

# Accelerating MDG Achievement

Stories from the Philippines



The UN Millennium Campaign supports citizens' efforts to hold their governments to account for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.



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## Foreword


In September 2000, at the start of the new millennium, 189 heads of state and government signed the Millennium Declaration at the United Nations (UN) Millennium Summit in New York. The Millennium Declaration gave rise to a set of eight time-bound Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) encompassing a wide range of development concerns – from poverty, hunger, education and health to gender equality and environmental protection. All countries are expected to achieve these Goals by 2015.

Around the world, the progress in the past ten years has been uneven, with some countries making considerable strides in all of the MDGs, and many others achieving progress in some Goals but falling behind in others. A similar observation can be made with regard to progress within countries, with widening disparities in some cases. With only five years remaining until the 2015 deadline, there is an urgent call from all quarters for accelerated achievement of the MDGs by learning from what has and has not worked and replicating and scaling up the successes. On September 20-22, 2010, heads of states met at the UN MDG+10 Review Summit in New York to come up with concrete strategies for attainment of all the MDGs by 2015.

The Philippines has experienced many challenges in seeking to achieve the Goals during the last ten years. However, it has scored significant achievements with respect to some Goals, such as reducing infant and child mortality (Goal 4), decreasing the incidence of malaria (Goal 6), and providing access to water and sanitation (Goal 7). Behind such MDG achievements have been innovative initiatives, advocacy and campaign efforts and successful partnerships involving government, civil society groups, private sector, and citizens themselves.

This publication features seven stories of successful MDG advocacy and campaign covering a broad spectrum of issues that matter to the achievement of the MDGs in the Philippines. The nature and objectives of these initiatives vary widely, but one common element across these cases has been the participation of ordinary citizens. This we believe to be the most critical of the success factors. Unfortunately, the very people whose rights and well-being are the focus of development interventions are often neither fully involved in nor even informed about the decision-making processes concerning their own MDG entitlements. The cases illustrate why this should no longer be the case.

I hope that this compilation of successful examples of MDG advocacy and campaign in the Philippines will inspire and encourage many readers to support these initiatives in their own ways or replicate them so that even more communities and people will receive benefits.



**Jacqueline Badcock**  
UN Resident Coordinator  
Philippines

The case studies are categorized into three broad themes – (i) participatory policy advocacy; (ii) citizen monitoring and (iii) innovative partnerships. While these initiatives vary widely in terms of their nature and scope of work, target groups, and adopted methods, they clearly illustrate a few key lessons. First, for any MDG advocacy and campaigning to be successful and make a tangible impact on people's lives, people themselves need to be at the center of such efforts. Second, ordinary citizens do possess the capacity and willingness to actively engage in and own development processes that matter to them if appropriate support to develop their skills and know-how, knowledge, networks, and financial resources is provided until they become self-sustainable. Third, these statements are especially true when we aim to improve the lives of the poorest and the most marginalized. If not active participants, they will remain voiceless and marginalized. The seven cases which are presented in this compilation illustrate different ways of participation of citizens and communities in efforts to realize the MDGs in the Philippines. Many are the stories from the parts of the population that represent the worst sectors of poverty in the Philippines – women, children, indigenous peoples and the urban poor.

### **Participatory Policy Advocacy**

The key ingredients of successful policy advocacy include extensive research, participation and ownership of stakeholders, capacity development of the stakeholders, and identifying the right channels for disseminating the advocacy messages intended to get the relevant authorities' attention and trigger their action. The first three stories provide examples of effective policy advocacy. **Children as MDG Advocates** is an Education-for-All (EFA) campaign in the Mindanao province of Misamis Occidental that trains the community to become EFA advocates and children in school to encourage out-of-school youths to return to school. Capitalizing on the May 10, 2010 elections, the campaign came up with a policy agenda for bringing out-of-school youths back to school. The policy agenda has been adopted by the municipalities of Clarin, Sinacaban and Panaon.

To achieve the MDGs, a country must have political commitment and a sound policy framework backed up by appropriate budgetary allocations. There are some universally accepted yardsticks for sectoral budgets, including a minimal 6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) for the education sector and a minimal 3% of GDP for health.

**Giving Citizens a Voice in Budget-Making** discusses the Alternative Budget Initiative (ABI), which the UN Millennium Campaign has been advocating in partnership with the civil-society group Social Watch Philippines. The ABI seeks the approval of a law that will mandate civil-society participation in the drafting of the General Appropriations Act (GAA), i.e., the national budget. The philosophy underlying the ABI is that it is important to address the MDG-related priorities embodied in the national budget and that civil-society participation in its budget-drafting process will enable the GAA to be a document that is better-informed, more inclusive and reflective of the citizens' voices.



***Eradicating Beliefs that Put Women at a Disadvantage*** addresses the two segments of Philippine society that are most MDG-disadvantaged – women and indigenous peoples. Like many indigenous cultures, the Ifugaos are replete with traditions, some of them not women-friendly, especially when it comes to issues that have to do with women's reproductive rights. The Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development took up the challenge of instigating a paradigm shift in Ifugao that taught women about their reproductive rights and made them partners and fellow-advocates in the fight for gender equality. Ironically, the first Ifugao Gender and Development Code was approved in the capital town of Lagawe, which previously had one of the highest records of violence-against-women cases in the province.

### ***Citizen Monitoring***

One of the critical gaps which have emerged in the ten years of MDG implementation in many countries, including the Philippines, is the challenge of high-quality service delivery on the ground. Often right policies and strategies for the achievement of the MDGs are in place, but the real difficulties lie in translating those policies and strategies into effective community-level service delivery and in ensuring that the services reach the people most in need. There is an urgent need for enhancing accountability and transparency in the service delivery mechanisms and for improving the quality of the services. This, in turn, requires that citizens be active participants in tracking, monitoring and claiming their MDG entitlements in their communities, rather than be mere recipients and beneficiaries of government services. The

next two cases illustrate such participatory-monitoring initiatives.

***Changing the Face of Poverty One Family at a Time*** features the FACES project of UN-Habitat in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government. The project brings the MDGs down to the household level, with mother and child being taught that the MDGs are their basic entitlements and thereby being made a part of the development process. It empowers women to reclaim their MDG rights by monitoring the progress of their children's MDGs and participating in planning and implementing projects intended to improve their MDG scores. As a child's MDG report card improves, the motivation to keep on improving is strengthened and the results can be amazing.

In ***Empowering Citizens through Participatory Monitoring***, citizens were the principal actors in the monitoring of procurement of medicines. Former Isabela Governor Grace Padaca sought support from the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance to ensure that the health allocations for the Isabela barangays were spent as budgeted and that they reached their intended beneficiaries. Community people tracked the use of funds and ensured that they were used solely for the improvement of the citizens' health and welfare.

### ***Innovative Partnerships***


With only five years left until the 2015 target year, it is critical that development efforts mobilize all the resources, opportunities and expertise that are available for tapping. One of the key factors for acceleration of attainment


of the MDGs is getting the support of different types of actors who can play their respective roles, in a concerted manner, towards the attainment of the common objective. It must be emphasized that while the primary responsibility for achieving the MDGs lies with the government, every person and every segment of society has an important role to play.

***Makati Beats a Tough Urban Problem*** is an inspiring story that highlights the importance of effective partnership between communities, business establishments, youth groups and concerned individuals. Though Makati City is the second richest city in the country, it has faced tremendous difficulties in effectively dealing with the problems of congestion, traffic and garbage as urbanization has accelerated. Makati's award-winning waste management initiative is an example of how success can be achieved through advocacy, consultation, discussions and education involving the relevant stakeholders and gaining their understanding and buy-in.

