

PROMISE PHILIPPINES  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report  
for the period April-June 2006

I. Project Description and Objective

The PROMISE Philippine Project is supportive of the efforts by the City of Dagupan in preparing for and in mitigating flood. Being the catchbasin of water that comes from neighboring provinces and municipalities, the City is perennially affected by flood. The project will help the City in developing a more programmatic, systematized and integrated and participatory approach to manage the disaster event.

The project objectives that the activities for the quarter fall under are:

- 1) Adoption of specific hydro-meteorological disaster preparedness and mitigation measures to manage hydro-meteorological disaster risk
- 2) Increase stakeholder involvement and further enhancement of strategies, tools and methodologies related to community preparedness and mitigation of hydro-meteorological disasters

II. Summary of Accomplishments for the Reporting Quarter

A) Community Workshops and PRA

Each of the eight(8) communities prioritized for focused intervention by the project underwent a 3-day Disaster Risk Management Orientation and Participatory Risk Assessment and Planning(CBDRM/PRA)Workshop. The officers and staff from the City government who underwent the CBDRM/PRA Training last quarter were the main facilitators for these community trainings. The training included a half day walk around the community (community watching) as well as dialogue with the residents regarding their perceived capacities and vulnerabilities to the flood situation.

According to the Chief of the Public Order and Safety Office(POSO) who is also the Head of the City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC)“ The workshop enabled the participants to understand disaster and disaster risk management, and at the same time, learn the importance of planning ahead before a disaster strikes.”

The three day training was more like an eye opener for the community as well as for the City Officials and staff. They were both appreciative of the interactive process they underwent to study the particular situation in each community and to look for particular solution to their situation. For the City Officials, it was an opportunity for them to know the real situation at the community level. For the

people in the community, the training was very significant because it was the first time that the people from the City Government went down to give them training. They also learned a lot of new things about disaster risk management and the tools which they can use to diagnose their situation.

The trainings were used as venue to give stress to the following points: 1) the need for participation of all sectors within the community, men, women, children, the vulnerable and the less vulnerable to understand the disaster situation and to identify holistic or integrated solution; 2) the community have inherent strengths which they can use to address their vulnerability; 3) that there are various options, strategies, measures or activities which the community can take to address their disaster situation and whatever they choose must not lead to new or increased vulnerability.

To avoid dependency on external resources, the Facilitators did not tell the participants during the planning workshop that a small amount of money can be accessed to support their plan. The facilitator ensured that the planning would be based on their priorities after considering the result of the participatory risk assessment. The CDP staff made the announcement regarding funding for small projects only during the Closing Program.

However, given that the planning workshop was only for a few hours, the plans that were made still need further discussion. The City Facilitators will be going back to the communities in the next quarter to help in finalizing the plans.

#### B) Mentoring of the City Facilitators

CDP is well aware that a one time training will not be enough to hone the skills of the City Trainers/Facilitators. Thus, CDP, together with the Project Manager, joined all the community trainings to observe, to give guidance and provide additional inputs when needed. Assessments were conducted at the end of each day and also at the end of the trainings.

The mentors who observed the first batch of training noticed that most of the facilitators were good even if it was their first time to handle the training workshop. However, there were certain weaknesses in the grasp of basic DM concepts as well as insecurity on the part of some facilitators in handling some sessions especially regarding the use of the PRA tools. Thus, CDP, in its role as mentor, organized a follow-up facilitators workshop to enhance the knowledge and skills of the facilitators.

The Facilitators Workshop was held last May 18-19 and total of 28( 13 male, 15 female) facilitators attended. The workshop provided the participants the venue to hone their knowledge and skills in facilitating Disaster and Risk Management Training Workshop at the barangay level. Module 1 was review of basic concepts of DRM and PRA Tools for Capacity Vulnerability Assessment. Module 2 was on

Curriculum Development and Practicum. The workshop was facilitated by the Project Coordinator and one Training Consultant. The workshop also served as a bonding activity for the City Facilitators and CDP. It was noticed that after this activity, the relationship with the Technical Working Group has vastly improved.

