoding the data directly into the system. This is also what the Province of Tarlac did. However, there is a difference between us and the latter province because we developed our own system to capture the data in the field and immediately exported the data to the municipality’s designated CBMS server to consolidate them.

Our observation of the first round of CBMS survey is that it requires technical personnel to handle the processing and spot mapping to simplify the process and save more time. This would thus lead to the conceptualization and introduction of this new system in the conduct of the second round of the CBMS survey. This system is embedded with GIS functionality for poverty mapping and report generation. As of this date, we are 70 percent complete in terms of the process.
Future Plans
It is our plan to institutionalize the conduct of CBMS updating. We are planning to pass a provincial ordinance for the inclusion of the barangay council’s mandate to “update CBMS data regularly.” The province is planning to integrate all the existing databases in which CBMS data will serve as a main database thus formulating a provincial ID system. In addition, having this system in place, police, hospital, post office, civil registrar’s office and other national agencies could access the said database. We are also looking forward to expand this system into a comprehensive barangay information system where constituents can apply a sort of barangay clearance generated from the system.

We would like to thank the CBMS Network Coordinating Team, especially Dr. Celia Reyes, for extending its support to the Provincial Government of Agusan del Sur and for inviting us to this 6th CBMS National Conference.
In this very short presentation that I will make, I will be showing you the tool that we developed and used for the second round of our province-wide survey. But before I do that, let me emphasize the four reasons why we developed our own system. First, we wanted to shorten the process. As what we knew from the experience of the Province of Tarlac, they were able to cut short the data collection time from 45 minutes to 20 minutes. In the past, we had been using the CSPro and the StatSim and the NRDB for mapping and so the system that we developed is an integrated one. The second reason is that, since this is now our second round of survey, we wanted to make use of a third round so we migrated the data from the first round into this system. This means that 85 percent of the data we would just need updating. We do not have to encode everything anymore since we just have to search for the name of the household head or any household member and we will instantly be directed to the household’s form and update thereafter the information. So we are really able to save time. The third reason is we want to track households. It is difficult to monitor movements in and out of poverty so what we did was to use the same ID that was assigned during the first round of the survey in the second round. Thus there is tracking and we can identify who were poor in the last round of survey and who moved out of poverty. And the fourth and last reason is because we wanted to institutionalize this system at the barangay level so that we can have real-time and the most updated data in the province.

*Information Technology Officer II, Management Information Services, Province of Agusan del Sur
The system has an authentication and authorization capability and thus cannot be used by anybody who has not been assigned as an enumerator. If the enumerator is given a laptop and is assigned to one particular purok or barangay to survey, he/she can migrate the data from the first round of the survey and then simply ask the household head for his or her surname and thereupon search for the house structure in the map. A picture of the house is taken. Given that most of the household heads do not state their income, having a picture of the house is one way of verifying that. We also asked the enumerators to capture the photo of the household to ensure that the enumerator will go to the household to conduct the survey. We also get the pictures of the household members but it is not compulsory. Some of the household members invoked their privacy but there are also many other household members who allow to have their photos taken. We are planning to distribute a card, an ID for the foreign families. It can be used to help them acquire the benefits offered by the government.

Immediately after the survey, the enumerators will report back to the municipality. Right there and then, the data gathered are collected and consolidated at the municipality level. And then the supervisor will validate them, thereupon completing the data collection process. No more data processing or mapping is required. The strategy is that a municipality with 27 barangays buys 27 laptops (i.e., one laptop for every barangay). The enumerators were deployed to one barangay or one purok and the validation will follow afterward.

With this approach, we were able to finish the household enumeration in the biggest municipality in one month. Then these are the reports, the system is already embedded with the MDG reports, the CBMS Core Indicators and other reports. Since we have the data from 2005, we can compare them with the results of the present survey. These are the reports that we show during the validation. It is also possible to correct for errors during the validation.

Finally, with regard to poverty mapping, it is already embedded in the system. If you will identify, like for example, households with income below the poverty threshold, you can easily point where they are. Just some clicks and you can generate a report. This is how fast the system is.

And on this note, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to show the system that we developed.
The Agusan del Norte MDG Situationer

Erlpe John Amante*

Agusan del Norte is situated in the northeastern part of Mindanao. It is bounded on the north by Butuan Bay and Surigao del Norte; on the east by Surigao del Sur; on the south and southeast by Agusan del Sur; and on the west by Misamis Oriental. It is one of the four provinces of Region 13 and it has eleven municipalities, with Butuan City as the capital. Province-wide implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) commenced in February 2007.

The Situation

Based on the CBMS survey results in 2007, our province posted a 56.74 percent poverty incidence with the highest incidence recorded in the lakeside municipality of Jabonga at 79.88 percent. In 2009, the data from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) showed that the province has graduated from the “club 40 poorest provinces” which lists down the 40 poorest provinces in the country.

How did we “pass the grade” and manage to get out from the list of the 40 poorest provinces? With the help of the CBMS, we were able to set a number of interventions to address the situation identified in the 2007 CBMS survey results.

The 2007 survey results showed that the proportion of households with income below the food threshold was recorded at 43.23 percent, with 5.40 percent having experienced food shortage. Malnutrition among pre-school children was shown to be 3.07, a significant decrease from the previous years. There was slightly more female than male pre-school malnourished children.

* Governor, Province of Agusan del Norte
Employment in the province is 95.89 percent, of which 34.59 percent are in agriculture, mining and forestry and 21 percent are laborers/unskilled workers.

Total elementary level enrolment rate province-wide is 78.17 percent while secondary school attendance rate is 57.30 percent. For the population aged 6-16 years old, the proportion of those attending school is 84.89 percent. Literacy rate is 97.60 percent.

Equal access to opportunities and entitlements to benefits of development for both men and women is the objective of Gender Equality as indicated in the MDGs. In the province, while more boys than girls are enrolled in the elementary level at 51 percent, the number/proportion decreases as the ladder gets higher. For instance, at the high school level, it becomes 46.76 percent and then at the tertiary level, it goes down slightly to 46.54 percent.

In terms of gender equality in politics, while the ideal representation in decisionmaking in politics/governance is 50-50 for men and women, the proportion of elective seats held by women is only 39 percent. Most of these numbers are in the lower echelon, the barangay level, and decreases as it goes up to the provincial level. There is only one woman Sanggunian Panlalawigan (SP) member at present.

Survival is among the basic rights of the child whose vulnerability is highest at age 0-5 years. Child mortality in the province is posted at 0.74 percent and is highest in the farthest municipality of Las Nieves at 1.46 percent. Among infants, more males die at 53 percent.

Women empowerment is partly giving the woman the right over her body. However, many of the rural women unfortunately have no control over their pregnancies, with 23 of the 5,182 women not being able to survive their pregnancies and make it to their next birthday.

The more popular methods of contraception are the modern method pills and IUD. There is also an increasing acceptance of SDM, which is a natural family planning method. The Contraceptive Prevalence Rate recorded in 2008 was 34 percent.

In terms of the data available to determine the status in achieving Goal 6 of the MDG, the use of condom as form of contraception rather than as protection from STI/HIV/AIDS has been listed. Of the 15,824 couples practicing family planning, 1.74 percent are condom-users, basically for birth spacing.