***Building Homes, Rebuilding Lives*** tells the story of the residents of Towerville, a community of the urban poor relocated from Metro Manila areas devastated by floods, declared as danger zones, demolished for being illegal settlements or cleared for infrastructure projects. Originally coming from Tondo, Manila's Zone One, the community members decided to band together and form a group called Samahan ng Mamamayan Zone One Tondo, Inc. (ZOTO).

When ZOTO's members were relocated to Caloocan, Navotas, Malabon and Cavite, all they had with them was sheer determination to improve their lives. Through sustained hard work and intense lobbying, they were able to get foreign investors to provide funds to implement their MDG sustainability plans. The Towerville story is proof that MDG success can happen if people will it. Through partnerships with development agencies and community volunteers, ZOTO continues to attract investments and provide facilities that otherwise would not have come into being. These include birthing centers, computer skills training, education and livelihood projects.

We hope that these seven stories will inspire individuals and organizations to pursue similar MDG advocacy and campaign initiatives. Each story provides a synopsis of the project, the critical success factors and tips for scaling up, with a strong emphasis on replicability. Contact information of the people who were involved in the project is also included for the benefits of readers interested in obtaining additional information. 



**Minar Pimple**

Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific  
UN Millennium Campaign

“We have more development stories than before. The transformative impact of the MDGs is undeniable. This is an achievement we can be proud of.” – Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General

## COMMUNITY IN ACTION

**Youths collect bottles, cans to send a child to school**

**F**riends Reynaldo Palao, 14, Christyn May Morales, 18 and Joe Ann U. Dapitan, 14, have been collecting empty bottles and cans from their neighborhood in the municipality of Clarin to support the Education-for-All (EFA) campaign in Misamis Occidental.

"We are doing this so we can help send a child to school this coming school year," Reynold said.

"This is our small way of helping our fellow children," Christyn said.

Joe Ann added that she has also been gathering empty bottles and cans that they used in their house to help her friends since she cannot always join them in meetings and collection.

With funding support from the UN Millennium Campaign, World Vision Development Foundation (WVDF) in partnership with Kahayag Development Foundation, has been implementing the EFA campaign in Misamis Occidental. EFA is a translation of Millennium Development Goal 2 of Achieving Universal Primary Education.


With the theme "Bring a Friend to School," the campaign aims to enforce children's right to education through policy implementation and influence, and massive information campaign.

Studies and researches suggest that the state of Philippine education has been falling behind its target of providing quality education for every Filipino. A recent study of the Department of Education shows that out of 1,000 Grade 1 students, only 162 will likely finish elementary school.

The youth group of Clarin used their summer vacation to embark on an empty-bottle-and-can collection drive because it was easier for them to do to raise funds to send a child to school and at the same time help lessen the garbage in the community.

Under the scorching heat of the summer sun, Reynold, Christyn and Jo Ann, along with their team members went from one house to another collecting empty bottles and cans.

Empty bottles and cans were sold at USD1.00 per kilo. The youth team earned around PhP 200 per week.

"It is difficult for us. We've never done this before. But we will continue to do this for the sake of the other children," said Christyn. 

## Children as MDG Advocates

Name of Project:

Education-for-All Campaign in Misamis Occidental

Project Lead:

World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.

MDG Addressed:

Goal 2

Target Municipalities:

Clarin, Sinacaban, Panaon

**I**n Misamis Occidental, a province in Northern Mindanao, many children cannot go to school because of financial deficiencies, family problems, or lack of government determination to bring all children to school.

The situation is reflective of education in the nation, where 5 million children are out of school. Department of Education (DepEd) study has shown that of 1,000 students who enter Grade 1, only 162 will finish elementary school. The situation does not speak well for the prospects of achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of universal primary education by 2015.

The World Vision Development Foundation, which has long been involved in efforts to provide children access to quality education, partnered with the Area Development Program (ADP) Kahayag in Misamis Occidental to undertake an advocacy project to help achieve Education for All (EFA). EFA is an initiative started by the Department of Education (DepEd).

With funding from the United Nations Millennium Campaign, World Vision and Kahayag set out on a one-year Education-for-All campaign in the municipalities of Clarin, Sinacaban and Panaon.

### Two-Pronged Advocacy Framework

World Vision used its own tested advocacy framework in conducting the campaign. This framework used two approaches:

1. Pushing the needed policies, systems and structures (e.g., having dialogues with the local chief executives and Sangguniang Bayan, and securing their commitments to make EFA a priority project).
2. Building up people's capacities to do things conducive to the solutions to their problems (e.g., training community leaders on policy advocacy, training children on basic advocacy and involving the community in lobbying for ordinances to address education gaps).

Thus, the project obtained the commitment of the local chief executives and local board members while mobilizing the community - including the youth - and involving them in the campaign.

By the 10th month of the project, the following activities had been undertaken:

1. Consultation and participatory advocacy planning with the stakeholders to discuss concerns regarding the educational situation in the province.
2. Training of community leaders and organized groups on the basics of policy advocacy and on drafting ordinances.
3. Training of children leaders on doing basic advocacy through small acts, like gathering empty bottles from houses and explaining to them that these will help put poor children in school.
4. Community mobilizing and lobbying for ordinances addressing the low enrolment rate in the municipality, and for political candidates (during the May 10, 2010 elections) to give priority to education in their platforms.

5. Production of child-friendly EFA campaign materials (such as button pins with the slogan “Edukasyon Ko, Responsibilidad Mo.”)
6. Launching of the EFA Advocacy Campaign in schools, community organizations and church-based organizations. One of these campaigns was the “Bring a Friend to School” campaign by the children’s groups.
7. Orientation of the community on EFA.
8. Organization of multisectoral Community Education Watch Groups (CEWG) and the Youth EFA Watch Groups.
9. Conduct of activities by the CEWG, such as the conduct of bi-monthly meetings and the development of proposals to support the campaign.
10. Networking and coordination with stakeholders – local government, DepEd, church groups, community organizations, community leaders, and the children’s groups.
11. Advocacy visits and dialogues with LGU heads and local board members.



### Outcomes of Activities

A total of 41 community leaders and 38 youth leaders were trained in advocacy. One of the tasks undertaken by the adult watch groups or the CEWG was to draft municipal ordinances that specifically addressed the low enrollment ratio in the locality. They also developed project proposals in support of the campaign. The CEWGs were in charge of monitoring the progress of the EFA in their municipalities.

One notable campaign that was launched was “Bring a Friend to School,” through which the youth encouraged out-of-school peers to go to school and engage in activities (like collecting and selling empty plastic bottles and cans) to raise money to help poor children through school. The project was able to enroll 13 children aged 5-14 in school.

The campaign and lobbying efforts have also succeeded in obtaining the commitment and support of the LGU heads elected in 2010, who not only have taken an active part in the campaign but have also provided counterpart funds. All of the chief executives of the three municipalities committed to include EFA among their municipalities’ priority projects this year. A proposal to the increase of the local outlay for education to 20% of the municipal budget (from the present 11%), is now being deliberated in the local bodies.

### Strategies that Spelled Success

World Vision’s approach to the EFA campaign was characterized by a number of features and strategies. First, it worked at putting the right policies in place. Second, it involved the entire community and gave it an active role in the execution of the project.

The following strategies employed by the project helped generate broad support:

1. Offering training on policy advocacy strategies (including the drafting of ordinances), which not only capacitated the community but also served as a venue where pressing issues on education were discussed, and solutions were formulated jointly. One concrete outcome of these training sessions was the drafting, by the CEWG, of a municipal ordinance to address the low enrolment problem in the three municipalities.
2. Creating multisectoral groups - the CEWG with representatives from church, civil society, grassroots organizations and local media - and the Youth EFA Watch Groups, which allowed the representation of various sectors, thereby broadening the human resource base.
3. Generating LGU cooperation through field visits, courtesy calls and dialogues, which facilitated smooth implementation.
4. Providing technical support, which gave the community the know-how with which to undertake the project but did not take away from them the program's ownership.
5. Involving the children, the "Bring a Friend to School" campaign proved to be a very effective strategy for making the people understand the value of the project.