Following the successful 2 day mentoring workshop, the City Facilitators decided to break the existing two teams in order to form three teams so they can still cover the rest of the target communities within the month of May. It was observed that the three teams that were formed had different styles and methods but each one tried to give their best to be well understood by the participants.

#### C) Legislation of Disaster Safety Day

Following the recommendation of CDP, the TWG lobbied the Sangguniang Panlungsod (City Council) to pass a resolution that would institute the annual observation of disaster safety day within the City. The proposed date was June 20 because June is already the start of the rainy season in the City. The City Council instead declared July 16 of every year as the Dagupan Disaster Preparedness Day. The Council believes that this is a fitting way to commemorate the major earthquake in 1990 which caused liquefaction and the sinking of Dagupan thus making it more vulnerable floods. The proclamation of July 16 as the Dagupan Disaster Preparedness Day was made during the Araw ng Dagupan (Celebration of the Charter Day of Dagupan). (A copy of the resolution will be given later, meanwhile, a picture of the document is herein attached as Attachment 1)

The TWG maximized the proclamation and instead of just having a one day program they developed together with CDP and the Department of Education a one week program calling it the "Citiwide Disaster Consciousness Week". The proposed activities include: radio hopping, seminar on campus security and disaster management, parade with slogan competition, river clean, mangrove revegetation, academic Olympics to include oration, essay writing and poster making, earthquake and evacuation drill in schools. (The tentative program is herein attached as Attachment 2)

#### D) Setting up of Disaster Information Management System

For the setting-up of Disaster Information Management System(DIMS) the following activities were done:

1. The Project Team came up with the list of information which should be made part of the DIMS.
2. Initial discussion with Ms. Gabrielle Iglesias on how to set up the DIMS was done on April 23, 2006. But further consultation needs to be made.
3. Coordination with the Dagupan Geographical Information System Officer, Engr. Athena Arenas, was done to develop a list of information

for the Participatory GIS. However, issues of political boundaries needed to be settled by the City Government.

4. The output from the PRA conducted in the 8 communities will be a source of information for the database.
5. During the TWG meeting last June 13, 2006, the inventory of existing information was discussed. It was agreed that each Department represented in the TWG should submit additional information or data that would prove to be relevant in their respective fields at the same time essential for the DIMS. The suggestion of Prof Nicanor Melecio, a Consultant of the Mayor, to procure Mike 11 and 12, flood modeling program, was also discussed. It was explained by the Project Manager that the Project will not be able to procure the program and equipments needed as it has been learned from PAGASA in a previous consultation that these Mike 11 and 12 are very costly and therefore would not be cost effective. It was agreed upon to seek ADPC's advice on this matter. Consultation with Ms. Gaby Iglesias of ADPC via email confirmed that the cost of the mentioned flood modeling program is prohibitive.
6. Ms. Iglesias recommended to CDP to ask the advice of Prof. Dan Saguil from the Geography Dept. of the University of the Philippines on designing the geographic information system as he also has special interest in disaster risk management

#### E) Setting up of an Early Warning System

On June 16, 2006, Ms. Mayfourth Luneta along with the TWG, the City Training Team for Disaster Preparedness, as well as representatives from the eight pilot barangays had an initial workshop on setting up of indigenous flood markers. The thirty-three (33) participants were mostly those who attended the disaster preparedness community training. During the workshop there was a review of the PRA results and a presentation of the community hazard maps which was facilitated by Mr. Butch Velasco, the PIO officer of the City. The responsible persons/team for each of the 8 communities coming from members of the TWG and the Disaster Preparedness were also presented.

The main discussion of the workshop centered on the importance and the steps in setting up an Early Warning System(EWS). The need for EWS was also identified in the community plans. The participants were divided into three groups and they discussed the setting up of indigenous flood markers in each community to monitor the flood during this coming rainy season. It was agreed that the city will provide calibrated markers (by feet) to be installed in chosen areas of the Barangay Disaster Coordinating Council (BDCC). The BDCC and the assigned community members will monitor the flood level during typhoon and when water level rises. This is to have a data base on how fast the flood rises and for how long the floodwater stays. This will also help in defining the flood level

for the warning system (alert level, preparation to evacuate, evacuation ). The flood level monitoring will be replicated in all the other barangays in the City.