Meanwhile, the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) is increasing and is ranked 9 in the top 10 causes of mortality and sixth in the top ten causes of morbidity. Both TB and Malaria significantly affected the rural population rather than the urban residents at a ratio of 75/25 for TB and more pronounced for malaria at 99/1.
In terms of natural calamities, the latest weather disturbance on November 24, 2010 brought about total damage to 76 houses, and partial damage to 27 houses. Vulnerable to typhoon and flooding are the households with makeshift housing. They comprise 4.79 percent of the total household population. Consistent with the number of makeshift housing is the figure of informal settlers at 4.54 percent.

Of the 11 municipalities, the town of Magallanes has a very pronounced need for water at 68.73 percent of the population, surpassing the provincial average of 14.78 percent. In 2008, however, initiatives were done like tapping water sources from the neighboring town of Cabadbaran.

In terms of sanitation, 16 percent of our households do not have access to sanitary toilets, a number that is even higher than the percentage of provincial households without access to safe water (14.78%) as mentioned in the previous paragraph.

With regard to ownership of computers, 5.14 percent of the households have computers while 36.18 percent have telephones and cellphones. Ten of the eleven municipalities have access to commercial internet cafes in their downtown areas and all eleven have cell sites.

With limited resources, it is important to determine specific targets or to have focused targeting. The CBMS data and results were used as basis for targeting and planning such as in the selection of beneficiaries for the Philhealth Indigency Program (Multipayor Scheme & Universal Coverage of PHIC), Certificates of Indigency for Free Court Litigation, medical and burial assistance, scholarship and educational assistance.

The data were also used for the preparation of the following planning reports:

- Barangay Development Plan
- Disaster Risk Management Plan
- Provincial Investment Plan for Health
- Municipal and Provincial Ecological Profile
- Participatory Initiatives In Governance Project (PING)

In response to the challenges posed by the results obtained from the CBMS survey, various programs were launched. Livelihood programs and projects and support strategies, for instance, such as the following were implemented to address low family income:

- Intensified Self-Employment Assistance – Kaunlaran (SEA-K) trainings and releases. In addition to the regular SEA-K of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the province also put up a special fund wherein for every PhP 1 million funded by the province, the DSWD will allocate an additional counterpart of PhP 1 million.
• Palay Price Equalization Fund. This refers to a subsidy to buy palay from farmers at a fair price to cushion exploitation from private traders.
• Allocation of PhP 1.5 million for the Large Animal Dispersal project and substantial amount for the Small Animal Dispersal project.
• Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Training Programs and Scholarship for Vocational-Technical courses. The Province constructed a Manpower Training Facility in Las Nieves, the farthest municipality. Currently, there are 5 municipalities with Manpower Development Centers. There is also an increasing number of schools with TESDA-accredited courses.
• NALCO Co-management Program. For this program, 168 families will be granted stewardship agreement (rights to develop the land) and co-plantation will be granted to 3 applicants.
• Approved Investment/Incentive Code.
• Grant of conditional cash transfer to 4 municipality recipients under the 4 Ps project of the DSWD.

To combat hunger, the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program was launched as a major strategy to respond to the situation of households experiencing food shortage and hunger. The following programs were implemented in this regard:
• 140 Tindahan Natin Outlets in 167 barangays as well as several Bigasan ng Bayan outlets
• Food-for-School Program in 3 priority municipalities and the Healthy Start Feeding Program.
• Gulayan ng Masa.
• 2 irrigation projects in support of food sufficiency.
• Infant and Young Child Feeding – 50 percent of the barangays promote the Breast Feeding and complementary feeding programs.
• Under the population management program, 4,247 couples trained on Responsible Parenting to address the issue of demand for food.

To achieve universal primary education and improve secondary and tertiary participation, the following programs and projects were likewise initiated:
• SEF as source of salaries for teachers hired in newly opened schools in far-flung communities.
• Provincial Technical Scholarship Program (50 slots at PhP 7,500/semester per student).
• Four new elementary/secondary schools opened in 2008.
• Municipal LGUs funded scholarships.
• Congressional-funded scholarships were also provided.
• PGMA Training for Employment Scholarship Program (PhP 3 million counterpart of the province)

To ensure gender equality, the province approved in 2008 the Gender and Development (GAD) Code which provided for at least 30 percent of women membership in development bodies. A higher representation at 50 percent, though, was encouraged by the province. Among the programs aimed at this goal are:

• Advocate Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting in municipal LGUs and barangay LGUs.
• Integrate GAD in Responsible Parenting Classes.

Health interventions to address maternal- and child-health issues were also launched, to wit enrolment of more than 25,000 households through the multipayor scheme in the Philhealth Indigency Program. In 2009, the province allocated PhP6 million as counterpart for this purpose.

• 52 Botika ng Barangay (BnB) outlets were set up, out of which 3 became regional awardees for Best Botika ng Barangay (BnB).
• All rural health units (RHUs) are Sentrong Sigh accredited and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) accredited. Capitation fund from the PHIC used to fund more health services. Maternity care package is also available in some RHUs.
• Macronutrient & Micronutrient Supplementation.

For the prevention of STI, TB, Malaria and other diseases, the following interventions were made:

• Malaria diagnostic centers were established in 10 of the 11 RHUs. Functional Barangay Malaria Microscopists and RDT-BHWs were put in place in strategic locations. There were also active MAC & BAC in all endemic towns.
• Over 24,000 insecticide-treated bed nets were distributed in 2008. More were given in 2009, establishing a 1:3 family member-bed net ratio.
• Malaria-border operation approach was adopted between Agusan del Norte and del Sur towns.
• The Directly Observed Treatment Strategy (DOTS) approach is adopted in all RHUs and one PPMD unit is established as a reference center at the Provincial Health Office (PHO).
• Linkage with the Schistosomiasis Research Hospital in Palo, Leyte was established for the COPT.
• Filaria infections were treated during the annual Mass Drug Administration.
• All schistosomiasis and heterophydiasis cases were treated with Praziquantel (Provincial Resolution 319-2009).

Meanwhile, to ensure environmental sustainability, the province has recently approved the Provincial Environmental Code. It had also implemented other projects such as:
• Gawad Kalinga which was implemented in four communities.
• Resettlement of 6 ha. of land for 450 families at Magallanes.
• Core Shelter Housing Project for Disaster Victims in partnership with the DSWD in Buenavista. Around 50 families became beneficiaries at a cost of PhP3.5 million.
• The municipal LGU of Magallanes is currently undertaking activities in coordination with non-government organizations (NGOs) and other government stakeholders to improve access to safe water.
• Construction of deepwell/artesian well and communal sanitary toilets through Participatory Initiative in Governance Project (PING) funds.

Global Partnership
The province is in the final stages of its Provincial Computerization Program at a cost of PhP 70 million. Access to all information/data is lodged at the MIS of the provincial office. Among the significant components of the project are: software outsourcing development, hardware acquisition and installation, humanware capacity building, and system customization and systems roll-out to municipalities.