### Tips for Scaling Up

Organizations that want to undertake a initiative similar to what World Vision has successfully undertaken in Misamis Occidental, are advised to incorporate therein the following features:

1. **A multisectoral orientation**, involving the different sectors in the community in all phases of the program and, from planning to implementation. Representation by all sectors makes the program a collective undertaking, one where everyone's concerns can be addressed. There should be ownership of the project from the very start.
2. **Strong partnerships**. Nurture partnerships with the local government, nongovernment organizations, church-based groups, and other community organizations. They help enlarge a program's pool of financial, administrative, material and manpower resources, broaden the base of support for the program, facilitate smooth and efficient implementation.
3. **Constant feedback**. Regular assessments and reporting of results fosters sharing of experiences, which can provide benchmarks for other programs.
4. **Research on education**. There is a need to conduct up-to-date research to provide important data for developing education initiatives, such as a study on the education situation, budget allocation and extent of civil participation in education efforts in the area.
5. **Involvement of children**. Children are at the center of all education efforts. Involving them in the program will not only inculcate in them a sense of ownership; it can also draw from them innovative solutions to problems that, after all, mainly concern them. 

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## Giving Citizens a Voice in Budget-Making

Name of Project:

Alternative Budget Initiative

Project Lead:

Social Watch Philippines

Intended Outcome and Relevant MDGs:

Galvanize people's participation, transparency and accountability in the national budget process to help ensure adequate financing for the MDGs on education, health, agriculture and environment.

Funding for critical socioeconomic programs, such as education, health, agriculture and environment, at the national and local levels is directly linked to a country's achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – not only education and health-related Goals but also Goal 1 about the overall poverty reduction due to their mutually-reinforcing nature. The Philippines' current level of expenditure places it among the lowest spenders in education in Asia and the rest of the world. Also, the share of health expenditure to GDP is still below the five percent standard set by the World Health Organization for developing countries. Such funding gaps have direct links to the fact that the country has performed below average on reducing extreme poverty.

The Alternative Budget Initiative (ABI), which is now in its fourth year, is an integrated budget advocacy on fulfilling financing gaps and addressing shortfalls in achievement of the MDGs. The ABI involves various partners including the UN Millennium Campaign supporting its lobbying component, wherein the Social Watch Philippines leads non-government organizations with different technical expertise and people's organizations representing various sectors, in partnership with legislators and executive offices in analyzing and critiquing the budget, and crafting alternative budget proposals for more allocations for social services in the national budget. The adoption of these budget proposals for the MDGs is the first step towards accelerating the MDG achievement.

The ABI has resulted in increases in allocations in the national budget for MDG-related socioeconomic programs, such as PhP 5.3 billion increases in the budget for MDG-related programs in education in the 2007 national budget, PhP 6.3 billion and PhP 7.7 billion increases in the budget for MDG-related programs for health, education, environment and agriculture in the 2008 and 2009 budget respectively. More importantly, it has brought about historical changes in the Philippines' budget process:

- Partnership of legislators and civil society organizations has been forged in analyzing and critiquing the budget as well as campaigning for release of impounded funds for the MDGs;
- House Committee on Appropriations, for the first time, conducted a hearing on the alternative budget proposals of civil society groups in 2007 and has continued with this practice in 2008 and 2009;
- Participation of civil society groups in the budget process has increased from 22 in 2007 to more than 60 in 2009, and capacities of NGOs and peoples' organizations have been enhanced to engage in the national and local processes of budget preparation and implementation monitoring;
- An increasing number of legislators and officers of legislature support the ABI Campaign, and they are now using the ABI documents during deliberations on the budget as well as during committee hearings and plenary sessions;

**THERE HAS TO BE  
A STRONG CIVIL  
SOCIETY-LEGISLATOR  
PARTNERSHIP IN  
MONITORING THE  
RELEASE AND  
IMPLEMENTATION OF  
FUNDS.**

- House Bill 219, the *People's Participation in the Budget Process*, authored by Deputy Speaker Lorenzo Tanada III, has been re-filed in the 15th Congress to push for socially inclusive and accountability-exacting processes in the budget process;
- ABI also monitored budget implementation and revealed billions of unreleased funds for MDG programs on health, education, environment and agriculture in the 2008 and 2009 budgets.

### Factors underpinning success

The key factor behind the success of ABI is forging partnerships among various stakeholders – NGOs and peoples' organizations representing different sectors and segments of the population, legislators and officers of legislature, national and local government bodies, media and supporting agencies including the United Nations. The legislature-civil society partnership in the budget process was emphasized as a development model. Strong emphasis has been placed on building the capacities of the actors involved in different aspects of the ABI – understanding, analyzing and monitoring the budget, developing strategies for people's direct engagement in the budget process, identifying issues in the budget process and effectively reporting them in media, etc. Furthermore, the ABI has adopted an integrated approach to budget advocacy in the sense that it not only analyzes the budget and proposes alternatives, but also proposes alternative sources of financing to support increases in allocations for the MDGs and tracking the implementation of the national-budget items for MDG-related programs.

### Critical Gaps


The so-called “power of the purse” of the legislature should be defended. First, Congressional initiatives in the budget are subject to Presidential approval or impoundment. Second, the Philippine budget system is designed in such a way that the legislature is not able to scrutinize most of the national budget such as automatic appropriations and special purpose funds (SPF). For example, for the 2010 budget, the Senate and House are going to review only 42.77 percent of the PhP 1.5 trillion budget. Comparing the 2009 and 2010 budgets, new appropriations that Senate will act on together with the House has been decreased by PhP 3.7 billion. Automatic appropriations, which will not be acted on by both Houses are PhP 123 billion higher, while SPF, which is directly managed by the Office of the President, is PhP 166 billion higher. Meanwhile, the budgets of departments which actually deliver the services and which the legislature scrutinizes are allocated PhP 51 billion less.

### Key lessons and future measures for accelerated progress

For a budget advocacy to be successful, the efforts need to be multi-pronged. Proposing better allocations for MDGs is only the first step, because the ABI experience shows that often the increases in the MDG budget which were included in the General Appropriations Act through the initiatives of Senators and Congressmen are either not released or are impounded, or are transferred to Overall Savings and other budget items by the Executive. In this respect, there has to be a strong civil society-legislator partnership in monitoring the release and implementation of these funds. There is also a need to promote participatory budgeting at the local level, as financing gaps at the local level lead to uneven progress in achieving the MDGs among the regions. Also, ABI can engage in the study of the legislative reform measures that can help facilitate the movement and utilization of funds already made available by the government

for MDG-related spending. This includes policy research on (a) the nature of special-purpose funds; (2) impoundment and overall savings; (3) review and inventory of sources of “invisible” budgets. These policy researches will be done to come up with specific policy recommendations on reforming the budget system and widen possibilities for a higher allocation for MDG-related spending.

The advocacy should also include pressing the government to be resourceful in terms of pooling financing for MDGs in order to avoid problems on debts and deficits which also burden the poor. An example of additional source of financing for critical socioeconomic programs are so called “invisible budgets,” amounting to billions of pesos not included in the national budget, which could be possible sources of financing for the MDGs. Examples are funds from the Motor Vehicles Users’ Charge (MVUC) or the 50 percent remittances required of Government Owned and Controlled Corporations, such as Pagcor. It is also within the rights of legislature, and civil society has the right to monitor the implementation and utilization of these “invisible budgets” and call for the use of these funds for MDG-related programs.

