

*Making Participation
A Tradition*
The SIAD Experience in New Corella



Making Participation A Tradition: The SIAD in New Corella Experience

IPHC-DMSF • AHI

Making Participation A Tradition

The SIAD Experience in New Corella

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Institute of Primary Health Care
Davao Medical School Foundation



Local Government Unit
of New Corella



ASIAN HEALTH INSTITUTE

Making Participation A Tradition

The SIAD Experience in New Corella

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Foreword

Hayashi Kagumi
General Secretary of AHI



We are very pleased to share our more than 10 years of experiences with Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) in the municipality of New Corella, Davao del Norte, Philippines through this small booklet.

The “S” of SIAD stands for “sustainable”. The Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC) and Asian Health Institute (AHI) were strongly aware of the negative consequences of donor driven and outsider oriented projects. This was our motivation for supporting SIAD in New Corella, which was started by local initiatives. We wanted to search together with local people for key processes that would be retained by community residents after we outsiders left.

The path has not been easy. After five years of SIAD, the municipality decided to discontinue its engagement. Although this setback stymied the process for a while, it created an opportunity for alternatives to grow. A new phase of village-based SIAD was initiated by village captains and local people, who had already internalized the SIAD process.

SIAD stakeholders say “It’s not the project, but the process.” We know that sustainability can not be implanted by outsiders, but only nurtured and developed by local people themselves.

Specific projects come and go over time. But in New Corella, the SIAD experience has fostered a wide pool of grassroots leaders who see community development as their own process. They have already started a new sustainable tradition of people’s participation.

Message

Jose Rene L. Lacuesta, MD, FPCP

Chairperson, Board of Trustee
Davao Medical School Foundation



In line with the vision of the Davao Medical School Foundation, the Institute of Primary Health Care undertakes various development programs in partnership with various government and Non-Government Organizations including People's Organizations.

For many years since 1999, we have witnessed the importance of partnership of DMSFI-IPHC, the Municipal Government Unit of New Corella and the 19 barangay LGUs and with the peoples' organizations in the municipality together with the support of AHI as distant partner in the development of the area. This was proven by the empowerment of the local officials and leaders in crafting their own Barangay Development Plans with the greater people participation in socio-economic and political activities.

The SIAD New Corella is a good example of this multi-sectoral collaboration. The adoption of participatory governance in New Corella paves the way for a meaningful people's participation and empowerment. This strategy explores the potential for the actors from political side and social movements to come together in a new form of local governance. The synergy or complementation between the tripartite sectors — government, NGOs, and POs — gave more meaning to the "convergence" strategy of the Philippine government.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the MLGU, BLGU, and the people of New Corella for accepting the challenge to implement the SIAD strategy. The SIAD New Corella experience is now used as an example in the development work being a "Galing Pook" Awardee in 2006. The SIAD New Corella is an example of low budget but high impact development strategy. This guidebook is a tool to popularize SIAD as an effective multi-sectoral development strategy.

For IPHC, congratulations and thank you for making the DMSFI as one of the best NGO in Mindanao if not for the whole nation.

Thank you also to AHI who in one way and another made this endeavor possible through their technical and financial support

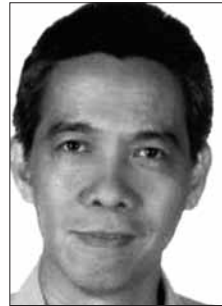
To all the people who made this strategy/program possible, thank you very much!
Domo arigatu gosaimasu!

Message

Jonathan A. Alegre, MD, FPAFP

President

Davao Medical School Foundation



I would like to commend DMSF-IPHC and its partner from the Asian Health Institute (AHI) of Japan, and the Local Government Unit of New Corella, for sharing in this guidebook its Best Practices of Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) Experience. The SIAD process as a development approach involves the implementation of a full package of projects that mutually reinforce each other in terms of services & benefits/ tangible gains to a given area which promotes a sustainable, integrated and area-based development. This is what DMSF-IPHC has been doing for the last 11 years partnering with the LGU of New Corella, Davao del Norte with the aim of institutionalizing participatory local governance, ensuring transparency & accountability in all its programs and projects.

SIAD has strengthened partnership among different stakeholder and has also empowered the marginalized sectors.

To our longtime partner the Asian Health Institute, the support that you have provided has capacitated the people of New Corella and IPHC.

My heartfelt congratulations to all!

Message

Oliver G. Victoriano, DBA
Chief Operations Officer
Davao Medical School Foundation



I am delighted to congratulate the Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC), the Local Government of New Corella, and the Asian Health Institute (AHI) of Japan for another milestone in the history of Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD)- the publication of the SIAD Best Practices Guidebook. In the more than 10 years of implementing the SIAD process in the municipality of New Corella , Davao del Norte , emerges various best practices in the aspects of participatory local governance, community managed health and livelihood enhancement. These best practices mirror the desire, commitment and aspirations of the community development leaders in pursuing a more sustainable and integrated development process.

We, at the Davao Medical School Foundation consider ourselves blessed for the privilege of partnering with people who are dedicated and committed in helping the communities improve the quality of their lives. May this guide book encourage more leaders and community development workers to pursue a more active, participatory and sustainable management process in initiating development activities in their respective localities.

Lastly, let me take this opportunity to extend our warmest thanks to all stakeholders who have been part of the SIAD endeavor. May God continue to bless us as we continue to serve our communities.

Message

Josephine L. Quianzon
Executive Director
Institute of Primary Health Care
Davao Medical School Foundation



Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) was widely talked about in the NGO community in the 90's. It is a strategy for local development which encourages the active participation of local stakeholders. Moved by the effectiveness of this approach, the Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC) the community extension arm of the Davao Medical School Foundation (DMSF) adopted it and integrated it in its Sustainable Integrated Community Health and Development (SICHAD) development framework.

The Asian Health Institute of Nagoya, Japan (AHI), a longtime partner of IPHC in the conduct of capacity building for community based development, then, was also searching for a concrete impact to its capacity building efforts. Convinced of the innovativeness of the SIAD approach, AHI readily agreed to pilot test it in the municipality of New Corella of Davao del Norte Province which lasted for 10 years (1999 to 2010).

SIAD in New Corella has brought about the active participation and empowerment of the communities in charting their own development. It has not only mobilized the local leaders and communities to work together to improve the delivery of basic services but it has also brought together different sectors in the promotion and practice of participatory local governance.

The wealth of experiences that can be learned from implementing SIAD in New Corella is worth sharing. The guidebook entitled "Making Participation A Tradition: The SIAD Experience in New Corella" captures not only these experiences but more importantly, SIAD's best practices. In the end, these are the ones that will be sustained and will keep the fires of SIAD burning in the hearts of the communities and its leaders.

To the Asian Health Institute, the Municipal Local Government Unit and the 19 Barangay Local Government Units of New Corella, the communities, SIAD community organizers and all the stakeholders, thank you for such a fruitful and unique partnership.

Message

Hon. Nestor Alcoran
Municipal Mayor
New Corella, Davao del Norte



I am so much grateful to the Asian Health Institute (AHI) of Japan and the Davao Medical School Foundation – Institute of Primary Health Care (DMSF-IPHC) for initiating Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) in our municipality.

The ten years of SIAD experience has made substantial transformation in the life of New Corellan families. It awakened the power within our people to build not only healthy but also participative communities. This can be seen by the expansion of development councils in both barangay and municipal levels.

Our partnership has summoned us to engage into sustainable development. We streamlined our efforts to facilitate and to ensure the viability of the plans proposed by the people through purok consultations. We even came up with a two-way feedback mechanism during and after the execution of such plans. This essentially entailed good governance.

The SIAD may be over by now in New Corella but its principles remain in our minds. The community organizers behind SIAD process may no longer be physically around, but the spirit of participatory governance still lives in our hearts. This calls us to continue its good start and improve whatever is left undone for the better.

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Acronyms

ABC	Association of Barangay Captains
AIP	Annual Investment Plan
AHI	Asian Health Institute
BDC	Barangay Development Council
BDP	Barangay Development Plan
BHDB	Barangay Health Data Board
BHW	Barangay Health Worker
BLGU	Barangay Local Government Unit
BMT	Barangay Monitoring Team
BnB	Botika ng Barangay
CBD	Community-based Development
CHILD	Community Health Integrated through Local Development
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CO	Community Organizing / Community Organizer
DENR	Department of the Environment and Natural Resources
DMSF	Davao Medical School Foundation
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
EBDC	Expanded Barangay Development Council
EMDC	Expanded Municipal Development Council
EO	Executive Order
HLSP	Healthy Lifestyle Program
IAD	Integrated Area Development
IPHC	Institute of Primary Health
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
Kalahi-CIDSS	Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services
KAS	Knowledge, Attitude, Skills
LCO	Local Community Organizer
LEEDMO	Local Economic Enterprise Development and Management Office
LGU	Local Government Unit
MDC	Municipal Development Council
MHO	Municipal Health Office
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRDP	Mindanao Rural Development Program
MSAFA	Municipal Sustainable Agriculture Farmers Association
MTWG	Municipal Technical Working Group
NGO	Non-Government Organization
PADRE	Poverty Alleviation and Development for Rural Economy
PDAP-PRIME	Philippine Development Assistance Program - Promoting Rural Industries and Market Enhancement
PHEMP	Poblacion Health Maintenance Program
PO	People's Organization
Q/A	Question and Answer
SAPIME	Situational Analysis, Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation
SEC	Security and Exchange Commission
SEED	Socio-Economic Enterprise Development
TWG	Technical Working Group
VMGO	Vision, Mission, Goals, Objectives

CHAPTER 1

Overview



Localizing Philippine Agenda 21: SIAD in New Corella

The SIAD localizes Philippine Agenda 21 (PA21), the country's national agenda for sustainable development based on the action plans crafted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

New Corella Embeds Accountable Practices Espoused by SIAD

New Corella's SIAD experience can become a model to stem corruption and eradicate poverty.

Chronology of SIAD Implementation

List of SIAD engagements, from exploration and implementation, to highlights and innovations of the program

Localizing Philippine Agenda 21: SIAD in New Corella

The Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) is the localization of the Philippine Agenda 21 (PA21), the country's national development agenda for sustainable development based on the action plans crafted in the Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

The UNCED in 1992 came out with the Agenda 21, which the UN looks to "a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations System, Governments, and Major Groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment".

Shortly after the Philippines signed the international covenant, the administration of then President Fidel Ramos formed the Philippine Commission on Sustainable Development (PCSD), mandated to oversee the implementation of sustainable development initiatives at all levels of government. In 1996, the PCSD identified the SIAD as the key implementing strategy to localize the PA21, which was only formalized that year through an executive order.

While the PA21, formalized in 1996 in the Philippines, in itself already generated global reputation for excellence in the formulation of policies in sustainable development, the crafting of the SIAD further strengthened its operationalization, and makes monitoring of the implementation in the areas easier to tract.

President Ramos, through the Local Government Academy of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, also tapped four nongovernment organizations, including the Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC), to help local government units to integrate the anti-poverty program in their general program. These four NGOs would be using the Integrated Approaches to Local Development Management (IALDM) as a tool to guide local governments develop an identification and tracking system to determine the families with unmet needs,

The IALDM would later help identify the package of 33 indicators, including convergence of services and focused targeting strategy, that would later form another much specific tool in development, the Minimum Basic Needs assessment measure, that remains a popular tool up to today. Thailand would later adapt the same MBN concept which it named Basic Minimum Needs.

The IPHC, the outreach service institution of the Davao Medical School Foundation, later in 1999 implemented the SIAD in New Corella, Davao del Norte, which, by coincidence, has already strengthened its application of the MBN to have its own human development mapping in the province.

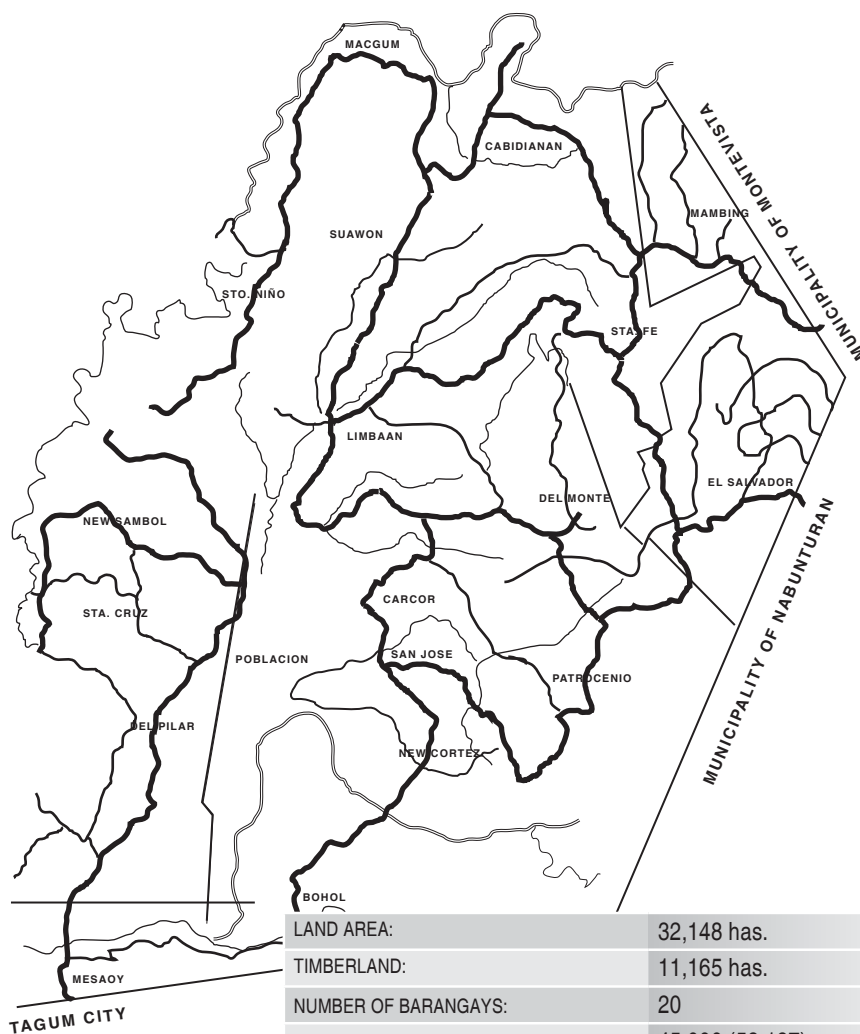
Besides, the IPHC has already a previous engagement with New Corella and the provincial government, in such IPHC programs as training of volunteer health workers, called *Katiwala*, developing a community health participatory planning in the program called Community Health through Integrated Local Development (CHILD), providing livelihood under the Sustainable Health Integrated Economic Local Development (SHIELD), developing local health care financing schemes, and organizing a farmers' cooperative as a pilot for similar organizations to push for sustainable agricultural practice.

SIAD began in August 1999, with a five-year memorandum of agreement (MOA) to end by August 2004. Main stakeholders include the municipal government, 20 barangay governments and the IPHC-DMSF.

A second MOA was inked for another five years to end by year 2009. This time the municipal government and four barangays opted not to renew its participation in the partnership.

The primordial role of the SIAD is to ensure people's participation and empowerment, transparency and good governance, better quality of life and sustainable development. This development strategy is hoped to make a difference in the lives of New Corellans "as we journey towards achieving genuine development".

New Corella Profile



LAND AREA:	32,148 has.
TIMBERLAND:	11,165 has.
NUMBER OF BARANGAYS:	20
POPULATION:	45,000 (52,137)
DATE CREATED:	June 18, 1967
INCOME CLASS:	5th Class (2nd Class)
MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME:	Farming (70%)
HOUSEHOLD BELOW POVERTY:	65% (54%)
MAJOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS:	Rice, Banana, Corn, Coconut, Coffee
NUMBER OF BARANGAYS ENERGIZED:	14 (20)
NUMBER OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:	32
NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOLS:	4
NUMBER OF TERTIARY SCHOOLS:	2
NUMBER OF BARANGAY HEALTH CENTERS:	14 (20)
NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:	43 (61)

Source: LGU-New Corella Statistics, 2000.

Shortly before SIAD came in, New Corella had been afflicted with poverty, of which 65 percent of its households live below the poverty line, according to the Minimum Basic Needs assessment made in 1999. A SIAD evaluation also indicates that there is passive participation of communities, non-functional local special bodies, leader-centeredness, infrastructure-driven planning, less priority to timberland areas, non active people's organizations, perceived gap between the local government service providers and the community, lack of capital for livelihood and crop production, and the powerful control of middlemen in the market.

Based on the concept of the SIAD, the IPHC later carved its own Sustainable Integrated Community Health and Development (SICHAD), a development framework to respond to the multiple needs of the communities that IPHC serves.

In the early years of the SIAD in New Corella, IPHC noted a gradual yet dramatic change in the participation, decision-making and implementation of community and development undertakings.

Joel Quinanahan, then the Municipal SIAD Point person also documented "note-worthy innovations and best practices in the following areas:

1. Hiring and deploying local community organizers in 2000

The unique attributes, or skills of the non-government organizations in their community organizing, the missing link between government trying to reach out to its constituents, are adapted by the local governments.

2. Expanding local development councils, and creation of the EBDCs in 2000

Limiting the number of LDC members, as contained in the Local Government Code of 1992 would defeat the purpose of achieving a comprehensive multisectoral development plan. And so New Corella expanded the membership of the development councils in the municipal and barangay levels.

Process the input from the puroks and sectors and come up with a baranay-wide assessment and plan.

3. Bottom-up planning in the flesh in 2000

The SIAD polished a true-bottom-up planning process that had been practiced up to now through the purok consultations, then to the EBDC, and up to the municipality.

4. Holding of Purok consultations in 2000

Consultation and planning are done first in the puroks.

Some of the SIAD programs and projects implemented include health care financing, sustainable agriculture, lending and crop production financing and poverty-alleviation.

5. Training and exposure of farmers on sustainable agriculture in 2001

Thirteen farmer-leaders were trained on SusAg in Don Busco Resource Center. Training was echoed back to 60 farmers in 14 barangays

6. Organizing Comvoys in two barangays in 2001

7. Expanding the EMDCs in 2002

Process and consolidate the EBDCs' input to come up with a town-wide plan.