Institutionalization of CBMS
Finally, in 2010, the province is set to conduct the second round of the CBMS survey through a more technologically sound and accurate strategy. With the abovementioned interventions, we are very positive that there will be significant improvements among many indicators which will keep us from going back to the “Club 40” list of poorest provinces.
Uses of CBMS for Improving Local Governance in Zamboanga del Norte

Rosevic Lacaya-Ocampo*

My special greetings to my provincemates from Zamboanga del Norte, to Vice-Mayor Monteclaro of the Municipality of Sindangan and to my planning colleagues from the Municipalities of Siayan and Pinan.

The participation of the Municipality of Siayan, through the representation of its Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, Mr. Sixto Atuy, and Municipal Administrator, Atty. Alanixon Sekla, is special in light of the fact that it was declared as the poorest municipality in the entire country by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) following the conduct of the Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES) in 2003. The same survey showed the Province of Zamboanga del Norte as the poorest among the country’s provinces.

As what our Governor, Atty. Rolando E. Yebes, shared with you on the first day of this activity, being declared as the poorest province was ironic for the eighth largest province in the country, and one of the most blessed in terms of natural resources. More ironic for a province with the second biggest amount of cash in bank, second only to the Province of Cebu, according to official data published by the Commission on Audit in the national dailies at about the same time.

For you to know our province better, may I share a few facts about it or the Province of ZaNorte, as it is fondly called and named today?

ZaNorte Province is one of the three provinces that compose the Zamboanga Peninsula Region, otherwise known as Region IX. The two other provinces are the Provinces of Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay.

* Provincial Planning and Development Officer, Province of Zamboanga del Norte
ZaNorte is the biggest province in terms of land area, spanning about 45.16 percent of the region’s total land area. Its estimated population of 924,924 for this year represents 28.09 percent of the region’s total estimated populace.

It is situated in the northwestern edge of the region, bordering the Sulu Sea in the west, the Province of Misamis Occidental in the north, the City of Zamboanga in the south, and the Provinces of Zamboanga Sibugay and Zamboanga del Sur in the east.

The province encompasses two cities, Dipolog and Dapitan, and 25 municipalities, which collectively cover a total of 691 barangays.

It is home to Dapitan City, the historic place where our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, was exiled for four years, and to the world famous Dakak Park and Beach Resort.

Having presented those, allow me now to discuss the uses of CBMS in improving local governance in the Province of ZaNorte.

The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) is about providing us, the LGUs, a meaningful tool and/or method of identifying the priority needs of our people, with the end in view of addressing the concern on poverty that has plagued not only Mindanao but also the whole country for years.

CBMS provides LGUs the avenue to examine and inventory our people’s needs; allows us to plan better, identify better strategies and allocate resources to where they are most needed. Further, CBMS is recognized as a vital approach in generating sub-regional data that are vital to local planning and decisionmaking.

The fight against poverty is inextricably intertwined with the quality of governance of political leaders and partner stakeholders at all levels of government. For it is in the effective interplay of the characteristics of good governance that significant inroads become possible and achievable in tapering down the intensity of poverty in our communities.

These characteristics include being participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, and follows the rule of law.

On the first day of this conference, ZaNorte Provincial Governor Rolando E. Yebes briefly walked you through what his administration has been doing toward achieving his development vision for the province, sans the CBMS.

From being the poorest province in 2003 prior to his administration, we were able to improve the province’s poverty ranking mid-way in his first term of office, starting in 2006 and onwards.

Although the improvement was modest, it is one achievement that we nevertheless feel very proud of for we have successfully sustained it.

We did not have the CMBS then. But it was the timely launching and implementation of the Poverty Mapping Program by the governor, using the minimum basic needs (MBN) indicators that played the key role in extricating
the province of Zamboanga del Norte from the infamous tag of being the poorest province in the entire country.

Its implementation greatly involved the active participation of local government units, barangay communities, key informants and the people themselves. Thus, we were able to implement interventions responsive to the immediate needs of our indigent communities.

These interventions include: livelihood opportunities in the areas of agriculture, fishery and tourism; productive agricultural lands; food on the table to mitigate hunger and malnutrition; protection of our environment; improved access to health, both preventive and curative, by enrolling indigent households with the PhilHealth which to date benefits a total of 69,975 indigent families; construction of a new 146-bed capacity provincial hospital, the ZaNorte Medical Center, equipped, among others, with a state-of-the-art Dialysis Clinic and an 8-slice hi-speed CT-scan; upgrading of other three major hospitals that are managed, maintained and operated by the provincial government; and funds for the hiring of 200 secondary public school teachers to help out the Department of Education address the concern on the lack of teachers in the barangays.

All these, we humbly note, are due to the good governance in Zamboanga del Norte. It may not be perfect nor have resulted to an earthshaking decline of the province’s poverty incidence, but still, it did make wonders to our people and province.

Then in August 2007, through the personal persuasion of Secretary Panganiban during his visit to the province, the ZaNorte provincial government officially adopted the CBMS and committed to implement the system, through Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolution No. 663, in 17 LGUs which were not covered by the DILG.

By that time, 10 of the 27 LGUs in the province had started to implement CBMS through the help of the DILG, completing Modules I and II.

When the ZaNorte-National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC)-PEP-CBMS Network joined forces and started to conduct CMBS training, 14 LGUs participated. In the conduct of the succeeding trainings, six of the 10 DILG-led LGUs joined these 14 LGUs.

The implementation of the CBMS in the province was and continues to be a joint collaboration between the provincial governments, the local government units, the NAPC, and the PEP-CBMS Network.

For this, I am hereby conveying our province’s eternal gratitude to Secretary Panganiban and Dr. Celia Reyes for encouraging us to join the CBMS bandwagon. As the saying goes, “better late than never.”

We are positive that through this collaboration, we will be able to fast track the arrest of the roots of poverty in depressed communities spread throughout the province.
To date, we have six LGUs that have completed their respective CBMS LGU profiles, namely, the Municipalities of La Libertad, Pinan, Sergio Osmeña, Siayan, Leon Postigo and Godod.

Interestingly, the six LGU CBMS profiles, when consolidated, gave the picture that all six share the same priority concerns that need immediate response. More interesting is the fact that these priorities mirror the concerns that the provincial government had identified as priorities following the conduct of the poverty mapping program, namely, income below the poverty and food threshold, poor access among school-aged children to elementary and high school education, and poor access to water supply.

In all six LGUs, more than 50 percent of their households have incomes below the poverty and food thresholds.

Happily, the percentage of households experiencing food shortage is kept at bay, with the Municipality of La Libertad recording the lowest percentage at 1.4, and with the Municipality of Siayan recording the highest percentage at 25.2.

In terms of the second Millennium Development Goal on the achievement of primary education in the country, the CBMS data for the province confirm the poor achievement of this goal, not unlike what is obtaining in poor communities throughout the country.

We still have 18 LGUs that have to complete their LGU CBMS profiles while another three have yet to start implementation. It is still a long way for us but the vital information that we have gathered in this forum may help us cope with the concerns that partly cause the slow down of some LGUs in implementing the CBMS.

The presence of Vice-Mayor Monteclaro and the President of the Provincial League of Local Planners in ZaNorte, Mr. Sixto Atuy, is a blessing, for both can ably help the provincial government encourage and push these LGUs to move ahead and implement the CBMS. We also count on the DILG to facilitate the implementation of the CBMS among the LGUs under its care.