Another possible study would be on how national government spending can induce or motivate local governments to provide counterpart financing for MDG-related activities. This is relevant now that some MDG-related programs have been decentralized. 

**THE ADVOCACY SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE PRESSING THE GOVERNMENT TO BE RESOURCEFUL IN TERMS OF POOLING FINANCING FOR THE MDGs IN ORDER TO AVOID PROBLEMS ON DEBTS AND DEFICITS, WHICH ALSO BURDEN THE POOR.**

**SOURCE:**

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Social Watch lead convenor Prof. Leonor Briones, flanked by co-convenor Isagani Serrano (far right) and members Jolly Lais (far left) and Erning Ofracio, give a blow-by-blow analysis of President Benigno Simeon Aquino III's July 26 State of the Nation Address, putting emphasis on the budget. This is part of Social Watch Philippines' continuing advocacy for people's participation in the budget process.

## Eradicating Beliefs that Put Women at a Disadvantage

Name of Project:

Ifugao Gender and Development Code of 2007

Project Lead:

Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD)

Intended Outcome and Relevant MDG:

Code seeks to promote gender equality and empower women

Target:

Women and children in Ifugao Province

### Demistifying the Code

- According to Irene Calingayan, president of Ifugao Federation of Women's Organization, women were already acting as agents/partners to suppress vices in the community after the development of the Code.
- Furthermore, women were becoming more involved in referring victims of violence to the proper authorities.
- According to the Ifugao Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office, "Ifugao is the first province in the country to come up with a provincial and municipal GAD Code and the second province in crafting the Reproductive Health Ordinance. This Code has intensified local laws, such as the Executive Order creating the Provincial Council against Gender Violence and the Trafficking and Reproductive Health Ordinance that embodies an integrated and comprehensive reproductive health care and responsible parenthood focused on the time-honored value of respect for human dignity, people's rights and their families."

Some Filipino beliefs and cultural practices put women at a disadvantage. This may be especially true in the regions dominated by ethnic minorities. In Ifugao, a province in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) of northern Philippines, many old traditions and religious beliefs persist. These traditions and beliefs are not always beneficent; some of them deprive certain sectors of their rights or allow them to be exploited or abused.

### Beliefs that Suppress Women

When it comes to matters that relate to delicate issues like sex, the reproductive process, or the intimate relationship between men and women, Ifugao culture is very conservative. This conservatism puts women at a disadvantage in a number of ways. For example, any discussion of sex is not allowed. Thus, when a woman is sexually harassed, she cannot talk about it. If she files a legal complaint, the testimonies are often incomplete because the sexual details of the case cannot be fully disclosed, hence, the case does not prosper. It is also taboo to speak or use terms referring to the sex organs and the sexual act.

When a woman or a girl is raped or becomes a victim of violence, the family would rather just keep quiet or resolve the matter in private rather than make a public issue out of it. The victim can only suffer in silence, and bear the psychological repercussions of her experience. The Ifugaos believe that a person who has done something displeasing to the gods will be meted punishment.

### The GAD Code

In 2007, something good for Ifugao women happened. Through the facilitation of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), the Gender and Development (GAD) Code of Ifugao was passed. Drafted by legislators of the province and members of the provincial and municipal GAD Councils, the Code supports women's rights, women's equality with men in all spheres of life, women empowerment in local governance and gender-responsive development.

Among the objectives stated in the Code are the promotion of gender-responsive policies at the local level, and assurance that gender concerns are integrated into local development programs and projects.

The Ifugao GAD Code embodies the following core principles:

1. Women's rights are human rights.
2. Women are the full and equal partners of men in all spheres of life.
3. Women's and girls' human rights must be promoted, protected and fulfilled.





Women of Ifugao no longer have to play tug-of-war for their rights; the Ifugao Gender and Development Code passed in May 2007 ensures gender-responsive policies are promoted and gender concerns are integrated in public programs and projects. The Code also includes provisions for mainstreaming interventions addressing violence against women.





4. Women's empowerment and gender equality must be pursued in all aspects of local governance to ensure that women and men equally contribute to and benefit from development.
5. Local development must be rights-based and gender-responsive to ensure upholding of human dignity, social justice and equality.

The Code mainstreams interventions addressing the issue of violence against women. It mandates all subdivisions of the province and the line agencies, to act within 24 hours of receipt of any complaint or report of violence against women and children.

Municipal counterparts of the Code will be drafted by the municipal officials and legislators. The province's capital, Lagawe, which has one of the highest incidents of violence against women and children in the province, was one of the first municipalities to formulate a GAD code. The Lagawe code states, among other things, that "the municipal government shall provide immediate comprehensive support to victim-survivors of violence" and that all concerned departments of the municipal government "shall act within 24 hours upon receipt of complaints or reports of violence against women/men and children."

The passage of the GAD Code of Ifugao came three years after the passage of Republic Act No. 9262 (the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004). It was very timely in view of the rising incidence of sexual abuse and exploitation of children and violence against women in the province. The rise in the number of reported cases could mean that people are now becoming more aware of women and gender issues, and less inclined to follow traditions that undermine the dignity of women.

### Success Factors

What were the developments that paved the way for the drafting of the Ifugao GAD Code and its passage into law?


The biggest facilitating factor was the enactment of the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004 and the Anti-Trafficking Act of 2004. These milestone laws provided definitions of and punishments for acts of violence against women.

These laws paved the way for the creation of local-level interagency GAD councils. Prior to the drafting of the Ifugao Code, a workshop was held among the provincial and municipal councils. These developments facilitated the passage of the Code by the councils on May 21, 2007. The Provincial Council Against Gender Violence and Trafficking ratified the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Code through Council Resolution No. 01 (Series of 2008).

The active involvement of the women of Ifugao was a big factor in promoting the GAD Code and ensuring its implementation. They not only acted as agents in suppressing vice in the community; they also referred victims of violence to the authorities.

### Recommendations for Replication and Scale-Up

To ensure that the Code really translates to the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment in the province of Ifugao, and to facilitate the passage of similar legislation in other provinces, the following steps should be taken:

1. Ensure proper implementation and close monitoring of the GAD Code by the provincial government through the Provincial Council Against Violence and Trafficking.
2. Recognize the role of women's organizations and the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office in the successful implementation of the Code.
3. Encourage the participation of men in the campaign to uphold women's rights and gender-based violence.
4. Continue to push for legislation that will support the concerns addressed in the Code, such as: general health, including reproductive health; nutrition; violence against women and children; women in governance; and justice, peace and order. 

#### SOURCE:

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## Changing the Face of Poverty One Family at a Time

### Name of Project:

Family-Based Actions for Children and their Environs in the Slums (FACES)

### Project Lead:

UN-Habitat, UNDP and Local Government Academy, Department of the Interior and Local Government, League of Cities of the Philippines

### Intended outcome and relevant MDGs:

Project seeks to target all MDGs in a family setting

### Target Cities:

Bago, Bais, Candon, Dipolog, Garden City of Samal, Ligao, Maasin, Mandaluyong, Pagadian, Pasay, Roxas, Santiago, Science City of Munoz, Surigao and Tuguegarao

### Target Groups:

Families with children ages 0-17 years old living in slums

Children, the most vulnerable members of society, usually are the ones most affected by the deprivation, adverse conditions, and risks resulting from poverty. Thus, to say that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been achieved would be to say that every child is born safe and healthy, is well-nourished, is raised in a secure home with sanitary facilities and conditions, is protected against violence and harmful elements, is well-provided by his parents, is healthy and free of disease, is given a good education, and grows in a safe and sound environment.