8. Creating the LEEDMO in 2002

Former idle economic services of the barangays were turned into economic enterprise for the municipal coffers

9. Providing the SEED and PABASAK credit in 2002

Entrepreneurial poor and barangay kagawads intended credit at affordable and accessible rate.

10. Forming of Barangay Monitoring Teams in 2004

By virtue of executive order of the mayor, all expanded barangay development councils are directed to form the BMTs to monitor and evaluate all government projects.

11. Applying *Taho sa Barangay* in 2004

Direct democracy in action. Families interact, comment, praise or criticize their leaders for actions taken or missed.

Ang SIAD sa New Corella

Ang Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) usa ka pagpahimutang sa lokalidad sa Philippine Agenda 21 (PA21), and nasudnong programa sa malungtaron kalamboan, diin ang kapasikaran niini mao ang mga plano nga namugna didto sa Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, sa United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Gimugna sa UNCED niadtong 1992 ang Agenda 21, sa panglantaw sa UN nga makahimo og “usa ka malangkubong plano o aksyon nga pagahimoon sa pangkalibutan, o matag nasud ug matag lokalidad sa mga membro sa UN ug mga gobyerno sa tanang lugar diin ang panimuyo sa katawhan adunay nahitabong epekto sa kinaiyahan”.

Human nagpirma ang gobyerno sa Pilipinas sa kasabutan sa Agenda 21, ang administrasyon ni kanhi Presidente Fidel V. Ramos gitukod ang Philippine Commission on Sustainable Development (PCSD), aron maoy mobantay sa tanang pamaagi sa pagpatuman sa mga paningkamot sa malahutayong kalamboan sa tanang ang-ang sa panggamhanan. Niadtong 1996, gipunting sa PCSD ang SIAD isip nag-unang pamaagi sa pagpahaom sa PA21 ngadto sa lokalidad.

Bisan pa man nga ang PA21 nakakuha og pasidungog alang sa Pilipinas sa natad sa pagkahawid nya sa paggama og mga palisiya sa malahutayong kalamboan, ang pagmugna mismo sa SIAD nagpalig-on pa sa pagpatuman sa kalamboang proyekto, ug nagpasayon sa pagbantay sa iyang pagpatuman.

Si Presidente Ramos, pinaagi sa Local Government Academy sa Department of the Interior and Local Government, gikuha ang kahanas sa upat ka nongovernment organizations, lakip na ang Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC), aron matabangan ang mga lokal nga panggamhanan nga masulod ang mga programa pagbatok sa kawad-on diha sa ilang tagsa-tagsa ka mga plano.

Gigamit sa upat ka mga NGOs ang Integrated Approaches to Local Development Management (IALDM) nga usa ka hinagiban paggiya sa mga lokal nga lideres pagpili sa angayan nga mobenipisyo sa programa batok sa kawad-on.

Sa paglabay sa panahon, ang IALDM mao ang nakalatag sa 33 ka basehan sa pag-ila sa Minimum Basic Needs sa mga lumulupyo sa komunidad. Ang Minimum Basic Needs assessment mao na ang nag-unang hinagiban pagpunting sa mga nanag-unang panginahanglan sa komunidad.

Ang IPHC, ang tig-adto sa mga komunidad isip serbisyong sangay sa Davao Medical School Foundation, gipatuman ang konseptong SIAD sa New Corella niadtong 1999, diin ang probinsiya sa Davao del Norte nahuman na paggamit niini aron mailhan niya ang mga panginahanglan sa iyang mga lungsod, apil na ang New Corella.

Gawas pa niana, aduna nay pakiglabigang bigit ang IPHC sa New Corella sa iyang pipila ka mga programa, apil na ang: pagpangalap og boluntary ug pagbansay sa mga “volunteer health workers”, nga gitawag nga Katiwala; pagpatuman sa Community Health Integrated Local Development (CHILD), us aka pagpangalap sa mga datos sa kahimtang sa panglawas sa usa ka lugar; paghatag og panginabuhib ubos sa proyektong Sustainable Health Integrated Economic Local Development (SHIELD); pagmugna og pangkomunidad nga panggasto sa panginahanglang panglawas; ug pag-organisa sa kooperatiba sa mga mag-uuma, isip usa ka pagtino sa kalamposan sa usa ka organisasyon nga moduso programang malahutayong panguma.

Gisugdan niadtong Agosto 1999, ang usa ka kasabutan tali sa munisipyo, ang 20 ka barangay ug ang the Institute of Primary Health Care-Davao Medical School Foundation (IPHC-DMSF). Ang programa mahuman sa Agosto 2004.

Ang ikaduhang kasabutan gilagdaan molungtad sa susamang lima ka tuig nga mahuman niadtong 2009. Wala na nahilakip ang munisipyo ug upat ka mga barangay.

Ang pinakaauyokang katuyuan sa SIAD mao ang pagseguro sa pakiglambigit sa katawhan, ang tino ug tin-aw nga pagdumala, pagtaas as kalidad sa kinabuhi ug ang malungtarong kalamboan. Nagahandum nga makahimo og dakung kabag-ohan ang istratohiya ‘samtang galawig kita padulong sa usa ka tinuod nga kalamboan”.

Sa mga primerong tuig sa implementasyon sa SIAD, ang New Corella nakasinati og kapit-os diin 65 porsyento niini anaa sa grabeng kawad-on, matud sa gihimong survey sa Minimum Basic Needs nga gihimo sa nasudnong panggamhanan. Sa SIAD nga pagsuta makita ang walay timik nga komunidad ug pribadong sektor, wala nagaandar nga ispesyal nga mga ahensya, pagsalig sa mga lideres, nakatutok sa mga infrastruktura nga plano, walay pagtutok sa mga kalasangan, kakulang sa serbisyo sosyal, walay kapital nga mahulaman ug ang guut nga gunit sa mga “middlemen” sa merkado.

Base sa konsepto sa SIAD, ang IPHC mihimo og iyang kaugalingong programa, ang Sustainable Integrated Community Health and Development (SICHAD), nga susama gihapon nga katuyuan sa kalamboan sa pagtubag sa nagkalainlain ug nagkadaiyang panginahanglan sa mga komunidad nga iyang gialagaran.

Sa mga sayong bahin as SIAD sa New Corella, nakita sa IPHC ang dahandahan apan dinagkung kausaban sa pagsalmot sa katawhan, sa iyang kapasidad nga motubag sa mga problema.

Si Joel Quinanahan kaniadtong SIAD point person naghimo og listahan sa mga ligdong nga kalamboan ug mga maayong gawi:

1. Pagkuha sa mga lokal community organizers niadtong tuig 2000

Ang kalidad sa paglihuk sa nongovernment organizations sa hisgutang community organizing, ang gidapat na sa mga munisipyo ug barangay. Kini ang nakita sa panggamhan nga kulang nga elemento sa pagpaabot niini sa mga programa ug proyekto ngadto sa katawhan.

2. Expanded local development councils, ug pagtukod sa mga EBDC niadtong 2000

Ang pagpagamay lamang sa membro sa mga LDC, nga natalid sa Local Government Code, ang magpadugay sa pagkab-ot sa usa ka lapad nga plano sa kalamboan. Mao nga sa New Corella gipalapad pa ang molangkob sa mga development councils sa munisipyo ug barangay.

3. Plano nga gikan sa ubos

Gipino sa SIAD ang tiunay ang paghimo og plano base sa mga panginahanglan ug pangayo

sa mga lumulupyo, pinaagi sa pagpahigayon una og mga konsultasyon sa mga purok, dayong isang-at sa EBDC, ug didto na sa munisipyo.

4. Konsultasyon sa mga purok sa tuig 2000

Dinhi ipahigayon ang mga pakigpulong sa mga lumulupyo aron makita unsa ang hatagan og hinanaling tubag.

5. Pagbansay og pagpakita sa aktwal nga paghimo sa sustainable agriculture sa tuig 2001

6. Pag-organisa sa convoys sa duh aka barangay niadtong 2001

7. Pagpalapad sa EMDCs niadtong 2002

Ug gikan sa mga barangay, iproseso ang mga plano sa mga barangay sa paggama na sa kinatibuk-ang plano sa lungsod.

8. Pagmugna sa LEEDMO niadtong 2002

Gidumala niini ang mga serbisyo nga kanhing wala giatiman apan pwede nga pagkitaan

9. Paghatag sa proyektong SEED ug PABASAK nga pahulam niadtong 2002

Ang mga nagpakita na nga andam magnegosyo apan gakinahanglan pa og pangkapital.

10. Pagtukod sa Barangay Monitoring Teams niadtong 2004

Ubos sa executive order sa mayor, tanang barangay development gimanduan nga itukod na ang mga BMTs aron mabantayan ug masusi ang mga prooyekto sa gobyerno.

11. Paghimo sa Taho sa Barangay niadtong 2004

Usa ka dagway sa direktang pagpakita sa demokrasya. Ang mga lumulupyo direktang mopasang-o magpasibaw sa ilang kahingawa.

ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

New Corella Embeds Accountable Practices Espoused by SIAD

If there's a model for stemming corruption and eradicating poverty, the prime movers of transparent and accountable governance in this little rural town of Davao del Norte will endorse none other than their town of New Corella.

"The process implemented here in New Corella will be the best straight road ahead for the anti-corruption crusade of President Benigno Aquino III," says Joel A. Quinanahan, the town's municipal budget officer, who helped implement the local design of an accountable governance project under the Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD).

The SIAD is a package of governance policies and measures to ensure adequate support to social and economic services to residents of a certain local government unit, be it a barangay (village) or a municipality, up to the provincial level.

These services, in turn, must also support the general objective of ensuring the health and well-being of residents.

Infrastructure programs, for instance, may take the form of potable water or drainage system to ensure clean drinking water as well as adequate waterways removed breeding places of water-borne diseases. Or they may be grants in the form of farm tractors and threshers for groups of farm workers, locally called "komboys" to ease work and increase incomes per day of work.

In setting up these programs, the SIAD has installed measures to prevent wastage of scarce government funds often associated with infrastructure projects – substandard materials, reduced number of construction materials, unfinished projects, and so on.

"Take the case of the Barangay Monitoring Team (BMT)," Quinanahan says. The BMT is an innovation of a Local Government Code provision that SIAD finds necessary to monitor implementation of projects, from Day 1 to the end of the project construction.

The Code only specifies a municipal monitoring team, but New Corella enlisted people's participation in the barangays where the project is finally implemented. With a mandate from the expanded barangay development council (EBDC), the BMT checks on the delivery of the materials as against the bill of lading and the bill of materials.

In some instances, materials were rejected by the BMT "because the materials did not fit the specification".

What makes the BMT credible is its composition: representatives are all from independent people's organizations with no barangay officials. "But the BMT renders periodic report to the EBDC and to the project monitoring team of the municipality," he says, citing its vital contribution to the municipality in terms of budgeting to actual implementation.

The BMTs were trained in the tools of the trade, from identification of materials and measurement to specification and program of work.

"What you see in the plan you see in the actual completion," says Wendelyn Brandino, administrative officer of the Municipal Planning and Development Office.

Grassroots Planning Continues After the End of SIAD

As the program ended in 2010 (a follow through program on well-being of residents is being implemented), an important legacy practiced by a number of barangays and the municipality is the involvement of community organizations in grassroots planning, which New Corella has found significant.

Instead of the municipal office planning for the barangays, the latter do it for themselves, and the municipal office consolidates all these plans crafted by the barangays. From these barangay plans come out the most urgent and most pressing, as also certified by the members of the EBDC.

Incidentally, this barangay planning became vibrant and turned into the real essence of the SIAD when the municipal council decided to terminate the SIAD implementation at the municipal level in 2005. But its mayor then, Jose Recarido Federiso, allowed the SIAD to be implemented at the barangay level, depending on the decision of the respective barangays. Of the 20, four hesitated but three applied through a barangay resolution for inclusion in the SIAD coverage two years later.

Because of the participatory practices, the barangays and municipal office have excellent data on conditions in the area. In fact, when representatives of the government's program on Kalahi-CIDSS (a program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development) came to the town to implement the program, they were astounded by New Corella's excellent data and planning in terms of identified beneficiaries and priority projects..

Since the barangays started using SIAD, the municipal planning office does not have to go around the barangays to validate its plan, as it did previously, because the plans have emanated from the grassroots.

A barangay plan also contains solid planning "because it is the EBDC which ensures that the plans emanate from the people themselves".

Purok and barangay leaders are also trained to develop their own tools to make their respective purok (neighborhood) and barangay action plan. The objective in these village consultations, including the *Taho sa Barangay* (Barangay Report) is to identify among themselves which projects are more important than the others, and to resolve the problem as they come along.

"That means that not all problems in the puroks are passed on to the barangay, and to the municipality," Brandino adds.

The Expanded Barangay Development Council (EBDC) enable broad participation

The EBDC is one gem of participatory governance, approximating Athens' direct democratic institutions where decisions and policies are made outright in the gatherings of the Agora, or market place. While the Philippine law allows the barangay development councils,

the SIAD expanded it to accommodate more sectors and make their voices heard.

The expanded development-oriented planning body absorbs the widest input from as many interest groups as there are in a locality. Hence, more of the governed have their say in governance.

The EBDC conducts its quarterly meeting, with the third meeting devoted to the annual planning, in time for the consolidation of all barangay plans to comprise the municipal planning process. Primary health care concerns, like feeding and nutrition and schistosomiasis infection, get proper consideration. Quinanahan said that programs like *Gulayan sa Kabahayan* (backyard gardening) , *Gulayan sa Purok* and *Gulayan sa Barangay* (vegetable gardening at the village level) are all products of efforts to contain malnutrition.

Until late 90's, the town was then highly infected with schistosomiasis due to the stagnant waters in the farm and canals, but local empowerment, through intensive education and training of both leaders and residents, tremendously reduced the problem that has plagued rural families for decades.

Overall, the SIAD began to surmount local needs for adequate credit, fair price and market accessibility, infrastructure assistance, training of farmers and cooperatives, addressing population fertility rates, and discarding chemical-based farming to assure safe food and healthy environment.

SIAD as a way of life for local government leaders and residents

At the municipal level, budgeting and planning have benefitted much from the SIAD process, with the elimination of work that is now being done in the puroks and barangays.

Quinanahan says however, that every office in New Corella has already adapted good governance and innovation since the introduction of the SIAD.

It is unlike in planning by the other localities, which are commonly done in the conventional top-to-bottom practice and often results in unrealistic programs and factoring in political considerations when identifying projects. With top-down planning, planners have to create a team to validate the identified projects.

But with the SIAD, plans and results are clear to communities due to the vigilance of the barangay residents and their participation from planning to identification of projects, to bidding, implementation and monitoring.

“They get what they deserved because they work for it, they keep a watchful eye,” municipal planning officer Wendelyn Brandino says.

“SIAD believes that true development should take place from within. External elements are only for making the circumstances conducive to enable the inner potentials to actualize to the fullest,” according to an IPHC primer.

It adds that in the ten years that SIAD was implemented in New Corella, it “had been confronting prevalent problems such as 65 percent of households are below the poverty line, passive participation of communities, non-functional local special bodies, leader-centeredness, infrastructure-driven planning, less priority of timberland areas, non-active PO sectors, the perceived gap between the LGU service provider and the community, lack of capital for livelihood and crop production, and the powerful control of middlemen in the market”.

But the most basic intention of the SIAD was then to improve residents’ health status, by doing more than simply implementing primary health care services, like mass treatment of common water-borne diseases and conducting seasonal but less frequent medical missions.

SIAD aimed to provide the human awareness and institutional structures to ensure the sustainability of primary health care, such as potable drinking water (to avoid contracting water-borne diseases), organic agriculture (to prevent ingestion of harmful chemicals), local health care financing and promotion of herbal medicines (to access affordable medicines and medical care) and community-based governance (to ensure support to the overall well-being of villagers).

The town would regularly heap praises from other places. She recalls how the Davao del Norte provincial government developed a set of bench-mark data but organizers publicly exempted the town. “They would say that New Corella has its data already and they have been doing that for years.”

Even the implementers of the Conditional Cash Transfer and the Kalahi-CIDSS project, all current national anti-poverty measures of the national government, expressed their surprise at the readily available data in New Corella, and the process that both use in identifying their projects.

At the end of the SIAD project in 2010, implementers and many officials prefer to retain all the practices “because it has been our way of life here”.

“I think it will be here to stay with us because we cannot imagine a situation when it will not be practiced anymore. We have been used to it, and people are comfortable with it,” Quinanahan says.