In closing, the Province of ZaNorte affirms that the use of CBMS will greatly improve governance in the province. We likewise affirm that indeed, CBMS paves the way for good governance to work.

To echo the words of Governor Yebes, with the CBMS scheme of identifying the priority needs of poverty-stricken barangays in ZaNorte, we are hopeful that by 2013, more significant headways can be achieved toward the vision of development that we keep in our hearts for our people and for the Province of Zamboanga del Norte.
Good afternoon to my fellow believers in CBMS!

My task this afternoon is to share with you our experiences in local governance in Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur using CBMS data as a tool.

But first, let me introduce to you our municipality and then share with you in a walkthrough manner our survey results and the interventions that we have initiated and will be initiating to reverse the unfavorable situations of our constituents based on the survey results of the CBMS in 2008.

It is well to note that the CBMS activity in our municipality was made possible through the technical assistance of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Regional Office No. 9.

Margosatubig: Origin and Early Beginnings

The Subanens were believed to be the first people to have inhabited the municipality. In fact, Margosatubig got its name from “Malagus Tubig,” a Subanen term meaning swift river current. When the Spaniards arrived, Margosatubig became their choice of settlement and changed “Malagus Tubig” to its present name “Margosatubig.”

From 1917 to 1936, Margosatubig stayed as a municipal district of the City of Zamboanga. However, by virtue of Executive Order No. 17 dated December 23, 1936, Margosatubig finally became a regular and distinct municipality with eight original barrios, namely: Poblacion, Makulay, Lapuyan, Malangas, Kumalarang, Naga-naga and Talusan.

Today, Margosatubig is a third Class Municipality. It is located 52 kilometers away from Pagadian City. It has 17 barangays of which eight are
coastal barangays. It has a land area of 11,169 hectares with a population of 39,012. During the calendar year 2008, Margosatubig had an annual income of PhP50,575,074.61.

The vision of our municipality is as follows: Margosatubig as an emerging dynamic community of people who are pro-God, empowered, proactive, sharing equal opportunities socially, economically and politically in the spirit of love, peace and prosperity.

Our mission is to pursue a committed, efficient, and effective mechanism in the implementation of the plans and programs that will result in a desired level of sustainable socio-economic and political growth and development.

My report will cover the following:

- Health and Nutrition
- Housing
- Water and Sanitation
- Education and Literacy
- Poverty Threshold
- Food Threshold
- Employment
- Peace and Order

**Health and Nutrition**

In 2006, the number of children 0-5 years old of age was 4,020. Out of this, 6.72 percent were malnourished. With our initiative, we have reversed this in 2008 to 5.64 percent. This has been due to the strengthening of our Municipal and Barangay Nutrition Councils and the collaboration with all stakeholders. Because of this endeavor, we were awarded the Most Outstanding Implementor of Nutrition Programs in the Province of Zamboanga del Sur for two consecutive years (2007-2008) and we were adjudged second in the region.

In addition, we have implemented the Philhealth Program using a cost-sharing strategy where the Municipal Government shoulders only 60 pesos of the annual contribution while the beneficiary will shoulder the rest. This is done to ensure the sustainability of the program.

**Water and Sanitation**

You will note that we have two barangays that have the highest number of households without access to sanitary toilets: Brgy. Igat Island and Brgy. Limbatong. Because of this, I encouraged the Sangguniang Bayan to pass the Sanitation Code where one of the provisions is that all households without sanitary toilets will be penalized. During the implementation of the Sanitation Code, the municipality did not spend a single centavo for the construction of toilets because I believe that it is the responsibility of every household to have their own toilet.
Table 1. Proportion of Malnourished Children 0-5 Years Old, After Intervention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Number of Children 0-5</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>Total Number of Children 0-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARGOSATUBIG</td>
<td>4020</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>6.72</td>
<td>4020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balintawak</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bularong</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalian</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4.36</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolot</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14.58</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digon</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8.07</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinimanan</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6.41</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igat Island</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5.84</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limamawan</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11.45</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limbatong</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lumbog</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poblacion</td>
<td>1574</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>4.96</td>
<td>1574</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sagua</td>
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<td>2.63</td>
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<td>Talanusa</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiguan</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>9.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tulapok</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>14.85</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magahis</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5.63</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josefina</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22.43</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see in Table 4, we now have 12 barangays that no longer have problems on sanitation.

**Education and Literacy**

Based on the survey results, almost half of the children 6-12 years old in Brgy. Bularong were not attending school. This is mainly due to the presence of an indigenous people (IP) community which do not put premium on education.

Meanwhile, a number of barangays had more than half of the children aged 13-16 years old who are not attending high school. The major reason cited is the distance to the nearest high school. To address this problem, in the early part of 2007, we established a satellite high school in Brgy. Balintawak which will cater to high school students in Balintawak, Bularong, Guinimanan, Josefina and Igat Island.
Day 3: Enhancing Local Development Planning and Poverty Diagnosis through CBMS
Session 11: Uses of CBMS for Improving Local Governance in Mindanao

Poverty and Subsistence Incidence
In Margosatubig, 80.36 percent or 5,208 out of 6,481 households are living below the poverty threshold. Fortunately, our municipality is part of the Mindanao Rural Development Program, one component of which is the Community Fund for Agricultural Development (CFAD) which aims to address diverse investment priorities of rural communities through the financing of sub-projects which meet community preferences and local priorities. We have organized 27 people’s organizations which will be the beneficiaries of this livelihood program. The local government unit will be allocating PhP50,000 per people’s organization. These organizations have been empowered by having been given the chance to select what livelihood program they will implement.

Strategy
Based on the results of the CBMS survey, we have identified our strategic directions as follows:

- To strengthen the existing livelihood programs of the local government and extend support to established and accredited cooperatives in the barangays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barangay</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
<th>Households Without Access to Safe Water</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARGOSATUBIG</td>
<td>6481</td>
<td>1700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balintawak</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bularong</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalian</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolot</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digon</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guininimanan</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Igat Island</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limamawan</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Lumbog</td>
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<td>Poblacion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saguia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talanusa</td>
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<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiguan</td>
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<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulapok</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magahis</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josefina</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3. Proportion of Households Without Access to Sanitary Toilet Facility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barangay</th>
<th>Number of Households</th>
<th>Households Without Access to Safe Water</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Josefina</td>
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</table>

- To provide skills training to all unemployed individuals, especially the out-of-school youths.
- To improve/rehabilitate water supply systems in and provide potable water to identified barangays that have more households without access to potable water.

To date, we have implemented the following interventions designed to alleviate the plight of our constituents:

- Provided/extended alternative livelihood assistance to all accredited organizations, identified people’s organizations, and depressed and poor families.
- Provided skills trainings to out-of-school youths on small engine mechanics, slippers- and bag-making, rural barangay electrician and natural farming system through equalS2 (education quality and access for learning and livelihood skills).
- Rehabilitated and improved water supply systems in identified barangays with more households without access to potable water.
### Table 4. Proportion of Households Without Access to Sanitary Toilet, After Intervention

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Table 5. Proportion of Households with Income Below Poverty Threshold

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### Table 6. Proportion of Households with Income Below Food Threshold

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### Table 7. Proportion of Households who Experienced Food Shortage

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The Implementation of CBMS in the Municipality of Siayan, Zamboanga del Norte

Alanixon A. Sekla*

As I sat through the past two days’ sessions, I was overwhelmed and awed by the audio-video presentations of several provinces, cities, and municipalities. I come from a poor municipality and was tasked to share with you our CBMS experience. It is the case of the poor teaching the rich what to do. But my job perhaps is to teach you what not to do.