This is the idea behind Family-Based Actions for Children and Their Environs in the Slums (FACES), an anti-poverty initiative directed towards children living in urban poor communities. "The face of urban poverty is that of a child," states the project's guidebook *Faces of the MDGs*. The project also focuses its attention on cities, where the potential dangers and debilitating consequences of poverty are more acute.

### Focus on Children, Families and Communities

With children as its central concern, FACES recognizes the critical role that families and communities play in providing for the child's needs, ensuring his welfare, and monitoring his development. Its strategies, therefore, hinge mainly on the active participation of families, especially mothers and women, in implementing actions that lead to the realization of the MDGs.





The project was implemented in one slum community in 15 cities in the Philippines, namely Bago, Bais, Candon, Dipolog, the Garden City of Samal, Ligao, Maasin, Mandaluyong, Pagadian, Pasay, Roxas, Santiago, Science City of Munoz, Surigao, and Tuguegarao. The selected slum communities were characterized by a number of urban poverty problems, like high incidence of children's illnesses and malnutrition, poor sanitation, a large number of squatters, dense population, lack of many basic social services, vulnerability to calamities and disasters, and high number of households below the poverty threshold.

At the time the project started, the selected children's families were very poor and had very low or no regular incomes, their houses were made mostly of makeshift materials with no sanitary toilet facilities and potable water sources, households were congested, and children were malnourished and in poor health. These were the communities identified by the City Social Welfare and Development as the poorest of the poor.

The project highlighted the important role of participation of poor families, especially the women or mothers, in setting targets, identifying solutions and strategic actions towards the attainments of the MDGs at the household level. They also participated in strategic oversight, policy and planning bodies at the village and city levels. The project strengthened the



Sample Child-Focused MDG Scorecard <sup>1</sup>

	Score
 <p>Child will not go hungry and will be provided with the basic needs and nourishment.</p> <p>Child eats 3 meals a day</p> <p>Child is properly clothed</p> <p>Child has ideal weight</p> <p>Child is not subject to physical and sexual abuse and violence</p> <p>Child's family earns at least PhP200/day</p>	
 <p>Child goes to school and finishes primary education on time.</p> <p>Child is enrolled</p> <p>Child goes to school regularly</p> <p>Child completes primary education</p> <p>Child finishes schooling on time</p>	
 <p>Child gets care and support from both mother and father.</p> <p>Child gets care and support from both father and mother</p> <p>Child respects both mother and father</p> <p>Child, whether girl or boy, gets equal treatment from parents</p> <p>Unschooling parents/caregivers/guardians enrolled in functional literacy programs</p>	
 <p>Child is healthy, is given proper nutrition and immunization.</p> <p>Child has ideal weight</p> <p>Immunized against tuberculosis</p> <p>Immunized against DPT</p> <p>Immunized against polio</p> <p>Immunized against measles</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Not all the indicators were included due to space constraints.

participatory process by putting in place a multi-sectoral mechanism that demonstrated quick and systematic responses to improve and sustain the delivery of services for the children in the slums.

The project sustained previous MDG localization initiatives by enhancing the proven strategies and weaving them together into a synthesized whole, completing the envisioned cycle for meeting the MDGs at the city level with a strategic focus near the home – the community, the neighborhood, the households, and finally, the children.

### Success Story

Today, the children's food consumption has improved markedly (up by 62%), each child now eating three meals a day. Almost half (49%) of the children have reached their ideal body weight, and about the same number (50%) are now properly clothed. Even their families' incomes have improved, with around one-fourth of the families (23%) now earning at least PhP200 a day. A significant number of families (74%) now have access to safe drinking water, and 28% already have sanitary toilets.

A total of 89 unschooled parents and guardians have undergone functional literacy programs. And 647 families from the 15 cities have been trained and are now tracking the attainment of the MDG targets on health, education, food security and environment in their respective households.

	Score
 <b>5</b> IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH	Child's mother is healthy and well.
	Pregnant mother gets at least 4 complete prenatal check-ups
	Pregnant mother at risk gets emergency obstetric care
	Birth attended by trained personnel
	Newly born child's mother gets post-natal check up
	Pregnancies are spaced at least 2 years apart
 <b>6</b> COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES	Child is aware of and not exposed to situations where s/he can get HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
	Child is aware of HIV/AIDS and how it can be acquired and prevented
	Child is aware of malaria and how it can be acquired and prevented
	Child does not smoke
 <b>7</b> ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	Child lives in a clean, healthy and safe environment.
	Child has access to safe drinking water
	Child has access to sanitary toilet facility
	Child lives in an adequate durable and safe house and developed community
	Child lives in family's own house
	Child lives in family's own land
 <b>8</b> A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT	Child has access to decent and productive work as well as new technologies.
	Child has access to new technologies especially ICT
	Child is removed from exploitative and hazardous labor
	Child is removed from prostitution and pornography
	Child participates in development process

## Families as Principal Actors

How did FACES achieve these initial gains? The success of the project rested largely on three major strategies:

1. Capacitating and involving urban poor women and mothers in identifying the issues affecting their families, articulating their families' needs, setting their own targets, identifying appropriate strategies and actions, and monitoring their families' — especially the children's — progress along the MDGs.
2. Development and establishment of quick-response mechanisms at the household and local government levels. This ensures that actions that provide solutions to MDG issues affecting slum children are facilitated. This would include the mobilization of the national government, local governments, the church and civil society, the business community and the academe for various forms of support.
3. Development of models of rights-based solutions tested in the community to address deficits in education, food, health and environment that might impair the quality of life of the children. 59 child-focused MDG indicators were developed. The progress of the families in MDG terms was monitored by these indicators. FACES was an innovative and extremely successful way of translating the MDGs into child-level MDGs that the family could act on and the community could rally around. This was important in gaining ownership.

At all levels of project implementation, there was partnership among the different agencies at the national level, among the core team members at the city level and at the community level, among the project participants/beneficiaries who were organized into self-managing groups.



## IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF MDG ACTIONS, THE FAMILIES ARE THE PRINCIPAL ACTORS.

The City Core Team (CCT) directly handles the management of FACES. Composed of representatives of various government offices and private and nongovernment partners, the CCT serves as the link between the organizations and the beneficiary families and communities, ensuring constant feedback and cooperation between them.

But in the implementation and monitoring of the MDG actions, the participant families are the principal actors. They identify their needs, act on the solutions, and monitor their own progress.

### Steps in Implementing FACES

The implementation of the FACES project included the following phases and activities:

Phase 1: Preparation and stakeholder mobilization

- A. Mobilizing stakeholders
- B. Issue and city profiling
- C. Selecting families

Phase 2: Issue prioritization and stakeholder commitment

- A. Elaborating key issues
- B. Building collaboration and forging consensus
- C. Formal political and stakeholder commitment

Phase 3: Strategy formulation and implementation


- A. Negotiating and agreeing on plans
- B. Designing and implementing demonstration projects
- C. Integrating projects and plans into strategic approaches

Phase 4: Monitoring and consolidation

- A. Monitoring activities
- B. Follow-up activities
- C. Mainstreaming

### Recommendations for Scale-Up

With the initial success in the 15 cities, FACES is now ready to expand and apply to other poor communities the lessons it has learned for the scale-up and replication. FACES recommends the taking of the following steps:

1. Knowledge sharing and dissemination should be undertaken through demonstrations and forums.
2. The tools so far developed should be enhanced further to adapt to the needs of the children and families in specific communities.
3. Gender issues should be integrated, incorporating recommendations from the participatory gender audit workshop, and mainstreaming the gender and development agenda in interventions and strategies in other cities.
4. Project duration should be made longer in order to achieve the expected long-term child-related MDG outcomes.
5. Capacities of local government units should be enhanced on the basis of catalytic and innovative approaches to poverty alleviation.
6. A holistic approach should be adopted to implementing developmental interventions among urban poor families, covering not only provision of basic services but also socio-economic and behavioral interventions. 