SIAD New Corella Chronology of Major Events

Year	Activities/Events	Highlights
1986-1989	Start of partnership with New Corella LGU and funded by USAID	Implemented the Community Health Integrated through Local Dev't (CHILD) Project assisted by USAID in 5 Baranagys Recruitment and training of Community Health Volunteer (CHV) on PHC, Health skills training, community diagnosis, team building and formulation of child survival action plan. Installation of MIS the Barangay Health Data Board (BDB).
1989-1990	Extended Livelihood support	Implantation of livelihood program called Sustainable Health Integrated and Economic Local Dev't (SHIELD) Project in 3 project communities as economic support to families
1991	Local Development Assistance Program (LDAP) was started the implementation	Partnership mechanism in management of basic health care program and services in collaboration with NGO and LGU established Community based health care financing scheme established Local Health Board reactivated and strengthened Health care monitoring system improved (BDB)
1992	Barangays form health assistance program	3 Brgys (New Sambog, New Cortez and Sto Niño) formed health assistance program scheme.
1993	Actual health survey	Barangsy health data board applied Sanitary health survey 2 brgys organize health assistance prog
1994	Botika sa Barangay establishment	5 Botka sa Barangay established in 5 pilot barangays funded by IPHC Increase Number of health volunteer workers mobilized (1:20)
1995	Upland development Program started.	1 brgy covered for upland development program Organize farmers cooperative. (Patrocenio Farmers Multi-purpose Coop) Released of 110 land tenurerial instrument to farmers Construction farmer training center
1996	Participation to International Leadership Development Course (ILDC) and Oriental Medicine Course in Japan	Municipal Health Officer of New Corella joined, the first participant from New Corella to AHI Course in Japan

Year	Activities/Events	Highlights
1997	Conducted Community Based Development Training (CBD) Impact Evaluation	<p>Improved / enhanced the knowledge and skills in community organizing , participatory development process and management</p> <p>CBD Participants improved their self confidence</p> <p>Learning from the course utilized in the strengthening of POs/ grassroots organizations</p> <p>Participatory management process used in encouraging constituents to actively participate in development activities</p> <p>PO leaders became more participatory in dealing with members</p> <p>CBD pax were able to strengthen relationships / partnerships with government as evidenced by having accessed funding for some community projects like livelihood and health (deworming).</p>
1998	Exploratory talks with IPHC AHI and Municipal officials on SIAD strategy	<p>Formulation of integration plan –New Corella SIAD Process</p> <p>8 graduates from New Corella, CBD serve as front liner of their respective brgys.</p> <p>Assist different POs re Orgl Dev' and Pre Membership Educ Seminar proposal</p>
1999	PRA gathering of data for brgy planning	Indigenous knowledge is useful in the preparation of land use map and other data.
	SIAD exposure to Irosin Formulation of VMGO Finalization of new slogan	<p>Review of VMGO</p> <p>VMGO adopted</p> <p>“Lambo Pamilya, Uswag New Corella” as Municipal slogan adopted.</p>
	SIAD -MOA signing	<p>Adopted the SIAD process for 20 brgy with SB resolution</p> <p>Formation of Municipal Technical Working Group with areas of assignment.</p> <p>Formulated BDP/ AIP in 20 brgy.</p> <p>Acceptance of Child Minding Center</p>
	AHI board members visited NC	First visit of AHI board members in New Corella and joined MOA signing ceremony
	CBD course second batch	5 participants from New Corella (MLGU & BLU reps) attended the CBD course.
	Sectoral plans formulation	Sectoral plans formulated by the different sectors POs, NGOs, LGUs, and business sector.
	Issuance of EO for the expansion of Development Council	<p>Mayor Federiso issued an Executive Order (EO) for the expansion of Municipal Dev't Council</p> <p>20 Brgy Captains issued EO for the BDC expansion.</p>

Year	Activities/Events	Highlights
1999	Capacity building of different stakeholders	7 LCO and MTWG members attended the CO for Power training Org'l Dev't Training provided to BHW Fed officers Capacity building to EMDC, BDC members (Planning & budgeting)
	Hired and deployment of LCOs	LCOs deployed in 20 barangays. (4 LCOs paid by IPHC and 4 paid by MLGU)
	Participatory Planning and Budgeting of EBDC	First participatory budget in 20 barangays 20 Barangay Dev't Plan (BDP) formulated
	Creation of Barangay Monitoring Team (BMT)	Training and orientation of 100 BMT members from 20 Barangays
	Participation to ILDC in Japan by IPHC and New Corella MTWG	Participants were updated on current participatory dev't trends MTWG member /Municipal Development Officer Joel Quinanahan participated in the ILDC
	Conduct of Annual Municipal SIAD assessment	Accomplishment assessed and formulation of 2001 Workplan
2001	Exposure to Davao del Sur and South Cotabato	Creation of Health Care Maintenance Program PHeMP in Brgy Poblacion and MAHICAP in Brgy. Mambing MAHICAP and PHeMP received cash assistance from MLGU and BLGU worth P10,000 each to start up the program.
	Conduct Team building activity with different SIAD stakeholders	Roles of engagement among the stakeholders clarified
	Training and exposure of Farmers on Sustainable Agriculture	13 farmer leaders trained on Sus Ag at Don Busco Resource Center Roll out Sus Ag training to 60 farmers in 14 barangays
	Organized Comboy or Day laborers	3 Comboy organizations organized in 2 Brgys (P-5 Comboy assn. Brgy Pob; San Juan Comboy Assn. of Del Pilar and DALLAS in Brgy .Mesaoy) MOA signed and released post harvest facilities to COMBOY org in support to MLGU
	Reorganization of Municipal Structure	Creation of Local Economic Enterprise Development Management Office (LEEDMO)
	Conduct of Annual Municipal SIAD assessment	Accomplishment assessed and formulation of Workplan for the incoming year
	Participation to the ILDC course in Japan	MTWG members (Dr. Nancy Obra -Cacayurin, Joel Quinanahan) and IPHC staff have attended the ILDC in Japan
	Japanese exposure visits	IPHC Hosted Japanese exposure visits (both young & adult students/development workers)

Year	Activities/Events	Highlights
2002	Formation of New Corella (NCCCPG)	NCCCPG formed composed religious sector, barangays captain, IPHC
	Awarding of PhiGer fund	3 Coops (SAMABACO, GIFA & CPMC) accessed funds from PhilGer
	2 nd level EBDC capacity building	AIP of the barangays formulated
	DIFTS training (3 batches)	Diversified Integrated Farming Technology System (DIFTS) training conducted in 3 batches
	Political Education	Increase awareness of community on clean & honest election by NCCPG
	Participation in AHI- ILDC course	3 participants (2 from Community & 1 from IPHC) attended the ILDC course at AHI
	Visit of Dr. Kaoru for Dental Research	Pilot areas for dental research identified
	Hosted Community Exposure	CBD participants, AHI supporters, Montevista PO leaders exposed to New Corella
	Bench marking to SIAD practitioners in Iloilo	Technical Working Group (TWG) learn the process of People's congress in the Mun. of Batad & Dumarao
	IPHC Micro Finance established in New Corella	Provided loan assistance to Entrepreneurial poor in 8 Barangays
2004	Conduct of Annual Municipal SIAD assessment	Accomplishment assessed and formulation of 2003 Work Plan
	Approval of Municipal ordinance on Poverty Alleviation Program	Poverty alleviation for the Dev't of Rural Economy (PADRE) started provide assistance to organized sectors such as Comboy or Day Laborers, Farmers, Women, Rebel returnees, Differently Able Person, Fish vendors.
	TAHO sa Barangay created and Launched	5 Barangays (New Bohol, Patrocenio, Del Monte, New Sambog, Limbaan) conducted their first Taho sa barangays. Different agencies from national, Provincial, and Municipal attended.
	Municipal SIAD assessment	The LCE announced that the legislative body did not gave authority for him to sign the second phase MOA. Created the ABC core group to discuss the second phase SIAD
	Visit of Ms. Hirota	Community needs of New Corella people identified for possible support
2004	New Corella SIAD received Galing Pook Award	Municipal officials headed by Mayor Federiso with the legislators went to Malacañang to receive the " Galing Pook Trail Blaizer Award"
	Organizing of Barangay Monitoring Team	Training of 100 Barangay Monitoring Team

Year	Activities/Events	Highlights
	AHI board members visit	Partnership evaluation IPHC-AHI Joined in Bgy-based SIAD MOA signing
2005	Barangay-based SIAD started	Signing of Brgy-based SIAD MOA for 16 Barangays Formulation of bargy-based SIAD indicators Formulation of 2006-2010 BDP Purok and sectoral consultation EBDC workshop
	Organizing and strengthening of Barangay Sustainable Agriculture Farmers Association	Hirota provided Livelihood assistance to MSAFA for Hog dispersal worth P120,000.00
	Establishment of Tabo or Market Day	SusAg adoptors participated during Market day. SusAg products were sold
	Participation in ILDC in Japan	2 participants (IPHC staff and Farmer's Cooperative leader) attended
2006	Barangay-based SIAD assessment	Assessment of Barangay SIAD indicators by 16 Barangays First Barangay-based SIAD assessment held in Sta Maria Davao del Sur Reduction of LCOs from 8 to 4 due to withdrawal of support by LGU.
	Mrs. Hirota provided livelihood assistance	P120,000.00 released to 16 BSAFA for livelihood goat dispersal .
	Search for outstanding Barangays and Barangay Captains	9 Barangays received special award for Best Barangay. 8 Barangay Captains received recognition as Outstanding Barangay Captain
	Hosted the International workshop on Participatory Area Development in partnership with AHI	Participated by 6 countries (Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Philippines) with 23 participants attended Planning , implementation and documentation jointly done by the Organizing Team composed of NC-SIAD core members, IPHC, and AHI
	Deployment of Local Community Organizing Volunteers (LCOV)/ Brgy Community Organizer (BCO)	19 Barangays appointed and trained 38 LCOVs/BCOs as sustainability mechanism to replace the Local Community Organizer after the phase out.
	Local Sponsorship Program established	Provided educational support to selected children in 19 barangays 6 Day Care Centers in 6 pilot brgys support by ERDA
	Dr Kaoru's Dental Program begin	3 barangays piloted for Dental Research of Dr Kaoru. (Manding, Sta Fe and Poblacion)
	Participation in ILDC in Japan	3 participants (Business sector PO, LCO, IPHC staff) attended

Year	Activities/Events	Highlights
2007	Reaching out to 4 Barangays to join Brgy-based SIAD	1 Barangay (Brgy San Jose) expressed their desire through resolution to participate in the Brgy-based SIAD
	National and Local election	Change of Administration. Mayor Alcoran won his first term in office 12 New Barangay Captains elected
	Mrs. Hirota provided Livelihood assistance to the Federation of Barangay Health Workers	P120,000.00 released to the Federation of BHWs to support their livelihood activities
	SIAD assessment	2 nd barangay -based SIAD assessment
2008	Establishment of Barangay Agriculture Extension Worker	Municipal Local Government Unit have institutionalize its support to the the Barangay Agriculture Extension Workers (BAEW) through a municipal ordinance.
	Participation in ILDC in Japan	2 participants (Farmer's Coop and LCO) attended
	Barangay-based SIAD assessment	3 rd barangay -based SIAD assessment
2009	Reaching out to 3 Barangays to join Brgy-based SIAD	2 Barangays (Brgy San Roque and Macgum) expressed their desire through a barangay resolution to participate in the Brgy-based SIAD
	SIAD assessment	4 th Barangay -based SIAD assessment The Association of Barangay Captains are now very empowered and are able to respond to community pressure which in turn also pressured the municipal LGU to respond to community needs
	SIAD impact evaluation planning meeting	Consultation and planning on SIAD evaluation and publication started NC Core group-IPHC-AHI
2010	National and Local election	Mayor Alcoran won his second term as mayor 4 New Barangay Captains were elected
	SIAD Impact evaluation	Started data gathering through FGD and KII
	AHI team visit for evaluation	Observation of evaluation activities AHI board and staff members interviewed for SIAD evaluation
	Reporting of health research activities	Dr. Kaoru's dental research finding and Ms. Sakamoto's health research findings and implications reported and discussed in New Corella
	Discussion on New Program from AHI	Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Program was initially discussed by AHI, IPHC and New Corella Team.
	CBD AO reorganization	CBD AO was reorganize to invite non CBD graduates and change its name into ANAK NC
	Barangay-based SIAD assessment	Common definition of best practices agreed Tool for assessing best practices formulated

Year	Activities/Events	Highlights
2011	Presentation & validation of initial result of SIAD impact evaluation	Presented and validated the SIAD impact result to ABC and other stakeholders in New Corella.
	Barangay-based SIAD assessment	Best practices per barangay assessed Agreements made with the ABC to take the lead in the: annual barangays assessment & orientation of newly elected officials on participatory governance; advocate Project Monitoring Committee to strengthen the Barangay Monitoring Team (BMT)
	Partnership evaluation	IPHC-AHI partnership evaluation focusing on New Corella SIAD period conducted and future plan discussed
	New program: Healthy Lifestyle Promotion Project started	Started implementation of healthy lifestyle promotion project by ANAK-NC (composed of NC-SIAD core members and others)
	Participation in ILDC in Japan	2 participants (Bgy LGU leader and IPHC staff) attended
2012	Compilation and Publication of NC-SIAD experiences	NC-SIAD evaluation study report compilation Compilation and publication of NC-SIAD Booklet

CHAPTER 2

Participatory Local Governance



Village Development Councils, Assemblies Show Empowerment At Work Among Rural Citizens

It's not the usual and mandated local development councils that New Corella adopted when it embraced SIAD way back in 1999.

Taho sa Barangay Gives the People a Voice

New Corella's barangay report empowers citizens to take their leaders to account for their actions

Barangay Community Organizers (BCOs) Strengthen People's Organizations

Cloaked with authority from the barangay, BCOs move around freely, providing important skills in organizational management.

BARANGAY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS AND ASSEMBLIES Show Empowerment at Work Among Rural Citizens

It's not the usual and mandated local development councils that New Corella adopted when it embraced the trailblazing process of Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) way back in 1999.

The encompassing vision of transparency, people's participation and good governance of the SIAD could only be realized if the engine of decision-making – the development councils and special bodies – were composed of many organizations representing the broad spectrum of the community.

Thus were born the Expanded Barangay Development Councils (EBDC) in the 20 barangays of this interior town 19 kilometers northwest of Tagum City, the capital town of Davao del Norte.

And New Corella also formed its Expanded municipal development council (EMDC).

Local Development Councils are already a form of Participatory Local Governance, taking charge of crafting the development plan of a barangay or a town, as stipulated in the Local Government Code of 1992.

But its membership composition is as limited as the coverage of the Code itself, where many of its provisions remain unimplemented two decades after it was enacted.

Under the Code, the Barangay Development Council is composed only of three groups: Barangay Council, accredited Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and the Office of the Congressional Representative. For the municipal development council, the membership represents four groups: the Association of Barangay Captains, chairperson of the Sangguniang Bayan (Municipal Council) committee on appropriation, accredited NGOs and the office of the Congress representative.

Under the SIAD, however, these Local Development bodies are expanded to accommodate the marginalized sectors of women, farmers, the youth, senior citizens, indigenous communities, and even the religious sector.

For the signatories of the SIAD in New Corella – the Municipal Government, the Barangay Governments and the Davao Medical School Foundation-Institute of Primary Health Care – “limiting the number of Local Development Council members would defeat the purpose of achieving a comprehensive multi-sectoral development plan”.

This viewpoint is in line with official national vision for local government, this being contained in section 109 of the Local Government Code itself.

The SIAD signatories believe that allowing the marginal sectors to be heard would “ensure proper representation of sectors and groups” in crafting a comprehensive plan that better addresses the needs of the communities.

And when this started happening in New Corella one decade ago, community problems in primary health and livelihood soon began to find real solutions, and people soon started believing in themselves, and their capacity to move things around.

Health Improvement through Grassroots Planning

Limbaan Barangay Captain Edgar Yongque beams with satisfaction at the improvement of health among his constituents, and attributes this mainly to the participation of their purok leaders and sectoral leaders in the quarterly meeting of the EBDC

Barangays conduct three quarterly meetings for the EBDC and one general assembly. Usually the planning process starts in the puroks, where residents directly propose policies to handle the affairs of the puroks, and projects to address livelihood issues.

Yongque said that the purok would hold monthly consultations and one annual planning meeting in October in time for the general assembly in the barangays also to be done that month.

For example, in purok consultations residents identify local problems, such as lack of potable water, or a resurgence of water-borne diseases schistosomiasis, or even the lack of supplies at the Botika ng Barangay (village pharmacy).

The result of the purok consultations would be consolidated during the purok federation meetings held every first Saturday, in the case of Barangay Limbaan.

Yongque said the process appears tedious, but the regular meetings actually facilitated the work and made things easier.

From there, the concerns would be brought to the EBDC for evaluation and consolidation. EBDC members would determine the priority and urgent projects to be implemented.

This grassroots planning resulted in a comprehensive and orderly database of residents, which impressed personnel of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) when they came to implement the Department's conditional cash transfer program.

And the depth of awareness on Primary Health Care among residents also made it easy for DSWD personnel to encourage regularly visits to Health Centers.

The process also facilitates the work of other offices and special bodies in the municipality. Dr. Nancy Cacayorin, the Municipal Health Officer, urges barangays to continue involving wider participation of the communities.

"I hope these general assemblies would be continued, and retain the big participation of residents in the planning and consultation process," she said. These assemblies and wider community participation "made clear the direction of all these plans, because we all know that the proposals really come from them, and which ones are the priorities".

"They also make things easier for all the other government agencies, especially on matters of planning," she added. "You don't have to go into the validation process and spend time and manpower to go around".

For the Municipal Health Board, Cacayorin said that the purok consultations and EBDCs help greatly in identifying needs. The planning board is also assisted by presence of the president of the Federation of Barangay Health Workers, who has a direct connection with the communities and good knowledge of health issues.

Community Organizing by NGOs Gave Residents and Officials Participatory Management Know-How

Before the SIAD program started, and in the initial stages of the program, IPHC provided extensive training to New Corella residents and officials on participatory development. This initial community organizing, rooted in extensive NGO experience, enabled participants to work together effectively in the expanded local development councils and special local bodies. A SIAD paper on the New Corella experience points this out as "the missing link of government in understanding and truly reaching out to its constituents".

"Through this Community Organizing component common interests between government and the communities are easily facilitated, coordinated and realized," the paper adds.

Barangays have adopted former community organizers as functionaries of the barangay to help the barangay government capacitate local offices and organizations in handling meetings and managing their affairs, and point out ways to prevent misuse of public funds..

Project Monitoring by Barangay Residents Stems Corruption

A key anti-corruption measure that arose from the SIAD practice is the establishment of the Barangay Monitoring Team (BMT), which inspects construction materials and other purchased items and checks them for consistency with the bill of materials in the work plan.

When the SIAD project was started in New Corella, monitoring and evaluation of projects was given to a project monitoring committee which became functional immediately in 1999. Through the EBDC, the then mayor, Recaredo Federiso, issued an Executive Order setting up BMTs in all the barangays.

Since then, the BMTs have become a powerful mechanism of the barangays against waste of public funds commonly experienced in the Philippines.

Trained in product specifications and identification, the BMT members check on iron bars and GI sheets, wooden slabs and plywood sheets, and are meticulous down to the nails and screws. There have been instances when a particular truckload had to be turned back due to substandard materials.

The strategy “proves to help enhance transparency and accountability in the implementation of government projects”, a SIAD paper states.

Joel Quinanahan, New Corella municipal planning officer sums it up succinctly. “That’s the strength of these BMTs. We all can rest confident that what projects we plan at the

municipal level will really go to the areas with the least leakage of funds even without us personally checking on the construction.”

Thus, after initial community organizing and training by IPHC, residents and officials have effectively collaborated through participatory assemblies and teams to improve life for ordinary people in New Corella.