As I was taking in the CBMS experiences of the rich provinces and cities, I am reminded of the story of four mayors attending an international conference on best practices in governance. The mayor from France boasted: “Our country has the best system. We protect and serve our people from basket to casket.” To this, the mayor from Italy retorted, “Ours is even better: from womb to tomb.” The American mayor snapped, “Ours is the best: from sperm to germ.” And finally, the Filipino mayor blurted: “Gentlemen, you will not believe this. The Philippines has the perfect form of governance. We serve and protect our people from erection to resurrection.”

Our municipality started on the wrong foot.

In the 1950s, two families—Macias and Siasico—bitterly fought for political control of the municipality of Sindangan. So closely contested were elections where representatives from both families ran for office that it took only 30 votes or less to decide the outcome of these electoral exercises. In the early 1960s, our congressman interceded and introduced a bill creating the municipality of Siayan, then an interior barangay and 18 kilometers east of Sindangan. And so Sindangan, by political necessity, was carved out of the wilderness. Like the Biblical Abraham and Lot, Macias took in Sindangan and Siayan went to Siasico.

* Municipal Administrator, Siayan, Zamboanga del Norte
To get to Siayan, you take a one-hour flight from Manila to Dipolog City, the capital of Zamboanga del Norte and then a two-hour bus ride to Sindangan. The bus exits to the 15-kilometer smooth, paved road to Siayan.

Our population, according to the 2007 census done by the National Statistics Office (NSO), stands at 34,588, spread out over 22 barangays. It is a typical town with typical scenery—mountains, rivers, ordinary folks eking out a living. More than 90 percent of our population belong to the Subanen tribe, early Malay settlers who built their settlements along the banks of the river. Suba means river and thus Subanen, which means “people by the river.” Subanens have a passion for winemaking. They use pangase or rice for their wine, which they age in old Chinese jars bartered from Malay traders.

One early evening sometime in September 2008, in a nationwide telecast of GMA 7’s 24 Oras, newscaster Mike Enriquez gravely intoned, “The municipality of Siayan in the province of Zamboanga del Norte has been declared by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) as the poorest municipality in the Philippines.” As rated through the Small-Area Estimate Model, Siayan has a poverty incidence of 97.5 percent. This means that for every 100 residents of Siayan, 98 are poor. Earlier, the NSCB had declared Pange in Siayan as the poorest barangay in the Philippines.

In conducting the survey, the NSCB used the Small-Area Estimate Model to predict poverty incidence and the breadwinner’s literacy level to predict his or her economic status. Other factors used as bases for determining economic status were ownership of residence, quality of housing (including access to sanitary toilets and electricity), and the type of roof used. Siayan was then in the midst of implementing CBMS. The results could confirm or dispel the idea that Siayan is the poorest municipality and Pange, the poorest barangay.

Eight enumerators were hired to conduct a survey of all households in the 22 barangays. Data gathering started in October 2007 and went on up to the second quarter of 2008. The results were validated in the third quarter of 2008. Even before the data were digitized and processed, we started looking at the preliminary results and factored them in our annual investment plans.

The words of former US President Abraham Lincoln spoken a century and a half ago have a timeless ring for our CBMS implementation. “If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it.”

We focused on six basic concerns: health and nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation, education, income, and employment.

- **Health and Nutrition** - Our municipality maintains 21 health centers, each manned by a midwife. Residents of Balok, which has no health center, go to Paranghumba. Of the total population (34,588), 5,303 are children aged 0-5 years old. Five-hundred and five of these kids are in Poblacion. Out of 5,303 children aged 0-5 years old, 38 are
malnourished. Soguilon has the highest number of malnourished children at seven.

- **Shelter** - Of 6,354 households, 171 households are in informal settlements with Datagan, in proportion to its number of households, having the highest incidence at 36.

- **Water and Sanitation** – Datagan, located on a relatively high plateau, has the highest incidence of households without access to safe water. Of 6,354 households, 4,126 are without access to safe water. A total of 3,258 households draw water from rivers, streams, and springs. A total of 4,261 households have no access to sanitary toilets.

- **Education** - Siayan has 6,773 children aged 6-12. Of this number, 2,353 are not in school, with Domagok having the highest incidence of out-of-school youths at 48.77 percent. The municipality has 3,602 kids aged 13-16. Of this number, 2,788 are not attending high school, with Barangay Pange having the highest incidence. Out of 128 kids in Pange, 126 are not in high school. By way of summary, out of 10,375 children aged 6-16, 5,141 are not in school.

- **Poverty Incidence** - Pange has the highest magnitude and proportion of households with income below poverty threshold at 99.19 percent. Out of 247 households, 244 are below the poverty threshold. By way of summary, of 6,354 households, 5,481 have income below the poverty threshold. Siayan’s poverty threshold is 86.26, which is 11 percent way below the projection of the NSCB.

- **Subsistence Incidence** - Regarding households with income below the food threshold, Pange is way ahead at 96.53. Of its 246 households, 235 are below the food threshold. Of 6,354 households, 4,937 households, or 77.70 percent, have income below the food threshold.

- **Food Shortage** - Balunokan had the highest percentage—72.97 percent—of households that experienced food shortage. This means that out of 148 households in the barangay, 108 had experienced food shortage.

- **Employment** - Of the 10,080 members of our labor force, 267 are not employed.

- **Peace and Order** - We are too poor to commit crimes. We have almost zero crime rate. Our mayor travels around town without any bodyguard or police escorts.

The Siayan CBMS data painted a surreal scene. This is our story:

- Out of every 100 persons, 78 have income below the poverty threshold.
- Out of every 100 persons, 86 are poor.
- Pange could indeed be the poorest barangay in the Philippines. For every 100 residents, 99 are poor.
In basic education, for every six school children aged 6-12, three are not attending school.
- For every three kids of high school age, two are not in school.
- For every six households, four have no access to safe water.
- For every six households, four have no access to sanitary toilets.

The CBMS data are a wake-up call to the local government of Siayan: “What have we done to the least of our brethren?” We cannot just stand and preach a sermon on the Mount, “Blessed are the poor for they shall inherit the Kingdom of God.”

And so we set our commitment ... our priority.
- Raise the income of every family
- Provide sustainable means of livelihood and income
- We are aware that when one is poor, his main attention is to put food first on his table.
- A poor person cannot afford to send his children to school; he needs all hands to find food.
- A poor person cannot afford to construct a decent house with a sanitary toilet and potable water.

The CBMS data pointed the areas of priority to which we will channel our resources and manpower, limited though they may be.

We have envisioned that in 10 years, Siayan shall be the rubber center of Zamboanga del Norte, where every household will own at least 1 hectare of rubber plantation.