#### SOURCE:

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## Empowering Citizens through Participatory Monitoring

Name of Project:

Participatory Monitoring for Barangay Infrastructure and Health Projects

Project Lead:

International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (InciteGov)

MDGs Addressed:

Goals 4,5 & 6

Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6 aim to reduce child mortality, improve women's reproductive health, and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, respectively. These goals will be difficult to achieve if funds allotted for services and commodities needed to attain them are not used judiciously, or not used fully for health purposes. With still a lot of work to be done to reach the 2015 targets, the country cannot afford any mishandling of the already-limited resources available for health projects.

The former governor of the northern Luzon province of Isabela, Grace Padaca, wanted to make sure that provincial funds allotted for health were actually used for the improvement of the people's health status. She saw the need for transparency in the management of the health funds, in particular, the financial assistance that the provincial government was giving to its barangays.

The provincial government thus went into a partnership with the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (InciteGov), the People's Alliance for Justice, Democracy and Good Governance (PAJDGG), and the Social Action Center (SAC) of the Catholic Diocese of Isabela to undertake the Participatory Monitoring for Barangay Infrastructure and Health Projects. InciteGov implemented the project with a P1.065 million grant from the Partnership for Transparency Fund (PTAF). PAJDGG provided the links with the community leaders and groups, while SAC acted as the project secretariat.

The project sought to improve transparency in the utilization of provincial funds allotted to municipalities and barangays for infrastructure and health projects through the establishment of a participatory monitoring and evaluation system involving members of the citizenry. The project gave particular focus to the procurement of medicines for provincial and district hospitals. An efficient drug procurement system is seen as an important way of ensuring proper medical care for the sick, and enhancing the health of mothers and children.

### People as Chief Actors in the Monitoring Process

What was unique about the project was the participatory nature of the process that was employed. Here, the principal drivers in the initiative were the civil society organizations, and the chief actors in the monitoring process were the citizens themselves. Through participatory monitoring, the people themselves were empowered to track how project funds were used, and to make sure that funds intended for the improvement of their health and welfare were indeed used for that purpose and not diverted to some politicians' or groups' vested interests or other projects that did not really benefit the people.

This is the essence of the participatory monitoring approach that InciteGov implemented in Isabela.

One important feature of the project was the training of community members in the principles and methods of monitoring. The trainees were members of PAJDGG, a multisectoral organization composed of farmers, women leaders, professionals, and church workers from different religious denominations in the province. They were trained to, among other things, scrutinize

The province of Isabela is known for its strong political culture. Elected leaders are very influential, thus realization of projects and reforms greatly depend on who is in office. InciteGov took the opportunity to promote accountability and good governance when Governor Padaca sought their help to train citizens in the participatory monitoring of funds and government services.

Accountability and governance are factors to achieving the Goals by 2015. Corruption and the misappropriation of funds are two of the main reasons why the Philippines is still off-target in some indicators. Participative monitoring empowers the citizens to protect the funds intended for their welfare.

Improving efficiency in the drug procurement services is one way of promoting the welfare not only of the sick but also of mothers and their children. This project encompasses Goals 4,5 and 6.



**THE PRINCIPAL  
DRIVERS IN THE  
INITIATIVE WERE  
THE CIVIL SOCIETY  
ORGANIZATIONS, AND  
THE CHIEF ACTORS  
IN THE MONITORING  
PROCESS WERE  
THE CITIZENS  
THEMSELVES.**

procurement processes and documents, find out the need and understand the reasons for emergency purchases, and look into procedures taken to detect possible anomalies or corrupt practices.

The trained community monitors became the grassroots leaders who, at the barangay level, undertook the monitoring of the infrastructure and health projects. In so doing, they protected the project funds, promoted transparency in fund management and ensured the efficient delivery of health services to the people.

### **Main Achievements**

The project succeeded in:

1. Establishing a process of scrutinizing, monitoring and evaluating government services through fact-finding and data analysis;
2. Identifying deficiencies in the drug procurement procedures in the hospitals of the province, which have since been discussed during dialogues with the local government; and
3. Involving community members and community organizations in monitoring the efficiency and transparency of government projects and service programs.

### **Steps Taken**

The Training on Participatory Monitoring was held On September 3-5, 2008 in Gamu, Isabela. There were 70 participants coming from PAJDGG and representatives from the provincial government who attended the activity. It provided the orientation; technical know-how and the procedure that the volunteer community monitors need to be equipped with. The activity aimed to set the right atmosphere for partnership and collaborative work. Its objectives were to:

1. Leveling-off understanding and expectations of civil society and government stakeholders on the participatory monitoring project to be implemented in the province;
2. Understanding key concepts on good governance, accountability and participatory monitoring;
3. Understanding provincial procedures pertaining to infrastructure project and procurement of drugs for provincial and district hospitals;
4. Providing practical and basic infrastructure monitoring skills using the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government (CCAGG) method;
5. Providing practical and basic concepts and skills on drug procurement analysis using the Ateneo School of Government (ASoG) method;
6. Identifying infrastructure projects to be monitored and hospitals to be covered in the drug procurement analysis; and
7. Organizing monitoring groups and plan monitoring activities.

Two health monitoring teams were organized to scrutinize drug procurement in the two major public hospitals of the province – Faustino Dy Provincial Hospital and Cauayan District Hospital. The health team was composed of health professionals – 2 medical doctors engaged in community based health programs, a nun responsible for the community based health program of her congregation, Social Action community based health program officer, OIC Dean of a nursing school in the province.



The project went through the following major steps to achieve the above:

1. Setting up the systems and processes for project implementation – organizational and planning meetings; and identification and recruitment of volunteers.
2. Conduct of training in participatory monitoring
3. Organization of the community monitoring teams and the health monitoring team
4. Actual monitoring – monitoring infrastructure projects and scrutinizing drug procurement
5. Conduct of mentoring and problem-solving sessions
6. Synthesis of the findings of the monitoring and formulating recommendations.



Drug procurement team analyzing documents and data they gathered in the district hospitals with the help of Representative Dina Abad.


## Success Factors

The grassroots leaders who were trained and mobilized as monitors identified the following as the key factors that contributed to the success of the project:

1. **Leadership and vision** – The governor not only spearheaded the idea for undertaking the project but also provided full support and cooperation throughout the conduct of the project.
2. **Development of grassroots leaders** – The project empowered the citizens to monitor government projects in their communities and to become active participants in the task of ensuring social accountability and good governance.
3. **Right to information** – The project team was given access to information and documents needed for the project monitoring activities.

## Recommendations

Recommendations for similar endeavors in the future include:

1. Replication of the participatory monitoring and training systems in other barangays, and at the municipal level.
2. Enactment of an ordinance that would ensure the replication and sustainability of the participatory monitoring initiative throughout the province. 

### SOURCE:

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## Makati Beats a Tough Urban Problem

Name of Project:  
Solid Waste Reduction Program

Project Lead:  
City Government of Makati

Intended outcome and relevant MDG:  
To reduce solid wastes for a more sustainable environment — Goal 7

**H**ow and where to dispose of solid wastes has been a perennial problem in most cities, where the dense population and growing activity produce huge volumes of garbage everyday.

But Makati City has found an effective solution to its solid waste problem. The Philippines' biggest business district, Makati City has a population of 567,349 and a land area of 27.36 square kilometers.