The TWG together with the Project Manager visited the field office of PAGASA in Urdaneta, Pangasinan. This is the office that is also in charge of the Agno River Flood Control system. The Head of the office, Mr. Ladislao, and his staff explained the flood situation in the region and how this affects the City. Also, current efforts by PAGASA in monitoring and in giving timely warning was discussed. Other concerns such as dam break scenario were also discussed. The meeting was very profitable for it provided more information about the causes of flood and it also discussed areas for coordination and assistance in the setting up and maintenance of an early warning system.

### III. Planned vs. Actual Achievements

Of the planned activities for the quarter as outlined in the Life of Project Implementation Work Plan, the only activities that were not carried out for the period were the ones on preparations for DRM Workshops with teachers and students and the meeting with the head of the Office of Civil Defense, Gen. Rabonza. The preparations for the DRM workshops in schools which was supposed to take place in May was shelved because of the realization that the teachers and school heads are busy at this time preparing for the opening of classes. Thus, it was only in June, after the opening of classes, that initial discussion with school heads were made. The supposed meeting with Gen. Rabonza was also not pursued due to other priority activities for the month of June.

### IV. Problems Encountered, New Opportunities and Lessons Learned

The problems encountered were minor ones and caused only a little delay in the realization of target activities for the quarter. For the month of April, it was difficult to set any activity in Dagupan for everybody's attention was on their preparation for the Bangus Festival, the biggest annual celebration in the City. Thus, all the community trainings were scheduled for May. Also, as mentioned above, the preparations for DRM workshops in schools was moved from May to June in consideration of the school calendar. Another area where the project is being delayed is in the finalization of the Disaster Information Management System because of the inability to level off on what should consist the whole system. Admittedly, CDP has no expertise yet on this area and needs the support of ADPC and other technical consultants in helping Dagupan set up the DIMS.

One important lesson learned during the period was realized after the visit of Dr Iftekhar Ahmed, the Project Manager of Urban Disaster Risk Management from ADPC who visited Dagupan City and CDP to monitor the progress of the project. He pointed out the importance of selecting project areas based on their different features so that there would be varied results from the demonstration projects.

#### V. Achievement over Project Objective Indicators

The indicators which shows that the project is on its way of meeting its objectives are the following:

1. The City officials and Barangay leaders are aware and supportive of the project
2. The City officials and Barangay leaders in pilot areas recognize the importance of community participation
3. Risk assessment conducted in the 8 barangays together with key community leaders.
4. Active participation of City Officials through the Technical Working Group.

#### VI. Planned Activities for the Next Quarter

The following are the priority activities for the months of July, August and September:

1. Setting up and Maintenance of the Disaster Information System
2. Coordination and Planning of School Awareness Campaign
3. Observance of Dagupan Disaster Safety Day
4. Preparation for the Early Warning System Workshops
5. Meeting with the 8 Barangays for the Small Scale Mitigation Projects
6. Start of replication of training in other barangays

#### VII. An Update on Participating Organizations and Individuals

Beginning July, the Finance Officer for Project Promise would be Ms. Nel Dimabuyu. The Dagupan TWG has appointed Ms. Emma Molina, the City Agriculturist as the focal point person for the Project. However there will still be different people in charge for specific activities for the project e.g. the Head of the City Health Dept. will be the main person for the MFR Training.

#### VIII. Other Information

The full support of the City Government to the Project can be seen by the support given by the Mayor and/or the City Administrator to all activities of the Project.

For the community trainings, the City prepared Certificates of Participation jointly signed by the Mayor and CDP and these were given during the Closing Program of each training. The City Administrator also graced one Closing Program and the Facilitators' Worskhop.

The Promise Project is also regularly featured in the official monthly publication of the City, the Bangus City Journal.

Local radio and television stations and print media also feature the project occasionally upon the prodding of the City Information Officer.

#### IX. Project Financial Status