By that time, we shall have established and maintained rubber nurseries in all 22 barangays and hired the services of 12 rubber technicians. The provincial government of Zamboanga del Norte already helped us put up the Hi-Green and Gulay sa Barangay Program.

We purchased a brand new bulldozer to supplement our aging bulldozer. We now use the two bulldozers to build roads connecting sitios to the barangays and to our main road networks. These are farm-to-market roads, not farm-to-pocket roads or roads-to-my-farm projects.

These road networks shall be the highway to learning for our school children. Easy access to schools encourages our children to stay in school.

Meanwhile, we constructed, with funding from the provincial government, a road to Pange, our farthest and poorest barangay, to connect it to our main roads.

Another school building was constructed and a complete elementary school system spanning Grades 1 to 6 was established and maintained. Three school teachers were employed, with each teacher handling two classes.
A hanging bridge was constructed across Pange river. The bridge is strong enough to bear the weight of a fully loaded habal-habal.

In Datagan, identified by CBMS data as the barangay where many households have no access to potable water, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) constructed a Level II water system and piped the water out to 11 outlets in the neighborhood.

In Moyo, the barangay that caught the attention of national and local health officials and the national TV networks because of the outbreak of capillariasis, a water-borne disease, we installed a water system and piped the water across farms and fields.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines pitched in and hauled truckloads of water-sealed toilet bowls, which we distributed to the barangays coded red in the CBMS maps.

We and the soldiers initiated a bayanihan in Moyo where the residents, soldiers, and employees of Siayan dug toilet pits.

In Domogok, determined by the CBMS survey as having the highest incidence of out-of-school youths, we found out that the sitio with the most number of red dots is located 12 kilometers from the nearest school campus. We constructed a two-room school building to cater to Grade 1 and 2 pupils. The COMELEC has put a voting precinct in that school so voters in that sitio could participate in the May 2010 elections.

In coordination with nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and local agencies, we implemented feeding programs in barangays with a high incidence of malnutrition. In Gunyan, we shelled out PhP 200 per day thrice a week to feed 50 children with the Gulay supplied by the Gulayan sa Barangay Program.

We are aware of our task.

We do not look forward to the next election.
Highlights on the Implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) in MIMAROPA Region

Oskar Balbastro*

Rationale for the CBMS Implementation in MIMAROPA Region
On August 31, 2005, the MIMAROPA (IV-B) Regional Development Council (RDC) approved the use of the community-based monitoring system (CBMS) during its regular meeting as a common database management system for the region. The RDC, as the highest policy coordinating body in the region, recognized that a common database among the provinces and municipalities will facilitate the generation, processing and utilization of data for development planning and decisionmaking purposes, especially in the case of the MIMAROPA region which is made up of 1,978 islands and islets.

As a new region, it is opportune for MIMAROPA to use CBMS in development planning based on the following reasons:

- CBMS remains to be the most cost-effective and easy-to-sustain system available that can generate household information aggregated from the barangay level up to the provincial, regional and national levels;
- It has both spatial and statistical data that are useful in physical planning and disaster risk management;
- It provides an opportunity to capacitate local government units (LGUs) on data generation, data banking and data analysis which they can share with national line agencies;
- CBMS can augment national data, especially agriculture and tourism, the two resource sectors of the region;
- The MIMAROPA RDC would like to establish benchmark information reflecting local challenges and opportunities and to formulate development plans, policies and strategies focused on agriculture and tourism;

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It validates and monitors the impact of macroeconomic and regional plans, policies and projects at the local level.

**Distinct Feature of the MIMAROPA CBMS**
The distinct feature of the MIMAROPA CBMS is the incorporation of agriculture and tourism indicators in the Household Profile Questionnaire (HPQ), the instrument used in household survey. These two indicators were added since MIMAROPA is predominantly made up of agricultural rural communities and host to diverse tourism attractions. The RDC considered these two sectors as twin engines of growth and their development could bring economic progress in the countryside. The customized questionnaire was used in five provinces of the MIMAROPA Region. The intention is to establish baseline data and generate a situational analysis of the two sectors and subsequently direct the path of the region’s development. Focused interventions on these two resource sectors will maximize resource investments and potentials to further boost the economic development of the region.

This is in line with MIMAROPA’s vision to become the food basket of Metro Manila and CALABARZON, and serve as a gateway to Southern Philippines and a major tourism destination.

**Strategies Undertaken to Implement a Region-wide CBMS**
Region-wide implementation of the CBMS was done through the RDC IV-B via a series of advocacy activities, memorandum of agreement (MOA), creation of Technical Working Groups (TWG) and capability building. In particular, RDC IV-B adopted CBMS as the common database management system for the MIMAROPA Region through RDC Resolution No. 12-074-2005. Advocacy sessions with governors, sangguniang panglalawigan members and mayors on the rationale and advantage of CBMS were also conducted. To operationalize this, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed on 28 September 2006 among the governors, NEDA IV-B and the CBMS Network Coordinating Team. An important component in the implementation of CBMS was the creation of TWGs at the regional, provincial and municipal levels, with NEDA Region IV-B as the lead coordinator. NEDA IV-B and DILG IV-B were also capacitated to train provincial and municipal TWGs.

In the conduct of CBMS training modules, NEDA IV-B, the CBMS Network Coordinating Team and DILG IV-B served as the resource persons.

**Status of implementation of CBMS in the Region**
Presently, there are 59 provinces that are implementing CBMS in the country. It should however be noted that only the MIMAROPA Region is implementing CBMS on a region-wide basis.
All MIMAROPA provinces are currently implementing CBMS at various stages, having started doing so at various dates, to wit:

- Romblon – February 2007
- Marinduque - November 2007
- Palawan - January 2008
- Oriental Mindoro - February 2008
- Occidental Mindoro - April 2009.

The Province of Palawan is already in the fourth round of implementation while Marinduque is in the second round of implementation. Both were included as pilot areas in an earlier implementation of the CBMS in the country. Romblon has completed data processing, barangay validation and the preparation of the barangay socio-economic profile and development plans. Processing of data in Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro and Palawan, meanwhile, is ongoing. Occidental Mindoro is still encoding its data. Table 1 presents the status of implementation in each province.

**Application of CBMS Indicators**
The LGU application of CBMS indicators is confined mostly to the identification and/or validation of program/project beneficiaries. Some of the projects are ongoing while others are already completed. The use of CBMS indicators/data facilitated the coverage of beneficiaries and defined the resources required for the programs/projects. In one instance, Romblon was able to use the CBMS Core Indicators to prepare its Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan (LPRAP). Table 2 presents the LGUs’ application of the CBMS.

**Problems Encountered**
There were two major problems encountered in the operationalization of the CBMS in the Region, namely: the incorporation of agriculture and tourism indicators in the HPQ and the financial resource requirements of the LGUs in implementing the CBMS.

Formulation of questions to incorporate agriculture and tourism indicators in the HPQ was difficult. The involvement of other national line agencies in the Region’s TWG, however, facilitated the crafting of details of the agriculture and tourism indicators in the HPQ.