The solution was actually very simple: reduce and divert the wastes. However, implementation was far less. It called for approaches and the participation of all sectors of the Makati community.

### City Ordinance

The first big step was the passing of City Ordinance No. 2003-095, or the Makati Solid Waste Management Code, in November 2003. The ordinance mandated the creation of a City Solid Waste Management Board that would plan, regulate and evaluate solid waste management projects. This led to the development and implementation of Makati City's Ten-Year Solid Waste Management Plan. The Plan's target was the reduction of the city's solid wastes by 32% over a period of ten years.

The program has made use of well-known waste reduction and diversion technologies that few local government units (LGUs) have been able to implement effectively and persistently on an extensive scale. These include: waste segregation, waste recycling, and waste reduction at source, as well as simple cleaning and proper waste disposal.

### Involvement of All Sectors

What has made the Makati City's Solid Waste Diversion and Reduction Program work has been the efficient manner the program is managed, and the active involvement and cooperation of all sectors, from the big business establishments down to the smallest barangay. Every barangay,



company, school, government office and organization in the city has either come up with its own waste reduction systems or taken an active part in government waste management projects.

The city's Department of Environmental Services has launched projects like "*Batang Bantay Basura*," "*Weekend Waste Market*," "*Gulong Sulong sa Kalinisan*," "*Baratilyo ng Basura sa Barangay*," and "*City Hall Recyclables Collection Drive*." All of the city's barangays are taking part in the city's recyclables collection project. Recyclable wastes (like plastics, paper, metal and bottles) are collected from the households by the barangay materials recovery facilities (MRFs) and are recycled. By turning wastes into materials that could still be used, the project has made a big contribution towards the reduction of the volume of disposable wastes. Households in all of the city's 33 barangays segregate their garbage.

This picture of cooperation and activity did not materialize easily. In its early stages the program had to deal with a great deal of indifference and lack of cooperation from the public. Moreover, the city government did not have enough funds and resources to implement a full-scale waste reduction and diversion program.

### Critical Steps that Led to Success

Far from giving up, the city government persisted and intensified its efforts to achieve the desired results. In order to overcome the obstacles and make the program work, the following steps were taken.

1. **An intensive sector-based information, education and communication campaign to make the public aware of the program, make them understand its importance and benefits and generate wider support and cooperation.** The campaign was a big factor in encouraging the households and barangays to be conscientious in their waste management and disposal practices, and in cooperating with the city government's waste management projects.
2. **A waste analysis and characterization study was conducted to determine which types of wastes would be targeted for diversion and reduction.** The results of the study served as basis for developing specific projects and activities. Thus, the large volume of plastic and other non-biodegradable wastes generated in the city led the government to undertake a recycling project that diverted these wastes into useful materials.
3. **Partnerships with the private sector were established in order to get their assistance and support for the program activities.** Through these partnerships, the program not only addressed the problem of limited funds and resources, but also widened its base of project participants, with the private partners themselves becoming implementers of waste reduction initiatives.
4. **Partners and stakeholders were consulted and involved in the planning of program activities.** This was an important step in making sure that the projects to be undertaken are suited to the needs and resources of the communities and will be supported and sustained.



5. **Steadfast enforcement of the city's waste management regulations and persistent implementation of the waste handling and collection procedures** by the city government personnel helped maintain the public's faithful observance of their own waste reduction and segregation practices. Households tend to lose interest in abiding by prescribed waste handling methods if they see that the garbage collectors themselves are not handling the wastes properly anyway.
6. **Regular reporting by each barangay to the City Solid Waste Management Board** about its activities, accomplishments, problems and concerns. The board, in turn, meets regularly to discuss and resolve various waste management issues.
7. **Continuous documentation of the program activities** is in order to create a database and provide an easy reference for similar projects in the future.

### Significant Contribution to Environmental Sustainability


These measures have paid off. The city government has reported that from 2002 to 2009, the garbage collected and disposed in the city has been reduced by 473,528 cubic meters. The reduction in garbage consequently brought down the number of garbage collection trips per day from 158 in 2002 to 127 in 2009; this amounts to the minimization of carbon dioxide emissions to 3.7 million kilograms. Overall carbon dioxide emissions in the city have gone down by 89.923 per ton from 2002 to 2009.

The waste segregation and recycling projects mentioned above encouraged waste generators to segregate and turn their garbage into cash. It is estimated that from 2002 to 2009, a total PhP 30.5 million was earned from recycled wastes by waste generators.

The Makati City Solid Waste Diversion and Reduction Program has contributed significantly to the attainment of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals – the enhancement of environmental sustainability. The program earned for the city a Galing Pook Award in 2009 from the Galing Pook Foundation. This has made the city worthy of emulation by other local government units. Makati was also the 2010 Zero Basura Olympics winner in the Philippine Garbology Marathon staged by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

### Recommendations

Other LGUs and organizations that want to develop projects similar to Makati City's solid waste management program should undertake the following.

1. **Localization of plans.** Carefully plan program objectives, projects and activities so that these are appropriate to the locality, its priority concerns, needs and available resources. The MDG localization plans should be integrated with the LGU's local development plans and programs.
2. **Partnership building.** Partner with the private sector, non-government organizations, prospective funding agencies and other institutions, in order to generate more support and augment the government's limited resources. The Makati City Government not only mobilized the barangays, but also sought the support of schools, shopping malls and corporate establishments in the city.
3. **Sector-based IEC campaign.** Conduct a continuing sector-based information, education, communication and advocacy campaign in order to widen the base of support and participation in the program. Everyone in the community must be informed of the government's solid waste management initiatives, their benefits to the community, and how each community member can contribute to the effort.
4. **Monitoring and documentation.** Monitor the implementation of the program and its progress through the different stages. Document every step of the implementation process. Monitoring ensures that everything proceeds as planned, and makes possible the early spotting of problems and the prompt application of solutions. Documentation is needed not just for reporting purposes, but, more importantly, for serving as basis for planning and program improvement and replication. 

#### SOURCE:

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## Building Homes, Rebuilding Lives

**Name of Project:**

ZOTO Towerville Community Development Center

**Project Lead:**

Samahan ng Mamamayan Zone One Tondo, Inc.

**Intended Outcome and Relevant MDG Goals:**

Build a sustainable community development center that provides an integrated solution towards the achievement of Goals 1-8.

**Target Groups:**

Urban poor residents of Towerville Resettlement Area; approximately 2,000 newly relocated urban poor from areas devastated by Typhoon Ketsana and other relocatees, such as the “bat people” formerly living under the bridges and thousands whose houses were demolished in the danger zones.

In a resettlement community in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan called Towerville live over 24,000 people who have been relocated from areas devastated by floods, declared as danger zones, demolished due to illegal settling, or cleared for infrastructure projects.

At the heart of the community is the Towerville Community Development Center, where the people of the community receive services ranging from health to education and social services and where community members gather to discuss their problems and plan their projects and activities. Through the Development Center, the displaced families in Towerville have been able to rebuild their lives, provide their children with opportunities for learning, and participate in programs intended to improve their welfare and protect their rights.

### Beginnings

When the first families moved to Towerville ten years ago, there were no service facilities, no basic utilities, and hardly any employment or advancement opportunities. The Samahan ng Mamamayan-Zone One Tondo Inc. (SM-ZOTO) then began organizing the members of the community in a rights-based approach to development.

ZOTO is a federation composed of 646 local urban poor organizations in relocation sites in Metro Manila and its surrounding areas. The organization conducts community development programs using an integrated and holistic approach. The organizing activities that started in Towerville have now developed into an integrated community development approach to localize the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The first facility that ZOTO established in Towerville was a child learning center that provided childhood care and development services to children aged 4-6. The plan to build a multi-service community development center was put off until 2009 for lack of funding.