BOX 1. Purok Consultation

(Done prior to the preparation of the Barangay Annual Investment Plan done in the 3rd quarter) to consolidate issues and concerns to be integrated in the AIP);

- Preparations needed:
 - a. Data on community situation (economic, health ,education etc.);
 - b. Arrangement of venue and participation of barangay officials and purok members;
- Purok Consultation Proper
 - a. Presentation, validation and analysis of data on purok situation
 - b. Priority issues and concerns
 - c. Closing remarks of guest
- Post Purok Consultation
 - a. Result of all purok priority issues and concerns presented in the EBDC are reported in the next purok meeting

BOX 2: The Expanded Barangay Development Council (EBDC)

- Composed of Barangay Council members, purok leaders and sectoral representatives (sectoral groups (farmers, women , elderly , youth , differently- abled persons , Indigenous Peoples, health, education, business, religious groups, Congressional representatives, POs, NGOs);
- Regularly conducted once a year (last quarter of the year). Special meetings are called to discuss major issues raised in the EBDC);
- Preparations needed:
 - a. Conduct of series of purok and sectoral meetings to discuss issues and concerns and counterpart during the conduct of the EBDC;
 - b. Budget
 - c. Data on barangay programs and projects and barangay financial reports
- EBDC proper :
 - a. Presentation and Review of accomplishments of Programs, Projects and Activities (PPA) –planned vs. actual
 - b. Presentation of barangay financial status
 - c. Presentation of priority sectoral and purok issues and concerns
 - d. Prioritization of programs, projects and activities based on community needs
 - e. Adaption of programs, projects and activities based on community needs
- Post EBDC
 - a. Presentation and validation of prioritized PPAs to the General Assembly
 - b. Approved PPAs become the Annual Investment Plan of the Barangay
 - c. Approval of Barangay Ordinance for appropriation

LOKAL NGA KONSEHO, PANAGTAPOK *Nagpakita sa “Empowerment” sa mga Kabanikanhan*

SA New Corella lahi ang dagway sa pagpadagan sa mga konseho – gikan sa barangay ngadto sa munisipyo – dihang iyang gidapat ang proseso sa Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) niadtong 1999.

Ang lapad nga panglantaw sa tin-aw ug maayong pagdumala, lakip na ang partisipasyon sa katawhan, mamahimong tiunay lamang kung ang mga makina sa paghusay ug pagbuot – ang mga konseho ug mga espesyal nga mga yunit sa panggamhanan – giapilan sa representante sa pianakdaghang grupo sa komunidad.

Ang usa niini, natukod ang Expanded Barangay Development Councils (EBDC) sa 20 ka mga barangay sa New Corella, mga 19 ka kilometro sa amihanan-kasadpan gikan sa Tagum City, ang kaulohan sa Davao del Norte.

Nagtukod usab ang Expanded Municipal Development Council ang New Corella.

Ang kining mga lokal nga konseho mao na ang dagway sa lokal nga pagdumala nga kusog ang partisipasyon, ug maoy tigpasiugda sa paghimo sa mga plano sa kalamboan sa usa ka barangay o lungsod nga nasunod sa kamanduan sa Local Government Code.

Apan ang mga lokal nga mga konseho nalimitahan usab sa iyang paglihok, susama sa gidangat sa Local Government Code nga kadaghanan usab sa iyang mga gimando ang wala natuman.

Ubos sa Koda, ang Barangay Development Council aduna lamang tulo ka grupo: membro sa konseho sa barangay, usa ka nongovernment organization (NGO) ug representante sa congressman o Congresswoman. Sa Municipal Development Council, ang mga membro nagrepresenta sa upat ka grupo: ang Association of Barangay Captains (ABC), ang tigdumala sa komitiba sa tig-apod-apod sa pondo sa Sangguniang Bayan, usa ka NGO ug representante sa Congressman o Congresswoman.

Apan sa SIAD, kining mga konseho gipalapan sa ang masakop ug giabrehan ang makaapil kalip na ang gikan sa mga ubos ug timawa nga sector sama sa lumad, mag-uuma, kababainhan, batanon ug mga relihiyoso.

Para sa mga nagpirma sa kasabutan sa pagduso sa SIAD sa New Corella – ang lideres sa munisipyo, ang mga baangay u gang Institute of Primary Health

Care (IPHC) – ang paglimita sa numero sa LDC (local development council, o mga lokal nga konseho) makapakyas sa pagpahitabo sa usa ka halapad ug malamboong plano.

Bisan kini nga panglantaw dili na bag-o para sa mga lideres sa mga lokal nga panggamhanan, tungod kay kini napailawom na sa Section 109 sa Local Government Code.

Ang mga nagpirma sa SIAD nagtuo nga sa pagpaapil sa mga mabagang duot sa katilingban dha sa gipalapan nga konseho mapatuman ang hustong representasyon sa katawhan sa pagpanday sa usa ka tinuod nga plano sa kalamboan sa komunidad.

Ug sa pag-implementar niining panglantaw sa SIAD sulod sa uka ka dekada sa New Corella, ang mga problema sa lungsod sa panglawas ug panginabuhian nadapatan na og mga katin-awan ug kasulbaran, ug ang katawhan nagtuo na sa ilang kapasidad nga makaharong sa mga problema.

Ang Pagplano

Magpahiyon lamang si Barangay Captain Edgar Yongque sa Limbaan sa pagbalik-lantaw sa giunsa sa iyang barangay pagpadagan sa mga programa alang as panglawas, ug iyang gipunting ang kusganong partisipasyon sa mga lideres sa iyang purok ug mga organisasyon sa mga regular nga quarterly meeting sa EBDC.

Ang mga barangays nagahimo og tulo ka quarterly meeting para sa EBDC ug usa para sa general assembly. Kasagaran ang proseso sa paghimo og plano magsugod sa mga purok, diin ang mga lumulupyo direkta nga mosang-at sa ilang sugyot.

Matud ni Yongque, nagahimo og binulan nga konsultasyon ang mga purok ug usa ka tinuig nga plano sa Oktubre, pagsabay na sa paghimo og general assembly sa barangay sa mao gihapon nga bulan.

Pananglitan, sa mga konsultasyon sa purok, mogawas ang mga panginahanglan sa paghimo og proyekto alang sa tubig ilimnon, o kundi man lang, ang problema sa pagsanta sa pagkaylap na pud sa sakit nga schistosomiasis. Lakip pud ang problema sa pagpuno sa supply sa Botika ng Barangay.

Ang moresulta sa konsultasyon sa purok hiusahan panahon sa panagtapok sa pederasyon sa mga purok nga ginahimo matag unang Sabado

sa bulan, sa kaso sa Barangay Limaan.

Makita nga morag lisud ug komplikado na ang proseso sa pagmugna og plano pa lamang, apan sa naanad na sila, mas dali, hapsay ug masundan pa hinuon ang mahitabo, matud pa ni Yongque.

Gikan sa mga purok, ang gipadangat nga mga puntos isang-at sa barangay para sa dugang paghisgot ug paghiusa sa mga magkaparehong ideya ug sugyot. Ang EBDC na usab ang mopahiluna sa tanang mga sugyot ug puntos ug paghatag prayoridad sa mag dapat hatagan og hinanaling aksyon.

Sa ing-ani nga pamaagi nahikugang mismo ang Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) sa pagkabalo nila kung unsa na kahapsay ang mga datos sa munisipyo nga mituhop na didto sa mga purok. Ang DSWD ang naga implementar sa Conditional Cash Transfer sa tanang lugar sa Pilipinas.

Apan kini nagkinahanglan og igo ug lapad nga datos nga sila na mismo ang mangalap tungod sa kakulang niini sa halos tanang lugar sa nasud.

Apan lahi ang ilang nakita sa New Corella.

Ang proseso sa SIAD nga napraktis sa mga purok ug mga barangay ang nagpadali ug nagpasayon sa trabaho sa mga espesyal nga opisina ug yunit sa munisipyo, sama sa Municipal Health Board, nga gipangulohan ni Dr. Nancy Cacayorin. Ang doktora ang Health Officer sa munisipyo.

Gihandum ni Cacayorin nga ipadayon unta sa mga barangay ang pagdawat sa halapad nga partisipasyon sa mga sektor bisan pa man nga nahuman na ang SIAD niadtong 2010.

“Unta magpadayon pa kining mga general assemblies ug mga konsultasyon ug partisipasyon sa mas daghang mga grupo tungod kini sila ang nagpatin-aw ug nagpatiuay kung unsa gyud tong mga proyekto nga angayang ipahiumtang sa mga komunidad,” ingon ni Cacayorin.

“Mas gipadali usab niini ang mga trabaho sa mga nagkadaiyang ahensya ug opisina sa munisipyo, ilabina sa hisgutanang pagplano. Dili na manginahanglan pa ang pag-adto ug pagtuyok sa mga lugar aron lang ipatinuod ang naimplementar ug naaom ba ang mga proyekto,” dugang pa niya.

Alang sa Municipal Health Board, ang mga konsultasyon sa mga purok nagpadangat na sa unsa gyud ang mga batakang panginahanglan sa mga lokalidad. Sa kaso sa Municipal Health Board, anaa girepresenta sa president sa pederasyon sa mga Barangay Health Workers aron mapatunay niini nga ang mga gisang-at nga sugyot mao ang mga gikinahanglan mismo sa mga purok.

Kontribusyon sa mga NGO

Ang halapad ug lalum na nga kasinatian sa mga NGO ang usa sa mga kalig-onan sa EBDC ug uban pang espesyal nga mga yunit sa barangay. Ang Primer sa SIAD sa New Corella nagpunting niing kahanas sa NGO nga mao ang kulang sa kadaghanang lokal nga konseho sa nasud.

Matud pa sa primer, tungod sa pag-organisa sa mga komunidad nga masumpay niini ang magkaparehong interes sa lokal nga panggamhanan ug ang mga lumulupyo.

Tungod niiniing praktis, gipasulod na sa mga barangay ang mga tig-organisa sa komunidad isip usa na pud ka “functionary”, o usa nga naglangkod sa lokal nga panggamhanan, aron matabang sa pagpahapsay sa pagpadagan sa mga opisina, ug pagpalutaw sa kapasidad niining mga opisina. Matabang usab sila pagsugyot og kasulbaran ug unsaon pagsanta ang mga dili maayong gawi sa pagdumala.

Project Monitoring

Usa sa mga susi sa pagpakyas sa pangurakot sulod sa gobyerno mao ang pagtukod sa Barangay Monitoring Team (BMT), nga gitahasan nga mosuta sa mga materyales sa konstruksyon ug uban pang gipalit nga mga butang ug itandi kini sa listahan sa gisabutang materyales.

Dihang nasugdan ang SIAD sa New Corella, ang tahas sa pag-inspeksyon sa mga proyekto gihatag dayon sa Project Monitoring Team niadtong 1999. Dinha sa EBDC natukod pud ang mga BMT subay sa mando ni Mayor Recaredo Federiso.

Sukad niadtong, ang mga BMT na ang hinagiban sa barangay pagpakgang sa pag-usik-usik ug pangawat sa pondo sa gobyerno, nga kasagaran mahitabo sa lain-laing parte sa Pilipinas, labi na sa hisgutanang inprastruktura.

Kining mga membro sa BMT ang gibansay sa mga importanteng tahas niini sama sa pag-ila ug pagsukod sa mga materyales sama sa iron bars, GI sheets, wooden slabs ug plywood, hangtud sa mga gagmayng materyales sama sa langsung ug screw, ug pagtandi niini sa bill of materials.

Aduna nay kasinatian nga gipabalik gyud ang usa ka truck nga puno og materyales tungod sa ubos nga kalidad niini.

“Kini nga estratehiya nagpalig-on sa paglimpyo ug pagtunhay sa kaakohan sa pagdumala, sa hisgutanang pagpahitabo sa mga proyektong inprastruktura.

“Kini ang kalig-on sa mga BMT. Makasalig kita nga ang proyekto nga giplano sa munisipyo mao gayud ang mapatuman ngadto sa mga lugar nga itukod kini, nga menos ang usik sa pondo sa gobyerno bisan pa man nga wala kita didto nagbantay kada minute ug oreas,” matud ni Quinanahan.

Taho sa Barangay Give the People a Voice

The strength of Athens of olden times, and its democracy that has become the ideal beacon for human civilization, lay in the respect for and value of its citizens' voices.

Because its direct democracy strengthened the pillar of accountability, Athens produced statesmen, thinkers and conquerors, and its civilization helped inspired contemporary movements to topple tyrants and despots.

However, as society becomes complex and multi-layered, the governed also finds it difficult to subject its leaders to acid tests of accountability, increasing wastage of public funds and sacrificing the interest of its citizens.

But in remote New Corella, far from ancient Athens, the Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) process has enabled citizens to make their voices heard. Since the early years of the decade of 2000, nine of New Corella's 20 barangays have been holding the *Taho sa Barangay*, (literally "Village Report"), big village meetings, as part of the changing paradigm in governance.

Heracel N. Crausos, barangay councilor of New Bohol helped set up the *Taho sa Barangay* in her capacity as the Local Community Organizer (LCO) of the Davao City-based Davao Medical School - Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC). She sees the gradual empowering of a people with every *Taho* meeting.

"Even for once a year in their lives that people identify with each other's strength that they begin to speak out, and speak loud," she observes. Formerly meek and shy rural folks now also show steady posture confronting barangay councilors, to keep promises made during election time.

In 2006, one of them stood up and told the village councilors "to move now, don't let us wait for tomorrow".

Citizens' watchfulness has probably forced the barangay leaders to keep themselves up and about, to ensure they make the right prom-

ises, and also keep their promises. Crausos says that this strong sense of power to make their leaders accountable also brings about a lively little democracy at the grassroots.

Del Monte Barangay Captain Jesus C. Donos Sr. said they started holding the *Taho sa Barangay* in 2001 and since then, they have involved the presidents of women's groups, the tanod (village para-military volunteer) and senior citizens and representatives of sustainable agriculture, corporations, day care centers and the Department of Education.

"It's a whole day meeting with bible reading and the reading of minutes of last meeting. During the forum, questions are related to the situation of the puroks and status of their proposal," explains Donos .

"The purok reporting always generates serious discussion and often clears up doubts among residents."

Although painful for some leaders, many see the activity as beneficial for leaders who want real development programs to take root among their constituents.

Barangay Captain Danilo Mahinay of Barangay New Cortes finds the annual barangay reporting significant in coming up with programs and projects to be listed in the annual development plan.

"We can see what activities worked, what did not," he says.

The *Taho sa Barangay* is held in the early part of the third quarter, in lieu of the third general assembly of the barangays. This is timed in the period of preparations for the annual development planning for the following year, which is being scheduled in the later part of the third quarter or in the first month of the fourth quarter.

The different committees formed by the barangay officials are usually asked to report on their accomplishments and current activities. The secretariat also invites key political leaders, such as Davao del Norte Gov. Rodolfo del

Rosario, and the Barangay New Bohol was surprised to have actually been graciously accommodated by the governor.

“That was in 2002 when the governor promised to construct us a gymnasium,” Crausos’ says. It was constructed several years later. However, the governor made up for the delay by constructing a new barangay hall.

Representatives from the Departments of Social Welfare and Development, Education and Health, have also regularly been invited, do come sometimes.

The public forum is moderated and the audience is asked to write their questions. “The moderator will pick up questions with substance and discard others that tend to be personal” Crausos adds.

For other barangays, a still deeper people’s participation is being practiced, this time in purok consultations. Although the barangays are the smallest political unit in the Philippines, the purok are still smaller clusters, from one block of houses, or two streets of houses.

Purok consultations are held in the barangays of New Bohol, Del Monte, Patrocenio, New Sambog, Limbaan and Mambing.

“Probably because of the tedious preparation, not all barangays practiced the purok consultation. Anyway there’s also the Expanded Barangay Development Council which can well take care of the appropriate and grassroots-based planning,” Mahinay says.

In all these activities the barangay can really assure itself that the development plans they make come from the desire of the people themselves, and implementing them is relatively easy “because these are the felt needs of the community that they expressed in the plans”.

As Mahinay puts it, “That’s why people participate in the construction of the projects, they monitor them and they maintain the projects by themselves. That’s one good thing about empowering people to decide and to demand within reasonable terms. They make things done.”

BOX 3. Taho sa Barangay (Village Reporting)

Taho sa Barangay is conducted once (last quarter of the year) or twice a year (2nd and 4th quarter)

- Reporting of accomplishments of the barangay/ village by the Barangay officials, members of the Barangay Development Council (Barangay Council, representatives of sectoral groups (farmers, women, Indigenous Peoples, health, education, business;
- Government line agency representatives (provincial and municipal level) are invited to observe, clarify, update and respond to issues and concerns raised;
- Preparations needed:
 - a. Content
 - Presentation of accomplishments of the barangay council (resolutions and ordinances passed and approved, Annual Investment Plan implementation, participation of Barangay officials during Barangay sessions and special meetings;
 - Sectoral reports (accomplishments vs. target contribution in the Barangay Development Plans);
 - b. Budget
 - c. Conduct of series of purok meetings to discuss issues and concerns and counterpart during the conduct of the Taho;
 - d. Organize different committees (physical arrangement, food, invitation, screening committee for the Q&A, moderator/ facilitator)
- Taho proper
 - a. Reporting
 - b. Open Forum (setting ground rules, ex. pre-screened questions are responded etc.)
 - c. Closing remarks of guest
- Post Taho
 - a. Processing of issues and inquiries raised during the conduct of the Taho by the Expanded Barangay Development Council during the EBDC meeting

Ang Lanog sa Gagmay'ng Boses sa Barangay Taho

Ang kalig-on sa demokrasya sa Athens, sa nasud Greece, anaa sa iyang paghatag og bili ug pagpalig-on sa tingog sa iyang mga lumulupyo. Ang demokrasya sa Athens ang nahimong sukdanan sa mga nasunod nasud nga migakus sa mga demokratikong pamalaud.

Ug tungod usab sa iyang mga haligi sa kaakuhan ug kasihag sa pagdumala, ang Athens ang gigikanan sa mga estadista o mga batid sa panggamhanan, mga hawd sa pangatarungan, mga marinero ug tigpanakup sa ubang nasud.

Samtang ang katilingban nagkadaku ug nahimong komplikado, maglisud na usab ang mga ginsakpan o lumulupyo nga mapasunod ang iyang mga lideres nga mopailalum sa mga prinsipyong kaakuhan ug pagpatin-aw sa ilang mga gipanghimo sa katungdanan. Dinhi na mahinabo ang pangurakot ug pagwaldas sa kaban sa katawhan ug pagsakripisyo sa interes sa katilingban.