As to the issue of funding, although the LGUs would have wanted to implement the CBMS immediately after the MOA signing, they were constrained by limited funds in supporting the CBMS implementation. To resolve such constraints, an arrangement of counterparting between the provincial government and the municipalities was undertaken. This approach varies per province, thereupon also resulting in different timetables in the implementation of the CBMS among the provinces.
There were also problems in data collection at the household level. Municipal TWGs/MPDOs (municipal planning and development officers) were constantly reminded to involve barangay officials during the household survey operation and data validation.

In the processing of data, meanwhile, other problems also occurred which includes: the need to enhance the technical skills of encoders and other TWG members on the use of CBMS softwares, the sustainability of having support staffs in the MPDO, loss of CBMS files/data, and breakdown of computers. TWGs were encouraged to back up their files and send them to the provincial TWG, NEDA and the CBMS Network Coordinating Team. The latter also offered special training courses while online and call helps were provided by both the PEP Team and the Regional TWG.

**Future Directions**

At present, all municipalities are in the stage of processing their data. Only Romblon has completed the provincial consolidation of the CBMS data. In this regard, the next steps will be:

1. To fast track the municipal and provincial consolidation of CBMS data/indicators through constant follow-ups with PPDOs/MPDOs;
2. To have a regional consolidation of data from the provinces to create a regional repository of data, with assistance from the CBMS PEP Team;
3. To prepare municipal, provincial and region SEPs and development plans using CBMS data/indicators; the municipalities in Romblon agreed to update their ecological profiles and CLUPs using CBMS indicators.
4. To prepare Provincial Human Development Reports; and
5. To disseminate the results.
Scaling Up Poverty Monitoring through CBMS in Eastern Visayas

Aida Z. Laruda*

On behalf of our regional director, Dir. William C. Paler, allow me to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to all Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) implementors in Eastern Visayas for their commitment and unwavering support in the implementation of the program.

While the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has been at the forefront in the advocacy of the CBMS, without their deep involvement and passion in the establishment of a planning tool that will help our local partners improve planning, resource allocation and mobilization, all these would not have been possible.

This morning, I am pleased to present to you the paper titled: “Scaling Up Poverty Monitoring through CBMS in Eastern Visayas.”

The presentation will cover the following:
A. Profile of Eastern Visayas;
B. Status of CBMS implementation in Region VIII;
C. Strategies adopted in the implementation of CBMS in Region VIII;
D. Utilization of CBMS data in Region VIII; and
E. Ongoing initiatives of Region VIII.

Eastern Visayas, designated as Region VIII, is one of the two regions of the Philippines that have no land border with another region. The other is MIMAROPA Region. Eastern Visayas consists of six provinces, namely, Northern Samar; Samar; Eastern Samar; Biliran, Leyte and Southern Leyte. The regional center is Tacloban City.

It has four cities, 139 municipalities and 4,390 barangays.

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Eastern Visayas is known for its rich culture, colorful festivities, historical spots, tourist destinations and the famous San Juanico Bridge which connects the islands of Leyte and Samar.

The Waray-warays dominate the region’s cultural linguistic group but the Cebuanos from the nearby island of Cebu live in Ormoc City, Western Leyte and parts of the Southwest of Leyte. Hence, there is a Cebuano-speaking portion of the region.

With a total land area of 21,431.7 sq. kms, 52 percent of the region is classified as forestland and 48 percent as alienable and disposable.

The primary sources of revenue in the region are manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and services. Mining, farming, fishing and tourism contribute significantly to the economy.

Poverty reduction, however, continues to be a big challenge in the region, especially in terms of uplifting the socio-economic condition of the vulnerable groups.

Recognizing therefore the need for a poverty monitoring tool to make local government unit (LGU) programs, projects and activities responsive to and reflective of the felt needs of the people at the grassroots level, Region VIII, through the convergent efforts of the national government agencies, non-government organizations and LGUs, has adopted the CBMS.

From 16 pilot municipalities in the initial implementation of the CBMS in 2005, we are pleased to report that Eastern Visayas now has a region-wide CBMS coverage at different stages of implementation, with 139 municipalities and four cities.

The province of Biliran, with eight municipalities, is the first of the six provinces in the region to finish the implementation of CBMS.

During the first round, some of the LGUs in this province were able to submit project proposals and avail of grants using CBMS as evidenced-based data to support the same.

At present, Biliran is in the planning stage for their second wave of CBMS implementation.

The municipality of Cabucgayan, Biliran has already started with the implementation of the second round and is now in the phases of encoding the household profile questionnaires and digitizing the barangay maps.

Meanwhile, the province of Eastern Samar, with 23 municipalities, is the second province to finish its first round of implementation.

Like the province of Biliran, some LGUs in Eastern Samar were able to avail of grants using the data as basis for their project proposals.

At present, Eastern Samar is in its second round of province-wide implementation. This year, all LGUs have been trained in the three modules which include data collection and encoding; digitizing of maps; and data processing to fast-track their implementation.
During the province’s first round of implementation in 2005-2006, the results of the CBMS data were presented during the province’s first anti-poverty summit where Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, graced the event.

The provincial government of Southern Leyte, on the other hand, is currently in the consolidation phase of the encoded data and digitized maps of all 18 municipalities, including the City of Maasin.

Only last October 14-16 (2009), the provincial technical working group was capacitated, with technical assistance provided by the CBMS Network and facilitated by the provincial government (specifically the provincial health office of Southern Leyte) in coordination with the DILG regional and provincial offices, to fast-track the provincial consolidation of the CBMS data.

The province is set to conduct its second round of implementation to update its data for next year.

The province of Northern Samar, meanwhile, with 24 municipalities, also has a province-wide coverage and is targeting the completion of the first round implementation within the year. To update the data, the LGUs of Northern Samar are set to conduct a resurvey next year.

All 25 municipalities of the province, including the city of Calbayog, have adopted the CBMS. Concerned persons have been capacitated on the modular trainings of the program and are currently involved in different stages of implementation.

However, there is a need to fast-track the implementation of the program in the province to complete the process.

All 41 municipalities of the province of Leyte, including the cities ofOrmoc and Tacloban, have adopted CBMS. Like the province of Samar, the concerned persons have also been capacitated on the modular trainings of the program and are likewise currently involved in the different stages of implementation.

The DILG wishes to commend all those coming from the national government agencies (NGAs), the nongovernment organizations and, most especially, the LGUs who have been involved in the CBMS implementation and who have collaborated with the DILG for their full commitment to this endeavor.

The DILG is continually coordinating with them as well as with the league of municipalities, regional planners, civil society and other stakeholders in the advocacy of the CBMS.

This year, we have also strengthened our collaboration with the Commission on Population to integrate CBMS core local poverty indicators with population and development indicators in the preparation of the ecological profile as an input to the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP). This is a response to the joint memorandum circular (number 1, series of 2007) on the harmonization of plans.
A region-wide orientation on the Comprehensive Development Plan integrating the POPDEV approach was conducted from June to September 2009. This was attended by the CDP technical working group of the cities and municipalities of Region VIII where the financial and logistics support was provided by the German Technical Cooperation – Health Component.

With CBMS in place in most of the LGUs in the region, DILG VIII, under the technical services division, customized an ecological profile manual on how to generate data from the CBMS statistical simulator and census survey processing system softwares to facilitate the retrieval of the required data for said profiling.