### Generous Supporters

Today, the Towerville Community Development Center is in full operation with a number of programs funded by various donors, including: the Embassy of Switzerland; Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP); Center for Asian Mission for the Poor (CAMP) and member churches; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC); UN Volunteers; Bread for the World, Germany; Global Fund for Women; Bat People, Fledermausleute e.V., Germany; Peace Boat; and an individual donor. The amount of cash donations varied widely, from PhP90,000 to as much as PhP1.7million.



## THE TOWERVILLE COMMUNITY IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF ALL THE EIGHT MDGs.

Some groups and individuals donated equipment, office furniture, supplies and construction materials and labor, while others contributed by conducting various activities like popularization, case studies, and training. These included: Servants to Asia's Urban Poor; Green Peace; Philippine Global Exchange; Rotary Club of Intramuros; Rotary Club of Marktheidenfeld, Germany; University of the Philippines College of Social Work and Community Development; San Jose del Monte City government; Taipei-based APEC Digital Opportunity Center (ADOC) Secretariat; Samahan ng Kababaihan ng Towerville (SKAT); ZOTO Towerville Chapter; and individual benefactors from Spain, Switzerland and Germany.

### Integrated Services

The Towerville Community Development Center provides a set of services and programs meant to address all of a family's needs. It is expected to provide the means for the attainment of all the eight MDGs in Towerville.

The center has the following facilities: early childhood care and development learning center; community clinic that provides health care and birthing services to mothers and women, educates them on reproductive health, and provides newborn screening and testing services; gender equality programs and service areas; community drugstore; child-friendly spaces for mothers and children; an alternative learning and development hub that offers computer literacy training; a library; and an early warning system to reduce disaster risk. The center has also set up a microfinance service for young entrepreneurs.

The center intends to address, through these services, the priority concerns of the community, such as: enhancing women's capacities in community development; raising children well and keeping them away from drugs, crime and early pregnancy; housing; child labor; sexual exploitation; domestic violence; HIV/AIDS; environmental protection; and local policies to address these concerns.

### Formula for Success

ZOTO attributes the success of its Towerville Community Development Center project to the following factors:

1. Formulation and implementation of a viable sustainability plan. The organization identified the following as the cornerstones of a sustainability plan: organizational viability; financial security; program effectiveness; and enduring impact.
2. Engagement of competent professionals to supervise the physical establishment of the center – before, during and after construction.
3. Establishment of partnerships with the local government of San Jose del Monte, which facilitated the processing of construction permits, among other forms of assistance.
4. Timely release of funds from donors and timely submission of reports.
5. Active participation and involvement of local volunteers in the conceptualization and launching of the Center, and during its operation.





**Helping rebuild lives.** The ZOTO Towerville Community Building is a lifeline that provides basic services for the residents of the Towerville resettlement area.


6. Allowing flexibility in the project plan and providing room for adjustment during implementation.

In addition, the following factors contributed significantly to the success of the project:

1. Recognition by the community, from the outset, of the need for the Center.
2. Proactive thinking on the part of the residents of Towerville, and their desire to become a self-sustaining community able to support their needs and generate livelihood opportunities.
3. Active role of the women's group, Samahan ng Kababaihan ng Towerville (SKAT) in encouraging the community to take active part in the project.
4. Concerted efforts of volunteers, residents, LGU and donor organizations in the construction and establishment of the Center. The LGU facilitated the speedy processing of the necessary permits for the construction of the Center. The donor organizations provided support in terms of monetary assistance or equipment and materials donation. Volunteers, including the youth, provided their time and ideas to the development of the Center, from conceptualization to launching and operation. Other residents contributed by popularizing the project through awareness-raising via newspapers and websites.
5. Community involvement. The members of the community were actively involved from the very start of the project. In fact, the idea of building a self-sustaining community came from them, and they collectively pursued the idea, firm in their determination to lift themselves from poverty and achieve living conditions much better than those they had known before.
6. Availability of financial and logistical support from international partner organizations and other groups. Funding was the one factor without which the Towerville Community Development Center could not have been completed. In addition to ZOTO's persistence and resourcefulness in seeking funding, the following helped the organization in generating considerable assistance from many donors: (a) donor organizations that had assisted and witnessed the merits of ZOTO's past development projects; (b) positioning the project within the MDG framework, of which the donor community is very supportive; and (c) formulation of a sustainability plan, which not only detailed the concept of the center as a means for people to fight poverty and rebuild their lives but also offered a means for survival after the initial assistance from the donors and ensuring the program's sustainability, financial security, effectiveness and enduring impact.

### Recommendations

The following are recommended for scaling up or replicating the initiative:

1. Push for the passage of legislation to address the need for the progressive rehabilitation and development of resettlement areas.
2. Have sufficient funds for resettlement as a part of disaster preparedness.
3. Make the Towerville story a basis for coming up with a centralized scheme for enabling LGUs to identify and develop resettlement communities ready for occupancy in the wake of disasters. 

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## Goals, Targets and Indicators for Monitoring the Progress of the Millennium Development Goals

## GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

**Target 1.A:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

- 1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day (i)
- 1.2 Poverty gap ratio
- 1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption

**Target 1.B:** Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

- 1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed
- 1.5 Employment-to-population ratio
- 1.6 Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day
- 1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment

**Target 1.C:** Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

- 1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age
- 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption

## GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

**Target 2.A:** Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

- 2.1 Net enrolment ratio in primary education
- 2.2 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary
- 2.3 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men

## GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

**Target 3.A:** Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

- 3.1 Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
- 3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
- 3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

## GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

**Target 4.A:** Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

- 4.1 Under-five mortality rate
- 4.2 Infant mortality rate
- 4.3 Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles

## GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

**Target 5.A:** Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

- 5.1 Maternal mortality ratio
- 5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

**Target 5.B:** Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

- 5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate
- 5.4 Adolescent birth rate
- 5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits)
- 5.6 Unmet need for family planning

## GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

**Target 6.A:** Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

- 6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years
- 6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex
- 6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS
- 6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years

**Target 6.B:** Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

- 6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs

**Target 6.C:** Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

- 6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria
- 6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets and Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs
- 6.8 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis
- 6.9 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course

## GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**Target 7.A:** Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

- 7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest
- 7.2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP), and consumption of ozone-depleting substances
- 7.3 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits
- 7.4 Proportion of total water resources used

**Target 7.B:** Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

- 7.5 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected
- 7.6 Proportion of species threatened with extinction

**Target 7.C:** Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

- 7.7 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source
- 7.8 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility

**Target 7.D:** By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

- 7.9 Proportion of urban population living in slums (ii)

## GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

**Target 8.A:** Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.

Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally

**Target 8.B:** Address the special needs of the least developed countries

Includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction

**Target 8.C:** Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)

**Target 8.D:** Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

## Official development assistance (ODA)

- 8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income
- 8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)
- 8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied
- 8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes
- 8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes

## Market access

- 8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty
- 8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries
- 8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product
- 8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity

## Debt sustainability

- 8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)
- 8.11 Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives
- 8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services

**Target 8.E:** In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

- 8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

**Target 8.F:** In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

- 8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population
- 8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population
- 8.16 Internet users per 100 population

All indicators should be disaggregated by sex and urban/rural as far as possible.

(i) For monitoring country poverty trends, indicators based on national poverty lines should be used, where available.

(ii) The actual proportion of people living in slums is measured by a proxy, represented by the urban population living in households with at least one of the four characteristics: (a) lack of access to improved water supply; (b) lack of access to improved sanitation; (c) overcrowding (3 or more persons per room); and (d) dwellings made of non-durable material.



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