Apan sa usa ka suok nga lungsod sa Davao del Norte, ang New Corella, wala pa nalubong ang kining paghangdum sa ligdong nga pagdumala. Sukad pa niadtong mga sayong katuigon sa dekada 2000, siyam sa 20 ka mga barangay ang nagahimo ug nagpadayon sa Taho sa Barangay. Kini ang gipasiugda aron matubag pa ang pinakabug-at pa nga suliran sa panglawas.

Matud pa ni Heracel N. Crauso, kagawad sa Barangay New Bohol, nakita niya ang paglig-on sa gahum sa katawhan sa matag Taho sa Barangay. Si Caruso ang naningkamot nga dawaton sa iyang barangay ang kini nga pamaagi.

Bisan pa man nga kausa lang sa usa ka tuig diin ang lumulupyo nagahugot sa ilang katakus ug kaisog sa isig-usa nga kusganon nga mopasibaw sa ilang gusto ug kahingawa, ingon ni Crauso nga nagkalig-on usab ang pagbarug sa katawhan sa pagkolekta sa mga lideres sa barangay ug purok sa ilang mga gisaad niadtong panahon sa milabay nga bugno'ng lugaynon, o eleksyon.

Pananglitan, sa usa ka Taho sa Barangay niadtong 2006, usa sa mga lumulupyo ang miawhag sa mga kagawad sa barangay sa "paglihok na karon, ug ayaw hulata pa ang ugma".

Mao ni ang usa sa nagpugos sa mga lideres sa barangay nga magtinarong ug sa pagseguro nga tama ang ilang gisaad, nga dali ra matuman

ang ilang gisaad. Matud pa ni Crauso, ang kining pagbaton sa lig-on nga gahum ang nagdasig sa mga lumulupyo nga mapaako sa mga lideres ang ilang paglihok ug mga kamanduan, ug mapalig-on mismo ang prinsipyo sa demokrasya diha sa ilang mga ginagmay'ng katilingban.

Sa asoy usab ni Barangay Kapitan Jesus C. Donos Sr. sa Barangay Del Monte, nasugdan nila ang Taho sa Barangay niadtong 2001, ug sukad niadto, ila ng napasalmot ang mga president sa mga asosasyon sa kababayan-an, mga barangay tanod ug mga katigulangan, ug mga representante sa grupo sa nagagamit sa sustainable agriculture, mga korporasyon, day care centers ug ang Department of Education.

"Tibuok adlaw kining nga pagtigum, nga sugdan sa pagbasa sa Bibliya ug pagbasa sa mga puntos sa milabay'ng panagtigum. Sa panahon sa open forum, ang mga pangutana nagasentro sa sitwasyon sa mga purok ug ang dagan na sa ilang nga gisugyot nga proyekto o gisang-at nga problema," ingon pa ni Donos.

Ang pagreport sa mga purok ang kanunay'ng makadawat og mga seryosong panaghisgot ug pakig-inambitay ug kini ang kasagaran ang magpatin-aw sa mga duda ug problema sa mga lumulupyo, dugang pa niya.

Dili malimod nga adunay masakitan nga mga lideres sa barangay apan kadaghanan ang moingon nga ang kini nga kalihukan ang mopaseguro nga ang kalamboan mogamot ug motuhop ngadto sa bagang duot sa katawhan.

Matud ni Barangay Kapitan Danilo Mahinay sa Barangay Cortes, ang barangay reporting nga mahitabo sa usa ka tuig usa ka mahinungdanon nga buluhaton aron mopatumaw og mga programa ug proyekto para sa tiunay nga planong pangkalamboan sa barangay.

"Makita nato kung unsang mga ginabuhat ang tama, unsa pud ang dili tama," ingon niya.

Ang Taho sa Barangay mahinabo sa sayong bahin sa third quarter sa tuig, hulip sa ikatulo unta nga general assembly sa barangay. Gipasibo niini ang panahon sa preparasyon sa paggama na sa usa ka tinuig nga planong kalamboan. Ang paghimo na sa plano himuon sa kataposan nga yugto sa third quarter hangtud sa unang yugto sa fourth quarter.

Ang nagkadaiyang komitiba sa barangay ang kasagaran nga unang mo report sa ilang nahimo ug ilang kasamtangang ginahimo pa. Ang secretariat ang moimbita sa mga lideres sa panggamhanan, sama ni Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario, diin ang iyang pagtambong nakahikugang sa barangay nga wala naghandum nga dawaton diay niya ang ilang imbitasyon.

“Nahitabo na niadtong 2002 diin ang gobernador misaad nga itukod niya ang gymnasium,” matod ni Crauso. Natukod ang gymnasium sa milabay nga pipila ka tuig apan mibawi ang gobernador sa nadelatar nga pagtukod niini pinaagi sa pagtukod usab og usa ka barargay hall.

Kasagaran maimbita sa kining mga pangtigum ug Taho sa Barangay ang nagdumala sa nga departamento sa serbisyo sosyal, sa edukasyon ug sa panglawas bisan pa man dili tanan makatambong.

Adunay tigpatunga sa mga open forum ug giawhag ang gatambong nga isulat sa papel ang ilang mga pangutana. “Ang moderator ang mopili sa mga undanon nga mga pangutana ug ipadaplin ang gapunting sa personal na nga hisgutanan,” ingon ni Crauso.

Sa ubang mga barangay, aduna pay mas lalum nga pagsalmot sa katawhan, didto sa mga gipanghimong konsultasyon sa mga purok. Bisan pa man ang barangay na ang pinakaga-

may nga haliging political sa Pilipinas, ang mga purok ang mas gipagamay pa nga lokal nga pagdumala nga gilangkoban sa usa ka grupo, bloke o duha o tulo ka linyang dalan sa mga kabalayan.

Makita kini sa mga barangay sa New Bohol, Del Monte, Patrocinio, New Sambog, Limbaan ug Mambing.

Seguro, tungod sa kuti ug hago nga proseso sa preparasyon, dili tanan nga barangay ang nagpahinabo niining konsultasyon sa mga purok. Adunay na hinuon usa ka Expanded Barangay Development Council nga maoy mopahan-ay sa mga kinahanglan ug sibo nga plano sa mga purok, ingon ni Mahinay.

Sa kining mga kalihukan sa barangay mapaseguro sa mga lideres ug mga lumulupyong niini nga ang mga giplano nga kalamboan gagikan kanila ug ang pagpatuman niini dili na lisud tungod kay sila na mismo ang nagbaton sa panginahanglan ug kung unsaon kini pagpatuman.

“Tungod niini, kusganon kaayo nga mosalmot ang katawhan sa paggama na sa proyekto ug sa pagbantay ug pag-amping niini. Usa kini sa mga importanteng mahitabo sa usa ka katawhan nga nagbaton na og iyang kaugalingong gahum sa pagtino ug pagbuot ug sa pag-angkon sa unsay alang kanila gikan sa panggamhanan,” matud pa ni Mahinay.

Barangay Community Organizers (BCOs) strengthen people's organizations

One significant perk of working with local government and people's organizations is to be recognized as a barangay functionary, cloaked with authority to move things around the barangay.

However, in New Corella these barangay community organizers (BCOs) are a species poles apart from many politicians who aspire only for the perk of authority.

For Helen Batingal of Barangay Del Monte, getting the appointment as a barangay functionary is both work and service to the community, not a privilege to brag about. It means working alongside barangay government officials in infusing skills in governance, and service to the barangay constituents by imparting skills and knowledge at handling and managing an organization, especially to self-help organizations for women, farmers and as well as barangay committees and offices.

In short, the mandate of BCOs is to empower villagers to troubleshoot the problems of their organizations, such as keeping the interest of members during meetings and managing finances.

Batingal is now working as a Local Community Organizer (LCO), covering a wider area than a BCO. Her work covers the barangays of Del Monte, El Salvador, Patrocenio and Sto. Nino.

Veteran BHW Cresencia Sanat (usually known by her nickname Nanay Essen), 61, who started out as a Katiwala (IPHC-trained village health volunteer) back then in 1978 and later served as a government recognized Barangay Health Worker (BHW) in Barangay Limbaan, found her work as the LCO a decade ago challenging in terms of assisting organizations managing their affairs, when compared to her several years of implementing health programs directly to the people.

Now she serves an LCO overseeing and troubleshooting with struggling organizations in five or six barangays. She says her direct

contact and implementation of the health programs have honed her vision of how an organization should be run, especially if the group is intended to help the poor.

"You have to observe closely, study how the organization is being run, why the members are not active, why the financial records and management cannot seem to be right," she recalls of her work assisting women and farmer organizations.

"They know that they have to talk about their financial standing, but many organizations do not really know how to properly manage and account for them," she adds.

She was one of the first volunteers to become an LCO when IPHC applied the approach of Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) in ensuring a sustainable health and community-focused governance program in New Corella in 1999.

She is grateful that her long experience as a health volunteer in the municipality, and the several short courses and trainings on health organized by the IPHC and the Department of Health, gave her the confidence to implement her work as LCO.

At one of her education sessions with the barangays, she had to persuade some residents to seek laboratory testing of their ailments caused by schistosomiasis, a common parasitic attack among New Corella residents. "They would insist that the symptoms were caused by epilepsy, but I had to debunk this common perception."

"We help the officers and members evaluate their organization and see how and where it was going to. We look for quantity as well as quality work based on their plans the previous year, and try to find the reasons for the shortcomings, and the strength in carrying them on," she says.

The BCOs and LCOs have been instrumental also in generating projects on potable water system, a crucial element in the

well-being of most rural communities, often hounded by water-borne epidemics due to unsafe drinking water.

The BCO has to get the appointment of the barangay council, through a council resolution, before they can move around and participate in official meetings of the different barangay committees and sectoral organizations.

Since they are appointed by the participatory council, Helen Batingal says, they do not have a hard time to go around and assist organizations needing their expertise and experience.

The barangays welcome their presence, because of their tremendous help in organizing barangay communities.

Batingal recalls an instance with both the association of women in the barangay and the implementation of New Corella municipal government's sustainable agriculture program among farmers, as cases in point where these organizations benefited from their troubleshooting.

"For the women's group, I was guiding them further on how to properly manage their finances and keeping records of their transactions and expenses," she says, "when the officers admitted difficulty in getting the members to attend the meetings and get them to participate actively in the discussion."

"I also have to help the farmers think of projects to support the sustainable agriculture farming they have adapted. So they came up with swine and goat dispersal which was funded by the Hirota Fund," she says.

The swine dispersal project with three pigs, stagnated for one year, however, because the organization failed to conduct follow-up and to hold regular meetings. "So when I became the BCO, we did some trouble shooting, and told them that they have to find ways to revive it to be able to help others because other families were waiting for them to succeed to be able to become the next beneficiaries."

"The group was able to produce another batch and have two piglets now," she says.

Functionaries to barangay officials

Heracel N. Crausos, barangay councilor of New Bohol, says being the LCO of four barangays adjacent to her barangay, is the biggest

single reason for her winning a seat in the barangay council.

"It's because people see us working seriously and without seeking political ends in return. In fact, it was the people themselves who gave us the idea and the energy to vie for a political position to allow us to serve them better through ordinances," she says.

Crausos has worked closely to push for the continuation of the regular *Taho sa Barangay* when she volunteered as the LCO of New Bohol and three other barangays.

In the *Taho*, she says "Even for once a year in their lives that people identify with each other's strength that they begin to speak out, and speak loud".

Batingal was also a barangay councilor in 2003 and volunteered to become a BCO. "Because of my training and experience in the barangay affairs, they assigned me automatically as member of the committee on health.

Her twin work as BCO and barangay councilor does not bother her. "It's a form of service, because I have always wanted to serve by *barrio folk*."

Nanay Essen has also become a councilor, and as many officials of nongovernment organizations would say, this is a common direction in the career of barangay health workers and community organizers "because of their unquestionable dedication to serve the residents".

But they are not asking for more material or political perks.

On the contrary, many LCOs, BCOs and BHWs have been tapped, or requested, to do other duties such as conducting surveys and documentation work.

"Our allowances do not even suffice for our transportation," she adds.

The SIAD process has enabled many local citizens like Nanay Essen and Helen Batingal to get involved as dedicated and selfless leaders supporting community development.

Note: Ensures the preparation of all community activities (purok meeting and consultation, Gen Assembly, Nutrition month, Blood letting, CVAC etc.) Local Community Organizer (LCO) covers atleast 3 barangays whereas a Barangay Community Organizer covers only 1 barangay where she/he resides. Can allocate time for the community and love for community.

a. **Roles and functions of an LCO and BCO are the same as follows :**

- Ensures the institutionalization of CO at the barangay level by training of barangay leaders as community Organizers;
- Strengthens EBDC members by coaching of Brgy Captains and coaching and strategizing of different sectors;
- Ensures the conduct of regular EBDC meeting;
- Forms and strengthens Barangay Monitoring Team (BMT)
- Ensures the proper filling of barangay documents (minutes of meetings, ordinances, resolution, barangay profile, etc);
- Ensures the sustainability of transparency mechanism in the barangay. (TAHO, GA, purok consultation, BMT etc.);

- Ensures the institutionalization and sustainability of Community Managed Health (CMH) in the barangay (Village Pharmacy/ Botika Ng Barangay, User's Fee, community managed insurance system, backyard garden);
- Ensures barangay assessment as basis in the formulation of Annual Investment Plan / Five Year Development Plan (AIP/FYDP);
- Conducts community immersion;
- Coordinates local leaders on agreed activities in the barangay.
- Ensures the preparation of all community activities (purok meeting and consultation, Gen Assembly, Nutrition month, Blood letting, CVAC etc.)

Mga BCOs, nagpalig-on sa mga people's organizations

Kung dunay importanteng kadasig mahatag sa pagtrabaho sa lokal nga panggamhanan isip usa ka community organizer, kana mao ang ilhon ka nga usa ka 'barangay functionary', o opisyal o kawani nga dunay gahum pagpalihuk sa mga programa sa barangay.

Apan sa New Corella, managkalahi ra ang personahe sa usa ka barangay community organizer (BCO) sa mga politiko nga gaapas ra sa gahum nga maangkon kung modaug na sa poder.

Alang kang Helen Batingal, nga taga Barangay Del Monte, ang mahatagan siya og katungdanan isip usa ka 'barangay functionary' ginatan-aw niya nga usa ka trabaho og kahigayonan moalagad sa komunidad, ug dili usa ka katungdanan aron manghinambog ug magpahimulos. Kini usa ka katungdanan nga mohatag og kaalam ug kahanas sa pagdumala sa usa ka organisasyon, sama sa mga komitiba sa barangay, ilabina sa mga grupo nga naningkamot sa pagpalambo sa ilang sector, sama sa kababayan-an ug mag-uuma.

Sa kinatibuk-an, ang katungdanan sa BCO mao ang paghatag og gahum sa mga membro nga dumalaon ang ilang organisasyon, kung unsaon nila pagpadayon ug pagpalambo pa sa interes sa mga membro nga moapil ug mosalmot sa mga regular nga pulong ug panagtapok.

Si Batingal nagtrabaho isip usa ka Lokal nga Community Organizer (LCO), nga mas halapad pa ang sakop niya nga teritoryo kaysa usa ka BCO, nga ang barangay lang ang iyang gilihukan. Sakop ni Batingal ang mga barangay sa Del Monte, El Salvador, Patrocinio ug Sto. Niño.

Ang batikang Barangay Health Worker (BHW) nga si Cresencia Sanat, 61 (naila sa dagnay niyang Nanay Essen), mahinumduman pa niya ang mga hagit sa iyang katungdanan isip usa ka LCO sa milabay'ng usa ka dekada na. Kini ang unsaon pagtabang sa mga lideres sa mga komitiba ug mga opisina sa mga barangay nga iyang gituyukan.

Lahi kini sa iyang nauna pa gyud nga katungdanan nga ipatuman ang mga programa sa panglawas, nga milungtad og pipila ka katuigan. Nagsugod siya isip usa ka 'Katiwala' (gibansay sa IPHC sa pagtabang sa trabahong panglawas) niadtong 1978 ug dayon isip usa ka BHW sa Barangay Limbaon.

Karon mialagad siya isip usa na pud ka LCO sa unom ka barangay. Matud niya, ang iyang pipila ka tuig nga pagtrabaho sa barangay sa pagpatuman sa mga proyektong panglawas ang nagpahait sa iyang panglantaw kung unsaon pagpadagan ug pagdumala sa usa ka organisasyon, ilabina kung ang usa ka grupo gusto gyud niya motabang sa mga kabus.

"Kinahanglan ka igmat sa pagmatikud sa mga nanghitabo sa palibot, kung giunsa nila pagpadagan sa ilang organisasyon, kung ngano dili aktibo ang mga membro, kung nganu nagkayamukat ang ilang libro sa pinansya," matud niya, sa dihang iya gitabangan ang usa ka organisasyon sa mag-uuma.

"Kabalo ang mga lideres sa grupo nga ila gyud hisgutan ang dagan na sa pinansya, apan aduna mga organisasyon ang dili kabalo kung unsaon pagdumala ang ilang pinansya ug pagsubay sa paggasto niini," ingon niya.

Si Nanay Essen ang usa sa maihap lang nga mga nagboluntaryo nga mahimong LCO dihang gidapat sa IPHC ang programang SIAD sa lungsod sa New Corella, sa mga programang panglawas ug pagdumala sa lokal nga panggamhanan niadtong 1999.

Mapasalamaton siya sa iyang mga nasinati isip usa ka katabang sa pagpatuman sa mga proyektong panglawas sa munisipyo, ug sa mga hamubong kurso sa nagkadayang kaalam sa health ang naghatag kaniya og pagsalig sa kaugalingon, nga makaya ra niya ang gimbuhatong LCO.

SA usa sa iyang mga tigum pang-edukasyon sa mga barangay, iya pang giawhag ang mga lumulupyo nga magpailalom sa testing sa laboratory para masuta kung aduna ba silay schistosomiasis, usa ka pagtakboy sa tawo nga naggikan sa mga natakbuyang mga tubig sa uma.

Matud pa sa mga natakbuyan niini nga sakit, nga usa ra ka dagway sa patol ang ila gibati, ingon niya. Ang schistosomiasis usa sa mga klase sa pinong kagaw nga mosulod sa mga bangag sa atong panit ug mosaka sa utok.