Essential in the simplified sectoral planning process of the rationalized planning system is the determination of the LGUs’ current reality which can be done through the generation of new information and the current reality gap of the LGUs. This can be attained through an existing database that contains data down to the household level.

The CBMS data are useful and helpful especially for the LGUs that were able to complete the implementation of the program in enriching their ecological profile during the data gathering stage. This facilitated the identification of the current level of services to its constituents, the resources available and the problem situations affecting the target or specific segments of the population in the five sectors, namely; social, economic, infrastructure, environment and institution.

Moreover, CBMS is an essential tool in the data analysis using the local development indicators system (LDIS) through its disaggregated and geographically defined data in diagnosing and analyzing poverty-related issues in the LGU. The LDIS attempts to consolidate the various indicators that are relevant to local planning and portrays information in three dimensions: sectoral, temporal, and geographical or spatial.

The CBMS is beneficial to the LGUs in this analysis where LGUs can determine their current reality using evidenced-based and disaggregated data, make an analysis as to how and why the situation is such in their LGU by correlating significant variables, and design interventions that will address the needs of the people.

The DILG and GTZ-Environment Resources Development component are likewise closely collaborating in an effort to harmonize the disaster risk indicators in the ecological profile. We have started with Palo, Leyte and the three-year project will soon include 3 cities, Calbayog, Ormoc and Tacloban, on integrating a disaster risk-management approach into the CDP and Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). This activity is also done in close coordination with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) Region VIII, NEDA, local planners and other stakeholders.
We are also continually strengthening the NGA-NGO-LGU convergent efforts strategy in the region in the advocacy of the CBMS. This year, the Regional KALAHI Convergence Group (RKCG) has identified six poorest municipalities in the region, all from the province of Samar, as recipients of financial assistance to fast-track the implementation of the program. These are the municipalities of Daram, Zumarraga, Matuguinao, Tarangnan, Sta. Rita, and San Jose de Buan.

The CBMS Network and the Bureau of Local Government and Development (BLGD) of the DILG Central Office provide the regional office and our local partners the necessary technical assistance.

Considering that we have a region-wide coverage of the CBMS implementation, we have tapped local trainors from the LGUs and identified DILG regional, provincial and city focal persons to capacitate our local partners.

Moreover, DILG has created an email address where CBMS implementors can raise their queries, requests and recommendations to elicit quick responses in addressing their concerns.

DILG Region VIII is now giving emphasis to the utilization of the CBMS data for local planning and the identification of appropriate interventions and eligible beneficiaries that will address the felt needs of the people. Thus, our activity focuses on enriching the LGU’s ecological profile using CBMS data and beyond profiling through the local development indicators system.

We are likewise advocating the use of the data for the LGUs to determine how responsive they have been toward attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) using the MDG Tracking System, an excel-based instrument developed by De La Salle University and the BLGD.

Noteworthy to mention are the local development initiatives made by our local partners where they submitted project proposals to the CBMS and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) using CBMS results as basis of said proposals. From the start of the implementation of CBMS in Eastern Visayas in 2005, there are now 10 beneficiaries to these grants.

We have our ongoing initiatives to sustain the implementation of the program in the region, now that CBMS data are integrated in local planning and program implementation. The DILG will be closely monitoring and evaluating the LGU’s response towards this endeavor.

But these achievements would not have been possible without building linkages and strengthening the NGA-NGO and LGU convergence effort strategies. While the truest picture of the status of implementation lies in the LGU where problems are encountered such as financial constraints, equipment failure, lack of manpower, to name a few, we can continue to make this happen with synergy, that is scaling up poverty monitoring in Eastern Visayas through CBMS, a tool that has proven to be useful in local planning and development.
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Snapshots from the Conference

Br. Armie Luistro, FSC, shares an inspirational message to everyone.

Egr. Ernesto Paek of Labo, Camarines Norte, discusses the use of CBMS for disaster management.

Egr. Frances Echarte explains the early warning device in Olongapo City.

Mr. Aureo Paredes delivers the keynote address.

Open Forum

CPDC Jerome Siguen shares the experiences of Puerto Princesa.

Dr. Teresu Tallo of DLSU chairs the Panel of Generers.

Mayer David Araneta of Dumaguete, Philippines shares how they used CBMS.

MPDC Irene Nenette Garles enumerates the many benefits of implementing CBMS.
Session on Integrating the LGPMS and CBMS in the Comprehensive Development Plans of Local Government Units

The conference presentations revolved around three themes:

1. Mayor Victoria Lee Lim is proud that Gawin in Marinduque is implementing CBMS.
2. Mr. Donald Ganco of NEDA IV-A discusses how the CBMS helps empower communities in meeting the MDGs.
3. Mr. Edwin Torgson shares the steps undertaken by Agusan del Sur to meet the MDGs.
4. Turlock’s e-data collection significantly reduced duration of CBMS implementation, Mr. Joel Zapanta notes.
5. Governor Victor Yap of Turlock enumerates the reasons why they implemented CBMS in the province.
6. PPDC Negron Molo talks about the HEARTS Program of Batangas.
During one of the many sessions of the Conference

Various topics were covered during the three-day Conference much to the delight of the participants who eagerly raised questions, shared insights and gave suggestions.

Participants listening to the discussion

The second batch of accredited trainers was announced on the 2nd day of the Conference by Atty. Dr. Ana Bargas of BLCD-DILG.

Participants were given time to comment on the presentation during the open forum.

Dr. Geracio Silda of SRTE shares their experiences in implementing CBMS in Batangas.
Participants flocked the registration tables on the first day of the Conference.

Kites were handed out to the participants which contain a number of CBMS publications.

One of the highlights of the Conference was the session on the

MDGs.

Another highlight was the session on the

Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis on Poverty

MPDC Arturo Salvo Jr. shares the experiences of Gaysa, Marinduque

Presentations covered topics such as program targeting and impact monitoring which many participants appreciated given the topic’s applicability to their own localities.
The event on the impacts of the Global Financial Crisis on Poverty featured presentations from Dr. Celia Reyes and Dr. Nocal Nakini.

Dr. Josef Yap of PIFS chaired two sessions.

Dr. Evan Due of IDRC and Governor Joel Reyes of Pusön.

Dr. Nocal Nakini and Asec. Catherine Mae Santos of NAPC.

During one of the sessions of the Conference.

At the sidelines of the Conference.
A session is in progress

At the registration tables

Dr. Enze Ddu, Dr. Winfred Villanuev, Br. Arnie Luisno, Assn. Catherine Mac Santos and Dr. Celia Reyes

The enormous stage backdrop

At the registration tables
From left to right: Dr. Celia M. Reyes, PEP-CBMS Network; Ms. Carmela Urquiza, UNDP Philippines; Secretary Demigo Panganiban, NAPO; Dir. Erlinda M. Capones, NEDA; and Dr. Evan Dao, IDRC.

Dr. Evan Dao and Dr. Celia M. Reyes handed a copy of the book "Fighting Poverty with Facts" to Secretary Demigo F. Panganiban of NAPO during the launching of CBMS publications.

Dr. Celia M. Reyes and Governor Victor A. Yap of Tarlac.