Ang mga BCOs ug LCOs ang nahimong instrument nga mapatunga ang mga proyekto sa tubig ilimnon, pananglitan, aron as pagkontra sa kanunay'ng pagsulpot sa schistosomiasis.

"Among tabangan ang mga organisasyon nga matino nila kung hangtud asa ang ilang pagpasabot as ilang membro ug mga lumulupyo nga ilang giatiman. Mangita kita og mga tinong numero kung pila ug unsa na ang ilang natuman base sa ilang milabay'ng plano, ug kung unsa ang mga hinungdan ngano wala matuman ang pipila ka mga dapat ipatuman," nagkanayon pa sa Nanay Essen.

Apan kinahanglan sa BCO nga mahatagan siya og pagpatino nga natuboy ug napili na siya nga usa ka BCO una siya makatuyok sa barangay ug paapilon sa mga opisyal nga tigom.

Tungod kay ang konseho mismo sa barangay ang mohatag sa pagpatino nga siya usa na ka BCO, dili na lisud alang kang Batingal ang paghimo niining mga trabaho niya tungod kay daghan na dayon ang makabalo nga usa na siya ka BCO.

Ang mga barangay usab madasigong iapil na siya sa mga opisyal nga panagtapok ug tigum tungod usab sa ilang lalom nga kasinatian as pag-organisa sa mga komunidad.

Matud pa ni Batingal, iya nang natabangan ang mga organisasyon sa kababayan-an ug mga mag-uuma sa pagpangita sa mga hinungdan sa ilang tagsa-tagsa ka mga problema ug unsaon nila pagsulbad niini.

Sa grupo sa kababayan-an, "gigiyahan pa nako sa pagdumala sa ilang pinansya ug sa paghimo og usa ka libro diin ila ilista ang tanang gihimo nila sa ilang pond", si Batingal nagkanayon, diin iyang mahinumdu-man pa nga nawala ang kadasig sa ilang mga membro sa dihang dili na maklaro sa organisasyon kung asa padulong na ila pondo ug giunsa kini paggasto.

SA mga mag-uuma usab, ingon niya nga "gipatin-aw pud nako kung unsa ka mahinungdanon ang paghimo og mga proyekto nga makatabang sa pagtu-man sa 'sustainable agriculture'". "Mao nga namugna ang proyekto sa pagpadaghan ug pagpatubo sa mga

hayop sama sa baboy ug kanding, nga mao ang ginapondohan sa Hiruta Fund sa Japan."

Ang proyekto sa pag-apod ug pagpadaghan sa mga tulo ka baboy nga gihatag, apan paglampas usa ka tuig, naundang kini tungod kay wala na naghimo og regular nga tigum ang organisasyon ug pangumusta sa unsa na ang dagan sa 'swine dispersal'".

"Dihang ako ang natuboy nga BCO, nagpah-igayon kami og pagsuta kung asa ang problema ug ako silang giawhag nga kinahanglan mangita sila og paagi nga mabalik pag-usab ang proyekto tungod kay anaa pa ang ubang pamilya nga gahulat sa ilang turno nga maapuran og baboy," matud ni Batingal.

Napadayon gyud ang proyekto ug nabalik nila nga dunay tulo ka baboy. "Karon naa nay laing duha ka anak kini," ingon niya.

Gikan sa pagka 'barangay functionaries' padu-long sa pagka-opisyal sa barangay

Si Heracel N. Crauso, barangay konsehal sa New Bohol, ang iyang pagka-LCO niadto ug paghukop niya sa upat pa nga kasikbit nga mga barangay ang pinakadakung hinungdan ngano midaug siya sa konseho sa barangay.

"Tungod kini kay makita sa katawhan kung unsa kita ka seryoso sa atong katungdanan nga walay katuyuang politickal. Ang komunidad pa gani ang naghatag sa ato og ideya ug kadasig nga modagan sa eleksyon kung pinaagi niini mas malig-on ug maalaga-ran pa nato sila," matud pa ni Crauso.

Kadtong siya ang LCO, iyang giduso ang pagpa-dayon sa Taho sa Barangay. Diha man gud sa Taho "nga matino sa katawhan nga aduna diay sila katakus mopasibaw ug kusganon nila kining gipasibaw, bisan pa man nga kausa lang sa tuig nila kini mahimo".

Si Batingal usa usab ka konsehal sa barangay niadtong 2003, ug siya miboluntaryo usab nga mahi-mong BCO. "Tungod sa akong kasinatian sa pagdum-ala sa mga panghitabong panglawas sa barangay, ila akong gipadumala sa komitiba sa panglawas".

"Wala kini'y epekto sa ako. Usa kini nga porma sa serbisyo kay kanunay ako naghandum nga maalaga-ran nako ang akong kabarangay," nagkanayon siya.

Si Nanay Essen nahimo usab nag konsehal. Matud pa sa mga kaila niya sa mga nagkalainlaing nongovernment organization (NGO), ang pagkahi-mong usa ka opisyal sa barangay ang kasagarang mahitabong direksyon sa mga susama niya.

"Tungod kini sa dili na madudahang katuyuan sa pagserbisyo," ingon sa mga NGOs.

Ug dili na sila mangayo pa og materyal nga ganti o pahinungod pampolitika.

Sa laing bahin pa hinuon, tungod sa ilang kahanas na mao nga ginakuha o ginahangyo nga motabang sa mga nasudnong ahensya sa gobyerno sa pagpahanabo sa mga survey ug pagdokumento sa mga kasinatian sa ilang barangay.

"Dili man gani maigo ang among sweldo sa pangpamasaha pa lang sa mga jeep o bus," matud pa ni Nanay Essen.

Ang proseso sa SIAD nagpatumaw sa mga susama nila Nanay Essen ug Helen Batingal nga mosalmot ug moambit sa ilang kaalam sa pagduso sa kalamboan sa komunidad.

CHAPTER 3

Community-Managed Health Services



Community Participation Helps Municipal Health Office (MHO) Provides Better Service for New Corella

When people get involved, the rest of the work becomes smooth and fulfilling at providing health services.

Locally Produced Herbal Medicine Promotes Local Health

In the glass case of the newly concreted barangay health center, are stacks of cellophane packets of lagundi, tsaang gubat, sambong and luyang dilaw.

Creating Health Insurance To Meet People's Needs

Health insurance is the typical way to protect against such costs and enable the poor to pay for health care.

Community Participation Helps Municipal Health Office (MHO) Provides Better Service for New Corella

For Dr. Nancy Cacayorin, when people in the community get involved, the rest of the work becomes smooth and fulfilling at providing health services and ensuring the well-being of the community.

This is her solid ground from which she infuses her management style at the Municipal Health Office in New Corella, where primary health care has become part of the daily life of residents.

Despite remaining challenges, the SIAD program has made great strides in promoting broad health awareness and establishing a community managed health system in New Corella.

High Automatic Budget Allocation for Health, Thanks to Health Awareness Program

Dr. Cacayorin points out, the intensive health awareness and primary health care program promoted by the IPHC has reaped an important fruit in local government awareness. "Now, the municipal government is automatically allocating 9% of its IRA [internal revenue allotment] to health," she adds.

This percentage is higher than that allocated by the cities, at only 4% to 5%, and in some other towns at 7%.

The IRA is the share of the local governments from the annual national government revenue, and it is given as a form of budget support to the development programs of localities. The IRA forms part of the overall budget of the LGUs.

In 2011, Cacayorin said that the aggregate share of health in New Corella's overall budget is 6.8%. This is slightly higher than the 6.7% allocated for 2012.

"Although this automatic allocation [9%] is below the ideal allocation as determined by the

Department of Health (DOH), this is far better than the practice of the LGUs anywhere in the country," she says. Because the automatic allocation is fixed, "the share of health is secured and it is not reduced as easily as when it is not fixed. In most cases, the budget for health is in danger of being slashed when there are calamities, or when the political administration prioritize one other budget item over health".

Budget Allocation Facilitates Better Health Services

In 2007, the town acquired a vehicle and ambulance with radio, readily available for residents needing emergency medical treatment in a hospital in Tagum City. This is complemented with the issuance of radio communications radios to all the 20 barangays in a municipal ordinance passed in 2011.

These moves helped address the pressing issues of maternal and child care hounding many rural villages across the country, especially in transporting pregnant women from remote barangays when they need emergency care.

Acquisition of the communication gadgets and transportation vehicles were identified during the meetings of the municipal peace and order council.

Another significant impact of the attention given to health care of the town residents was the stipend and allowances of the barangay health workers (BHW), actually another backbone of the municipal government's community health program.

From a little support of only P500, the BHWs are now receiving P1,200 annually. This is the municipal government's support to them, in addition to their regular financial support from the barangays.

What is important in the municipal government financial support is the ordinance that

fixed this amount. "It has institutionalized this incentive of volunteers in the 2010 ordinance," Cacayorin said.

The BHW will also take home an incentive upon retirement. "They will not go home empty-handed. Since 2005, the practice is P500 for every year of service," she adds.

Need For Continued Health Advocacy

The municipal health officer warns however, of relaxing the guard against recurring water-borne diseases such schistosomiasis and sanitation problems that were common in New Corella several decades ago.

Fortunately, she says, there have been no reported cases of malaria and schistosomiasis during the last four years, but diarrhea and tuberculosis continue to recur.

"Education is still needed and the advocacy is still necessary to educate all residents," she insists, despite the strides in improving primary health care.

Dr. Cacayorin points out that many BHWs and other community leaders trained in health care have either retired or have moved to other places for greener pastures, leaving behind a younger generation of the young who must be educated with the same intensity to embrace primary health care as a way of life.

Further, although New Corella must still fight infectious diseases, it also faces a new challenge that of lifestyle diseases as residents' way of life changes. These emerging lifestyle diseases include hypertension and cancer. In 2011, the municipal health office already recorded 3 cases of cancer of the uterus, bone and liver.

Given these challenges, Dr. Cacayorin insists New Corella needs to continue and adapt advocacy for primary health care.

Intersectoral Participation For Community Managed Health

For Dr. Cacayorin, solid planning comes when more key people from the grassroots are brought into the management team, to evaluate, to propose and to implement themselves a consolidated health plan.

She relishes the vibrant sharing of reliable information from people with first-hand knowledge of the community, and the immediate innovation wherever and whenever certain programs do not fit actual conditions.

"It's because you work with people who know the real condition of their areas, the residents, and you get the commitment of the key leaders who work there," she adds. For some years, the Local Health Board included participants from IPHC, the Department of Education, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Nutrition Action Officer. At present, though, it is composed of a conventional team of health related officers, presided over by the mayor.

"I favor the expanded composition of the Local Health Board because evaluation and monitoring, for example, are easily done and can be immediately verifiable," Cacayorin quips in a previous interview.

Nevertheless, health advocacy has contributed to increased health awareness among all sectors, and the expanded composition of many local government bodies, including the barangay development councils has helped barangays increase the frequency of health programs.

As Cacayorin notes, the business sector, particularly plantation companies, is also collaborating with some barangays in various health activities, through their Corporate Social Responsibility programs.

Plantation companies, for example, constructed barangay health centers in Barangay Limbagan, Suawon, Sto. Nino, Magdum, San Roque, Sambong and Sta. Cruz. Blood donation campaigns, nutrition programs and regular free clinics were conducted in these barangays.

Cacayorin argues, participatory health management boards "will allow us to position ourselves to better respond to any emergency. Above all, these general assemblies and expanded bodies have been empowering the villages to manage their own health situation. And that is the most important for us in the local government."

"We are happy that families in the barangay level have been prioritizing their health needs. Now there's improve access in reporting, they want to know the issues," she adds.

Although she also credits other programs in promoting accountable and transparent governance, "It's good to see that the process of SIAD has remained like the consultation process and community participation. It's a big influence on the leaders".

She suggests continuous practice and learning among BHWs, “and not to let go of our strategies especially that we are far from the city where the hospitals are, and where our farthest barangay is 20 kilometers away.”

This veteran health worker knows, especially where professional health services are scarce, citizens can improve their health when they organize to manage their own communities' health.

Ang pagsalmot sa Katilingban: Makatabang sa mas maayong Serbisyo sa MHO ngadto sa Katilingban

Alang kay Dr. Nancy Cacayorin, ang mada-gisong pagsalmot sa komunidad sa panglawas nga buluhaton ang nagapasayon sa tahas sa paghatag og maayong serbisyo sa mga lumu-lupyo.

Kini ang ginapanukaran nga prinsipyo sa Municipal Health Board sa New Corella diin ang hisgutang batakang panginahanglan sa panglawas ang kambal na sa paningkamot sa mga paningkamot sa mga lumulupyo.

Alang kaniya, mas makita niya ang daku nga larawan sa panglawas sa lungsod pinaagi sa lapad nga pakiglambigit sa mga grupo ug sector sa mga tahas nga gipasiugdahan sa gobyerno. Ug nagatoo siya an gang pulidong plano dapat mogikan gyud sa mga komunidad.

“Mas pabor ako sa pagpalapag sa molam-kob sa Local Health Board kay ang pag-bantay ug pagtimbang-timbang sa mga proyekto ug plano, dali lang mahimo ug klaro nga matung-kad,” matud ni Cacayorin.

Iyang gikalipay ang mabulukong pag-ambit sa mga buhing kasinatian sa mga nagatabang sa gimbuhatong panglawas, ug kung giunsa paghatag sa mga sibo nga programa base sa nagkalahilang kondisyon sa lugar ug kasina-tian sa komunidad.

“Tungod kini sa direkta kaming nakiglambigit sa mga tawo, ug makahibalo ka sa ensaktong kondisyon nila ug ang mga saad sa ilang mga lideres,” ingon niya.

Human sa napulo ka tuig sa pagsubay sa Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD), gusto ni Cacayorin nga mao gihapon ang nakagawian na nga proseso sa pagdumala sulod sa Local Health Board.

Pero kinahanglan niya atubangon ang ka-matuoran sa politika nga “matag politiko adunay

kanya-kanyang istilo ug pamaagi sa pagdumala, lakip na ang pagpadagan sa programang pang-lawas.

Ang Local Health Board gilangkoban sa mayor, ang municipal health officer, ang daku-daku o gisugo nga morepresenta sa komitibang panglawas sa SAngguniang Bayan, ug ang representante sa Department of Health (DOH). Naga-meeting kini sila kada unang Huwebes sa bulan ug ang mayor ang magpasiugda sa mga panaghisgot.

Kaniadto, ang health board naay partisipasyon sa mga NGO sama sa IPHC, nga maoy nagplastar sa SIAD, ang DOH, Department of Social Welfare and Development ug ang Nutrition Action Officer.

Ang pagpalapad sa molangkob sa lokal nga mga ahensya ug konseho, lakip na ang Barangay Development Council, ang daku nga nakatabang sa pagpakaylap sa mga programa ug proyekto sa panglawas sa lungsod.

Usahay, adunay moabot nga hinabang pinansyal ug teknikal gikan sa mga tag-iya sa plantasyon sa saging isip tabang sa mga gimbuhatong panglawas. Gipaagi kini sa ilang Corporate Social Responsibility.

Pananglitan niini ang Lapanday Foods Corp., nga nagbutang og mga barangay health centers sa Barangay Limbaga, Suawon, Santo Nino ug Magdum, ug nagpasiugda og bloodletting sa maong mga lugar. Ang Marsman-Drysdale Corp. usab nagtukod og mga health center sa Barangay San Roque, Sambong ug Santa Cruz, ug nagpahigayon og nutrition education program, bloodletting ug regular nga libreng panambal sa nahisgutang mga lugar.

Bisan sa pagkambiyo sa dinumalaan sa Local Health Board – gikan sa expanded nga

perma ngadto sa gitakda lamang sa Local Government Code - daku na ang mga kalamboan sa mga komunidad ug sa pag-implementar sa programang panglawas.

Niadlong 2007, ang lungsod nakapanag-iya na og usa ka sakyanan ug ambulansya nga naay radio para lamang matubag ang pang-emergency nga panginahanglan sa mga dagkung ospital sa Tagum City. Ang mga barangay usab gipanghatagan na og mga radio aron makatawag sa sentro sa New Corella sa bisan unsang emergency nga tawag.

Ang pag-angkon niining mga kahimanan ang natukoy nga pipila sa mga batakang panginahanglan sa mga lumulupyo sa pagmeeting sa Municipal Peace and Order Council.

Ang usa usab nga kausaban sa programang panglawas mao ang paghatag na og regular nga allowance ug suborn ngadto sa mga Barangay Health Workers (BHW), ang mao ang haligi sa programa. Gikan sa P500 lamang kada tuig, gipadak-an na kini sa P1,200. Kini ang suporta sa munisipyo kanila samtang kadaghanan sa ila ang nagadawat ug regular nga allowance sa barangay.

Ang importante karon sa suportang pinansyal gikan sa munisipyo kay mahimo na kining regular nga pagadawat sa mga BHW. "Gihimo kining usa ka balaod niadtong 2010," matud ni Cacayorin.

Aduna pud dawaton ang BHW og incentive nga P500 pagretire niya sa serbisyo. "Dili na siya mouli nga maghilak."

Ang halapad nga paghatag og atensyon sa panglawas nakabaton ra gyud og igong kahimatngon ngadto mismo sa lideres sa munisipyo. "Nagbadyet na sila og automatic nga 9 porsyento sa iyang IRA [internal revenue allotment] para sa panglawas," dugang pa ni Cacayorin.

Ang IRA ang ginadawat nga tabang sa mga lokal nga panggamhanan gikan sa gobyernong nasyonal. Ang IRA molamkob sa dakung porsyento sa badyet nila.

"Bisan pa man ubos gihapon ang automatic nga pagbadyet ato nga porsyento nga girekomenda sa gobyerno, daku na ni nga kadaugan ug kalamboan sa pagsuporta sa panglawas," matud ni Cacayorin. "Tungod kay nakabalaod na man ang pagbadyet, dili na mabutang sa peligro ang kinatibuk-ang bagyet sa panglawas nga makuhaan pa kini para itapal sa ubang opisina o programa."

Ug bisan pud sa pagbalaod na sa bagyet sa panglawas, nagpasidaan gihapon si Cacayorin nga dili magpasagad ug dili luagan ang pagbantay batok sa pagkuyanap balik sa schistosomiasis ug uban pang sakit nga naaguman sa mga lumulupyo kaniadto.

Ang mga barangay usab gipanghatagan na og mga radio aron makatawag sa sentro sa New Corella sa bisan unsang emergency nga tawag.

Hinuon, sa minglabay'ng upat ka tuig, wala nay dinaghang taho sa malaria ug schistosomiasis. Ang kalibanga ug tuberculosis o TB, nagabalik pa.

"Kinahanglan pa gihapong hugtan ang edukasyon ug pangampanya nga magbinantayon ang mga lumulupyo," matud pa sa doktora.

Ang nakita nga kahuyangan pa mao ang pagkawala na sa mga naunang mga health BHW ug uban pang health workers, tungod sa pag retiro o paglangyaw sa ubang lugar, diin nakahimo kini og haw-ang sa pagkamabinantayon kaniadto ug sa pagwalay bili sa mga kalamboan na nga naangkon sa paningkamot sa una.

Sa karon, migawas na ang mga pipila ka mga bag-ong sakit nga sa una wala natala. Ang uban niini mga sakit nga naggikan sa istilo sa panginabuhi. Apil na niini ang hipertension ug cancer. Niadtong 2011, nakatala ang munisipyo og tulo ka kaso sa cancer sa uterus, bukog ug atay.

"Mao nga nagkinahanglan gihapon kita sa usa ka expanded nga paglangkob sa mga konseho ug espesyal nga ahensya ug yunit sa lokal nga panggamhanan aron daghan ang makatutok niini, ug uban pang mga suliran sa komunidad," matud niya.

Sa mga general assembly, "ang dinagkung panagtapok ug pagsandurot ang mohatag kanato og daku ug tin-aw nga panglantaw sa tinuod nga kondisyon ug batakang panginahanglan sa mga purok ug barangay".

"Mahatagan usab ta niani og ensaktong pagplatar sa atong mga programa pagtubag sa pagtumaw sa mga emerhensiya. Labaw sa tanan, ang mga general assembly ug pagpalapad sa mga konseho ug espesyal nga ahensya ug yunit ang naghatag sa gahum sa mga lungsuranon nga modumala mismo sa ilang kauglaingong kahimtang, lakip ang ilang kahimsog sa panglawas," dugang niya.

"Ug kini ang pinaka importante para sa ato nga naa sa gobyerno," matud niya.

"Nalipay kita nga sa karon, gihatagan na gyud og bili sa mga pamilya ang ilang batakang panginahanglan sa panglawas. Sa paglambo sa pagpadangat sa mga taho, gusto na usab nila mahibaloan ug masabtan unsa ang mga isyu nga moapekta kanila," ingon ni Cacayorin.

Samtang gipunting niya ang uban pud nga programa sa panglawas ug batok pangurakot ang nakatabang sa paglambo sa kahimatngon sa panglawas, iyang gidayeg gihapon ang SIAD isip usa ka dakung impluwensya sa mga lideres sa munisipyo ug mga barangay.

Locally Produced Herbal Medicine Promotes Local Health

Effective Treatment for Common Ailments, Produced and Distributed through Community Health Organizations

In the glass case of the newly concreted barangay health center, are stacks of cellophane packets of lagundi (*Vitex negundo* L), the tsaang gubat (*Ehretia microphylla* Lam.), sambong (*Blumea balsamifera*), and luyang dilaw (*Corcum domestica* Valet). Even tawa-tawa (*Euphorbia hirta* L), a popular concoction to fight dengue, was available.

The herbal medicines, produced by the Association of Barangay Health Workers (BHW), have also become standard at the Botika ng Barangay (village pharmacies), as efforts to improve primary health care go alongside with establishing the structures to support access to safe drinking water and proper nutrition, access to health care and services and governance to provide livelihood to more rural poor residents.

Ten herbal plants have been certified by the Department of Health, and at least two for commercial production and public use: the lagundi, used to treat cough and sambong for diuretic properties and to treat urinary tract infection.

The other herbs include: tsaang gubat, commonly given to children suffering from diarrhea and luyang dilaw, with anti-oxidant and turmeric properties.

Tawa-tawa, previously tested at the Davao Medical Center, now the Southern Philippine Medical Center, is now being tested at the Regional Institute for Tropical Medicine of the Department of Health in Alabang in Metro Manila.

The leaves of lagundi, banaba and sambong, would be boiled for 15 minutes and then cooled and strained. The bulbs of luyang dilaw, of the ginger family, would be scraped and juiced out and then boiled. For a pitcher of the juice would be added one kilo of sugar.

When it started in 2007, the BHWs made three-in-one mixtures to treat different ailments at one drink. They had banaba, ampalaya-lagundi mix, and the banaba, ampalaya and luyang dilaw mix. The first mix was popular to treat urinary tract infection (UTI) and cough; the second, for UTI.

Both mixtures were then prepared in 60 grams packets sold at P10 each, says Juliana Pausana, who was then the president of the association in the first interview in 2007 with the Institute of Primary Health Care. She said then that they borrowed P600 as initial capital from the barangay government, to buy the utensils and the kiln for cooking.

These packets of herbal medicines are sold side by side with the generic medicines used to treat common afflictions in the communities.

The Davao Medical School Foundation - Institute of Primary Health Care (DMSF-IPHC), trained the BHWs in proper preparation and application of herbal plants, as part of training the "barefoot health trustees", as the BHWs were known, in teaching and advocating sanitation, proper nutrition, maternal and child health, immunization, potable water and environmental protection as the basic elements of primary healthcare.

"There's no problem with the herbs, we have lots of them growing here in the town," says Analisa Bellosa, the midwife in the town.

The BHWs in New Corella have maintained a small plot, just within the compound of the Barangay Hall, and planted it with sambong, tsaanggubat and akapulko or asunting (*Cassia alata* L.), an herb used to treat skin diseases including athlete's foot, herpes, ringworm and worm infestation of ascaris and trichina.

The barangay health workers in poblacion started the herbal medicine planting and processing into medicinal form in 2007.

BHW Herbal Med Production gets Bigger Market Attention

Who would have thought that this little initiative of the association of barangay health workers (BHW) of interior New Corella town in Davao del Norte to provide alternative medicine for common ailments is now being sought to supply some markets as far as Cebu in Central Philippines?

Cebu has been a regular client after it bought 250 packs of powdered lagundi, sala-bat and luyang dilaw in 2009, two years after the BHWs began its herbal medicine project for the poblacion residents of New Corella.

It was exhilarating to meet the demand at that time, Charvin Limpag, a BHW, recalls, as her fellow health workers were only producing 14 one-fourth kilogram-packets of assorted herbal medicines when they started.

“We have to cook and boil leaves round the clock and have to buy more sugar,” Limpag beams, on how they work on shifts but are excited to produce for clients who recognize the efficacy of the traditional herbs.

Now, they cook weekly and produce 59 kilos of the same products, as individual clients buy for their relatives and friends in HongKong, Japan and even Dubai.

The Association of BHWs also supply regularly the ARMA pharmacy in New Corella, and its sister Deryl Pharmacy in Tagum, the capital city of Davao del Norte. It also supplies twice a month the Prency Pharmacy, also in Tagum City.

“Before, we had to go around the villages and convince them to try it as alternative to the commercial pharmaceutical medicines. Those 14 packets would be consumed in less than one month,” Limpag says.

Besides the herbs, the only other ingredient of the powdered concoctions is brown sugar as a sweetener to make it a ready to drink.

The mixture was initially one kilo of sugar mixed with the herbs to make 14 packets, each weighing one-fourth of a kilo. It was about 1:2 ratio for the boiled herbs mixed with brown sugar. Limpag says it was reduced later to 1:1 ratio after regular buyers suggested that the mixture was too sweet.

“Now, it is 1:3/4 because they would say it’s still sweet enough, and to assuage other persons with diabetes,” she says.

From one kilo of sugar in three weeks or so in 2007, “now we consume one sack of sugar per week”.

The BHWs’ bank record shows that they have already earned P16,000 from the herbs, while providing cash income to those who prepare the concoction.

Barangay Council Supports Expansion of Herbal Medicine Operation

From the outset, the barangay councils have supported the BHWs producing and promoting herbal medicines. Now they are supporting the BHWs as they upgrade their operation.

To meet the growing market demand and to assure proper and sanitary handling of herbal medicine production, the BHWs have applied for certification of their laboratory from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD). The Department of Science and Technology has helped them come up with the list of items for compliance.

The barangay health workers in barangay Poblacion and the manager of the Poblacion BnB, have been required to add space to its existing wooden building in the front yard of the barangay hall and comply with other requirements of the BFAD, including labeling

“It’s all about an orderly and sanitary placement of the laboratory equipment, maintaining sterility of the environment inside the building,” says Limpag.

The Poblacion Barangay Council helped finance the building.

By producing and promoting use of local herbal medicines, the BHWs are putting health in the hands of their own communities.

Pagpalapad sa Merkado sa Herbal Medicine

Ang gipasiugdang proyekto sa mga Barangay Health Worker (BHW) sa New Corella, sa probinsya sa Davao del Norte, nga usa ka alternatibong medisina para sa mga kasagarang gibati, ang karon ginapangita na sa iyang mga suki sa halayong dapit sama sa Sugbu.

Ang pumapalitat sa Sugbu nahimong suki human nga mipalit kini og 250 ka pakete ka pinulbos nga lagundi, salabat ug luyang dilaw niadtong tuig 2009, duha ka tuig nga nasugdan sa mga BHW ang proyektong alternatibong medisina sa poblacion New Corella.

Makakutas apan masadyaon nga ginaapas nila ang kinahanglang bulto nga order sa mga gapakyaw nga produkto nila, matud pa ni Charvin Limpag, usa sa mga BHW. Iyang mahinumduman pa nga makahimo lamang sila og 14 ka tig one-fourth kilogram nga pakete sa klase-klaseng herbal nga medisina niadtong nagsugod pa sila.

“Kami lang ang moluto ug mopauga sa mga dahon nga way pahulay, ug kinahanglan pa kami og daghang asukar panghalo,” ingon ni Limpag, sa iyang paghinumdum sa ilang pamaagi nga mag puli-puli sila sa pagluto aron lang makahimo og ingon adto ka gamay ra ug dili pa kanunay.

Apan ang mga order anaa na tungod sa mga personal nga pagmatuod sa iyang pagkapektibong moayo sa mga sakit sa mga migamit niini.

Sa kasamtangan, galuto sila kada semana og makahimo sila og 59 kilo sa kadtong tulo ka herbal nga medisina, tungod sa dinaghan na mopalit ang mga suki nila aron sila pud makapadala sa ilang mga paryente ug kaila nga nagtrabaho na sa HongKong, Japan ug maski as Dubai sa Middle East.

Ang Asosasyon sa BHW kanunay pud nagahatud sa ARMA Pharmacy sa New Corella, ug sa iyang usa pa ka botika, ang Deryl Pharmacy sa Tagum City. Ginahatdan pud niya kaduha sa usa ka bulan ang botika nga Prency Pharmacy, nga anaa usab sa Tagum.

“Niadto, moadto pa mi sa mga kabarangayan sa pag-awhag lang sa mga lumulupyo nga sulayan sab nila ang alternatibo namong gihimo sa mga naandan na nilang mga tabletas ug uban pang medisina. Ang among mahimong 14 ka pakete mahurot kini sa usa pa ka bulan,” ang asoy pa ni Limpag.

Ang pinulbos na nga mga herbal gisagulan na og brown nga asukar pangpatam-is aron pwede na kini mainom.

Ang pagkasagol mokinahanglan og usa ka kilo nga brown asukar sa usa ka herbal aron makahimo og 14 ka pakete, kada usa motimbang og one-fourth kilo. Ang timplada kay usa ka sukod sa nilangang herbal sa duha ka sukod nga brown asukar.

Kini ang gihimong usa-usa ang sukod tungod sa komentaryo nga tam-is ra ang pagkasagol. Sa pagkakaran, gipaubsan pa gyud kini sa usa ka sukod sa herbal sa $\frac{3}{4}$ kilo sa asukar ka yang timpladang usa-usag sukod tam-is gihapon ug aron pasaligan namo ang mga suki nga adunay diabetes, matud pa ni Limpag.

SA pagsugod namo og usa ra ka kilong asukar sa usa ka lutuan nga mahurot sa tulo ka semana o usa ba ka bulan niadtong 2007, “karon makahurot na kami og usa ka sakong asukar kada semana,” matud pa niya.

Ang ilang deposito sa bangko karon mokabat na sa P16,000 ug nagahatag pa kini og oportunidad nga makasapi gamay ang mga moako sa pagluto sa mga herbal.

Makita usab karon sa aparador sa clinic sa mga BHW ang mga pakete sa lagundi (Vitex negundo L), the tsaang gubat ((Ehretia microphylla Lam.), sambong (Blumea balsamifera), and luyang dilaw (Corcuma domestica Valet).

Aduna pud silay tawa-tawa (Euphorbia hirta L), ang inato nga pagkontra sa dengue.

Ang botika sa barangay

Ang mga herbal nga medisina ang sumpay tinai na sa mga gitukod nga Botika sa Barangay (BnB) sa pagtubag sa panginahanglang pag-atiman sa panglawas. Kini ang gatabang sa pagtubag pa pud sa ubang batakang panginahanglan sa komunidad, sama sa limpyo nga tubig ilimnon ug tamang kalan-on, ang makabaton og hinabang sa panglawas, ug ensaktong serbisyong sosyal sa panggamhanan para sa mga timawa ug mayukmok sa katilingban.

Napulo ka herbal nga tanum ang gitugtan na sa Department of Health nga himuong panambal sa mga kasagarang mga sakit. Duha niini - ang lagundi nga panambal sa ubo, ug sambong nga adunay kalidad nga makatabang pagpaihi - ang ginahimong pangkomersyal na.

Apil sa napulo ang tsaang gubat, pangtambal sa mga kalibanga sa mga bata; ang luyang dilaw, pangontra sa pagkadaut sa mga lawas; ang tawa-tawa, nga kaniadto gitun-an sa Davao Medical Center, nga karon naila na nga Southern Philippine Medical Center, diin giundang ra gihapon tungod sa kulang sa pondo. Gisugdan pag-usab niadtong 2011 ang pagtuon sa tawa-tawa sa Regional Institute for Tropical Medicine sa Department of Health sa Alabang sa Metro Manila.

Ang dahon sa lagundi, banaba ug sambong pabukalan kini og 15 minutos unya pabugnawon ug isala. Ang bulbo o bola sa luyang dilaw, nga kapamilya sa luy-a, tanggalan og panit, pugaon ug pabukalan. Ang usa ka pitcher nga duga, haloan og usa ka kilo nga asukar.

Sa ilang pagsugod niadtong 2007, ang mga BHW naghimo og pagsagol-sagol sa tulo ka herbal nga tanom aron matambalan ang tulo ka sakit sa usa ka pagtumar. Kini ang banaba-ampalaya-lagundi nga timplada u gang banaba-ampalaya-luyang dilaw nga timplada. Ang nauna nga timplada para sa pagtambal sa urinary tract infection o UTI ug ubo, ang ikaduha, para sa pagtambal sa UTI lang.

Ang duha ka pagkasagol gibalot sa sa pakete nga dunay timbang nga 60 gramo ug gibaligya sa tig P10 kada usa ka pakete, matud ni Juliana Pausana, ang presidente niadto sa asosasyon, sa dihang gikakulukabildo siya sa Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC). Ingon niya, nanghulam pa sila og P600 sa barangay kaniadtong pagsugod nila. Ila kining gigamit pagpalit og gamit pangluto ug ang ganggangan.

Kining mga herbal nga tambal gibaligya tupad sa mga generic nga medisina sulod sa nga Botika sa Barangay. Kasagaran pud sa mga gibaligyang generic nga medisina pangtambal usab sa mga kasagarang mga reklamo sa panglawas sama as hilanat, ubo ug sip-on, kalibanga ug mga paghubag tungod sa samad.

Ang IPHC nga nakabase sa syudad sa Davao, mao ang ang nagbansay sa mga BHW sa tamang pag-andam sa paghimo niini ug ang ilang matambalang mga sakit. Kini subay sa kinatibuk-ang pagbansay sa gitawag nga “bare-foot health trustees”, nga mao ang tawag sa mga BHW niadto. Sila ang gipahimutang nga motudlo ug moawhag sa katawhan sa pagdawat as mga kinaiyang panglawas, tamang pagpakaon, luwas ug himsog nga panglawas sa mga buntis ug gipangbuntis, pagbakuna, pagbutang og luwas nga tubig ilimnon ug pagbantay sa kinaiyahan.

“Walay problema sa mga herbal nga tanom. Daghan nang gatubo diri sa lungsod,” matud ni

Analisa Bellosa, ang midwife sa New Corella.

Ang mga BHW sa New Corella adunay gaalima nga gamay’ng luna, sulod lang sa lote sa Barangay Hall. Kini gitamnan og sambong, tsaang gubat ug akapulko o asunting (*Cassia alata* L.), usa ka herbal nga tanom na motambal sa nga sakit sa panit, apil ang athlete’s foot o kagid sa kilid sa tudlo sa tiil, herpes, ringworm ug pagtakboy sa mga ulod sama sa ascaris ug trichina.

Gisugdan sa barangay ang pagtanom niini niadtong 2002.

Sa New Corella, ang mga suking pumapalit sa iyang BnB naggikan pa sa mga silingang barangay diin ang mga BnB nila nagsagubang og mga problema sa pagdumala, ug dili na makapadayon sa pagbaligya mismo sa ilang mga lumulupyo.

Nahimutang sa nagsangang dalan sa kasadpang dapit sa lungsod, ang New Cortes ang naghatag na sa panginahanglang medisina sa sa ubang mga barangay. Tugbang niini, misaka ang kita sa BnB sa New Cortes. Gikan sa usa ka seed fund niadtong 2002, mitubo na ilang deposito ngadto sa P9,997 sa hinapos sa 2010, ug ngadto sa P15,167 niadtong Hulyo 2011.

Pagtaas pa sa panginahanglan

Aron matubag ang gasakang panginahanglan sa tambal, ug pagpasalig nga limpyo kini ug luwas, ang mga BHW nagpadangat na sa iyang aplikasyon nga mahatagan og pagmatuod sa kahanas ug kalimpyo sa iyang laboratory gikan sa Bureau of Food and Drugs. Ang Department of Science and Technology ang gatabang kanila nga makuha kining pagpamatuod.

Gimanduan ang mga trabahante ug lumilihok sa Barangay Health Center sa poblacion barangay, apil na ang tigdumala sa BnB, nga mogahin pa og dugang luna sa iyang gambalay sa laboratory. Ang pag-aproba sa iyang aplikasyon gikan sa BFD magsumikad sa pagtuman sa mga nalatid nga pagatumanon niini, lakip na ang “labeling”.

“Kini tanan motuyok sa hisgutang hapsay ug limpyo nga pagplatar sa mga gamit sa laboratory, ang pagseguro ug pagpadayon sa kawalay kagaw niini sa sulod mismo sa laboratory,” matud pa ni Pausana. Ang pondo sa pagtukod sa laboratory gitabangan as barangay mismo, diin ang konseho sa barangay poblacion mogahin og pondo sa paghangyo ni Barangay Kapitan Rodolfo Comido, ang usa sa mga nagpasiugda sa usa ka programa nga kaanggid sa Philippine Health Insurance Corp. o PhilHealth.

Creating Health Insurance to Meet People's Needs

New Corella's Poblacion Health Maintenance Program (PHEMP) Pioneers Community Health Insurance

Illness and injury can impose a sudden financial burden on anyone, a burden the poor cannot afford. Health insurance is the typical way to protect against such costs and enable the poor to pay for health care.

Ideally, health insurance is subsidized by the government. The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. provides health insurance coverage for government workers, employees in the private sector, overseas Filipino workers, self-employed workers and their families. Non-employed Filipinos could also avail of the program for as long as they pay the monthly payment of P100. In 2012, government raised the premium payment to P200.

Barangays in New Corella are also attempting to create health insurance schemes that complement and supplement PhilHealth's limited insurance coverage. In 2002, Poblacion Barangay set up a self-help health care and insurance fund, Poblacion Health Maintenance Program (PHEMP), encouraged by the Institute of Primary Health Care (IPCH) as one of the many community ventures to enhance the well-being of residents, especially during emergencies.

The program has been adopted in other areas, like in Barangay San Isidro, Tampakan, South Cotabato, where the first successful rural health care and insurance fund was made, and in Barangay Danlag, also in Tampakan, South Cotabato.

In New Corella, PHEMP membership provides readily available funds for consultation and hospitalization, and is annually funded by Poblacion Barangay. The program is open to all.

However, it has not yet garnered widespread membership among the poor. At present all the members, except for one teacher, are officers and workers of Poblacion barangay, where contributions are automatically deducted from their salaries and allowances.

One reason the fund has not been able to attract more members may be the prevailing attitude of the poor to expect free services. Another reason is the deep rooted political culture in the area, where politicians have unethically handed out free PhilHealth cards – which will probably not be renewed – to woo voters during election time.

To make the fund more attractive, in 2007 the New Corella municipal government acquired an ambulance which is being stationed at the Poblacion center.

Councilor Arniel Omega, who is unofficially designated driver of the ambulance, says he has been awakened at even the wee hours of night, when in one case, a child had to be rushed to the Davao Regional Hospital in Tagum City, about 19 kilometers to its southeast.

"The child was suffering from diarrhea and he already looked pale and dehydrated," he says. The family resided in a remote barangay, Del Monte.

Members of the fund previously contributed either P50, P75 or P100 every month for a hospitalization benefits of P1,500, P2,500 and P3,500, respectively. Each member would get a refund of P150 per consultation. They also have to pay a separate membership fee of P50.

The contribution was upgraded to P100, P200 and P300, but almost all availed only the first plan.

Barangay Captain Rodolfo Comido, who was a councilor when the PHEMP began, asked the barangay council to allocate funds. Thus, in 2008, the PHEMP started to receive P15,000 in budget support, a big boost to the emergency fund available to members.

Members can immediately avail of 30% of their total contribution if the patient needs admission, and the full amount of the hospitalization benefits is released when the patient is admitted in the hospital or clinic.

The plan had a standing fund of P83,000 at the end of December 2010 despite a failed investment bid on rice retail distribution.

Members are adamant in their support. Almira M. Luego, the barangay secretary, availed the fund when her father was hospitalized for four days and was reimbursed of P3,500.

Francisco Mantica, 51, availed the fund when his father suffered a stroke. He got P6,000 from the PHEMP and some more deductions from hospital bill from his PhilHealth contribution.

“That’s what people don’t see and appreciate,” says former Barangay Captain Edil Bermejo.

Municipal Government Promotes “Healthy Lifestyle”

In addition to health insurance to assure health treatment, the municipal government is taking steps to improve emergency response and promoting a healthy lifestyle through the radio.

The municipal government has directed all the 20 barangays to buy their own radio communication handsets to keep them all in touch with official transactions and emergency situations.

Across New Corella, households have been required to put up a vegetable garden, and the town prides itself on the very active work of the barangay health workers (BHWs) in all barangays. The BHWs also conduct regular neighborhood nutrition and primary health care sessions, and encourage cleanliness in the surroundings.

The municipal government has passed a resolution directing all barangays to observe

Operation Plan “Kulob”, to turn upside down all containers and vessels that might hold water where dengue mosquitoes could breed.

The Poblacion barangay has also planted a small lot inside the barangay hall compound with herbs and supports the BHWs manufacturing herbal medicine to treat common ailments like cough, colds, flu, diarrhea, dengue, and lifestyle diseases like diabetes.

“While we hope to take care of our health care and insurance fund, we do want everybody not get sick,” Comido says. “Bawal magkasakit, sabi nila [Don’t get sick].”

Ongoing Efforts To Promote Community Health Insurance

The current PHEMP members agree to continue with the insurance scheme and plan to try again to convince residents of Poblacion barangay to join. “We hope to get some more members this time, when some politicians are reported to have not put funds into the PhilHealth cards they gave for free during the election.”

“We have been inviting and cajoling them to join us. We’ve been doing this during neighborhood consultations and general assemblies,” the PHEMP officers say.

Says Omega, “There’s no substitute for multitude of assurance that there’s money available in case of emergency”.

BOX 4. Poblacion Health Maintenance Program (PHEMP) Inc. SEC Registration No. 00571

Objective (Tumong):

1. Service for adequate health care for residents of Poblacion all through participation and membership. (Serbisyo alang sa pag-amping sa maayong panglawas ngadto sa tanang sa Poblacion pinaagi sa partisipasyon ug pagpa membro).
2. Assistance during emergencies. (Pagtabang sa emergency nga panginahanglan).
3. Membership of all Poblacion residents. (Pagpamembro sa tanang katawhan sa Poblacion).
4. Reserve fund for all members who need health care services. (Pagtigum og salapi para sa mga membro nga nanginahanglan og serbisyo para sa maayong panglawas).

Membership (Pagpamembro):

1. Pay membership fee of P50.00. (Mobayad sa membership fee nga P50.00).
2. Open to all permanent and registered voters of the barangay Poblacion without sickness within the last 12 months or one year. (Abli sa tanang permanente ug rehistradong botante sa barangay Poblacion nga walay sakit o gidala-dalang sakit balatian sulod sa milabay nga 12 ka bulan/one year).
3. Regular or advance payment of premium. (Regular o advance nga nagbayad sa premium).

Premium (Bayranan):

Plan(Plano)	Monthly(Binulan)	Every 6 months(Kada 6 ka bulan)	Annually/yearly (Tinuig)
A	P50.00	P 280.00	P 550.00
B	75.00	430.00	850.00
C	100.00	550.00	1,100.00

Benefits (Benepisyo)

A (Hospitalization)	P1,500.00	P1,500.00	P1,500.00
(Consultation)	150.00	150.00	150.00
B (Hospitalization)	P2,500.00	P2,500.00	P2,500.00
(Consultation)	250.00	250.00	250.00
C (Hospitalization)	P3,500.00	P3,500.00	P3,500.00
(Consultation)	350.00	350.00	350.00

Beneficiaries (Mga benepisyaryo):

1. Spouse of member. (Asawa o bana sa membro)
2. Unmarried children 20 years old and below. (Sakop nga anak nga wala maminyo, nag edad 20 anyos paubos).
3. Parents of member aged 60 years old and above, and permanently residing and registered in the barangay Poblacion. (Direktang ginikanan sa membro nga nagpangidaron og 60 anyos pataas, ug permanenteng lumulupyo ug rehistrado sa Barangay Poblacion).
4. Legitimate or legally adopted minor. (Lehitimo o legal nga sakop).
5. Unmarried children 20 years old and above, and legitimate dependents. (Ulitawo o dalaga nag nag edad 20 anyos pataas, ug adunay sakop nga igsoon ug ginikanan).

Cancellation of services or benefits (Pagkansela sa paghatag sa serbisyo o benepisyo):

1. Stop in payment of premium. (Pag-undang og bayad sa premium).
2. Transfer of residence. (Pagbalhin og pinuy-anan).

Incentives of members (Mga insentibo sa membro):

1. For every ten (10) recruits, a member gets a percentage as commission (Kada napulo (10) ka tawo nga ma-recruit sa matag membro adunay porsyento isip iyang komisyon):
 - a. Monthly (Binulan) – 3%
 - b. Semi-Annual/Annual (Tunga as tuig / Tinuig) – 5%
2. Mode of computation every December (Pamaagi sa pagcompute kada katapusan sa tuig, Disyembre).
3. Incentives not paid in cash but deducted in the member's succeeding premium (Ang insentibo nga madawat sa membro dili direktang ihatag ang cash, ibawas lang sa iyang bayronon sa umaabot nga tuig).

Usa ka 'Health Insurance' alang sa yanong lungsuranon

Ang PHEMP sa poblacion New Corella tigpasiugda sa pagseguro sa panglawas sa komunidad

Dakung sagubangong problema ang pagsakit o pagkasamad sa kinsa mang membro sa pamilya, usa ka problemang lisud pangitaan og panggasto. Ang health insurance ang kasamtangang pamaagi aron maseguro nga dunay makuot nga kwarta o mapakitang papeles pagpamatud nga pwede madapatan dayon ug tama ug hinanaling tambal o pag-atimang medikal.

Ang pangagpas sa katawhan, dapat ang health insurance sagubangon sa gobyerno. Sa Pilipinas anaa ang Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth), ang ahensya nga nagpaseguro sa paghatag og igong atensiyong medikal sa nanginahanglang membro niini, lakip na ang iyang pamilya.

Apan adunay bayaran nga binulan o kada tuho ka bulan ang mga buot magpailalom sa PhilHealth nga insurance.

Ang mga barangay sa New Corella nagpasiugda og iyang dagway sa usa ka health insurance nga mopares o modugang sa limitadong mahatag sa PhilHealth. Sa tuig 2002, gitukod sa Poblacion Barangay ang kinaugalingong "health care" ug "insurance fund", nga gitawag Poblacion Health Maintenance Program (PHEMP).

Gidasig usab sa Institute of Primary Health Care (IPCH) ang pagtukod sa PHEMP sa pagtabang nga mapaangat ang mga benepisyo sa panglawas, ilabina ang pagtubag sa mga kalit nga panghitabo.

Ang program gipahigayon usab sa ubang lugar, sama sa Barangay San Isidro ug Barangay Danlag, ang duha naa nahimutang sa Tampakan, South Cotabato.

Sa New Corella, ang pagpamembro sa PHEMP makatubag sa nga panginahanglan sa konsultasyon ug pagpahospital. Ang Poblacion Barangay ang gapondo niini. Abre kini para sa tanan.

Apan wala kini nakaawhag og daghan pangmembro, ilabina sa mga kabus. Sa kasamtangan, usa ang maestro sa mga membro, ug ang tanan gatrabaho sa Poblacion Barangay diin ang bayad kuhaon sa ilang sweldo. the members.

Ang paghunahuna nga dapat libre kini ang dakung hinungdan ngano hinay ang pagsaka sa mga kadaghanon sa membro. Ang usa ka hinungdan mao ang pasalig sa mga politiko nga manghatag sila og libreng PhilHealth cards, nga kanunay'ng kabalak-an nga dili na pundohan pagkahuman sa bugnong lugaynon.

Mihatag na og ambulance ang munisipyo niadtong 2007 aron maawhag ang lumulupyo sa New Corella sa pag-apil.

Matud pa ni Konsehal Arniel Omega, nga mahimong driver sa ambulance panahon sa mga kalit nga panghitabo, pukawon siya sa tungang gabii o kaadlawon ba. Usa ka panghitabo niadto nga gidala sa ginikanan ang ilang anak aron idagan na dayon sa Davao Regional Hospital sa Tagum City, mga 19 kilometros ang giay-on.

"Gikalibanga ang bata ug nangluspada na kini," ingon ni Omega. Taga Barangay, Del Monte ang pamilya.

Kaniadtong pagmugna pa niini nga programa, ang mga membro mohatag og P50 ba, o P75 o P100 kada bulan, aron makadawat ug benepisyo sa pagpahospital nga mobalor sa P1,500, o P2,500 o P3,500. Ang membro makadawat og pauling bayad sa konsultasyon, nga balor sa P150 kada konsultasyon.

Mobayad usab ug laing P50 aron mamembro..

Ang mga bayronon sa kasamtangan program modoble na. Apan ang mas baratong tag-P100 ang gipanguha..

Ang gihimo ni Barangay Captain Rodolfo Comido, iyang giawhag ang konseho nga mohatag og dugan pa nga puhonan, . Konsehal pa adto si Comido apil sa dihang nagpadungog ang ubang opisyal sa barangay nga mohimo sab sila niini. Konsehal siya sa barangay dihang giplastar pa niya ang PHEMP.

Niadtong 2008, ang PHEMP nakadawat og P15,000 tabang gikan sa konseho sa Poblacion Barangay.

Ang membro pwede mokuha og 30 porsiyento sa tanan niyang natabayad.

Ang PHEMP adunay P83,000 gikan sa iyang nga membro ug lakip na niini ang P15,000 nga gihatag sa ubang local nga panggamhanan.

SA uban, nakadayeg sila sa dili pagtumam niini. Matud pa ni Almira M. Luego, ang secretary sa barangay, nagamit niya ang PHEMP sa pagpahospital sa iyang amahan,

Si Francisco Mantica, 51, nagamit lamang niya ang PHEMP dlhang gigamit ni Mantica ang gipasalig nga benepisyo niin.

“Kini ang dili dayon nila makita ug madayeg,” ingon ni Edil Bermejo, ang kanhing barangay kapitan.

Nagdasig ang munisipyo sa iyang mga membro

Gawas sa insurance, ang munisipyo miingon nga daku pa ang atimanon sa hisgutanang panglawas para molaambo pa ang paghatag og mga serbisyo.

Gidasig sa munisipyo ang tanang 20 barangays nga mopalit sila og kaugalingon radio communication handsets aron kanunay ang ilang pakiglambigit.

Aron matabangan ang mga nasakop na sa PHEMP, giawhag sa mayor nga magtanum na ang tanang lumulupyo og mga gulay. Kini ang usa sa mga gidayeg sa gawas sa nasud, apil na ang kinatibuk-ang gihimo sa mga BHW, diin nagaadto sila sa mga kabalayan pag-awhag sa mga pamilya nga tumanon ang sugo sa mayor.

Anaa usab ang gipagawas nga resolution nga giawhag ang tanan nga balihon ang ilang mga kaldero, o butang nga maitlogan sa mga lamok.

Nagtanum na usab ang mga BHW og mga herbal nga pananom sa usa ka luna sa kilid sa lote sa barangay, Kini ang ginahimo nilang pinulbos nga tambal sa mga kasagarang sakit sama as ubo, sip-on, hilanat, kalibanga, dengue, ug mga sakit sama sa diabetes.

“Bisan pa man nga anaa ang health care ug insurance fund, dili namo gusto nga magkasakit ang mga tawo,” matud pa ni Barangay Kapitan Comido. “Bawal magkasakit, sabi nila [Don’t get sick].”

Padayong pag-awhag

Ang mga membro karon sa PHEMP, nagpadangat na sa ilang gusto nga unta ipadayon pa gihapon kini samtang magplano sila unsaon pagdani pa sa mas daghang lumulupyo.

“Naghandum kami nga mas modaghan pa ang membro, ilabina sa kining panahon nga adunay mga politiko nga gidungog nga dili na nila pondohan pa ang mga gipang-apod-apod nila nga PhilHealth cards.”

“Kanunay namo silang ginaawhag. Sa mga konsultasyon, mga regular nga panagtapok ug tigum sa barangay,” matud pa sa usa ka PHEMP officer.

Dugang pa ni Omega, “Walay ikakambiyo sa mga mahatag nga benepisyo sa health insurance, nga adunay pasalig nga nay kwarta nga mahatag panahon sa kalit nga panghitabo”.



CHAPTER 4

Livelihood Enhancement

Community Lending: Accessible Credit to Spur Small Enterprises

The IPHC-SEED program is dubbed the most ideal lending for the poor.

Komboy: Farm Laborers Tackle Poverty Through Cooperatives

Many families in New Corella are poor, although conditions are slowly improving. In groups, the poor work in farms to help farm preparation, and to harvest.

Sustainable Agriculture Supports Local Farmers

Given the high cost of farm chemicals, some farmers in New Corella are convinced that using available natural resources is the best farm practice.

Organic Fertilizer Amazes Other Local Governments

Passion is written all over Merlinda dela Vega's face when she recalls the establishment of the Organic Fertilizer Mixing Plant in New Corella, Davao del Norte.

Market Day in New Corella Expands Sales for Organic Farmers

On any Saturday, the Poblacion of New Corella bustles with life as locals sift and pick through bundles of vegetables and fruits, fresh from the upland and lowland farms of remote barangays in the municipality.

Community Lending: Accessible Credit to Spur Small Enterprises

The IPHC-SEED program, a stepladder, or graduated, type of micro-lending in New Corella, Davao del Norte, is being dubbed as the most ideal lending for the poor, the comment coming from the clients themselves.

Or call them beneficiaries, as that is how they see themselves after having availed this innovative lending scheme inspired by the Grameen Bank, a micro-lending program for the poor in Bangladesh.

Borrowers, screened and ascertained as belonging to the “entrepreneurial poor,” start with P3,000 loan, to be paid at 3 percent interest spread over four to six months, said Emma Mahinay, a mother living in New Corella’s Barangay New Cortes.

The loanable amount increases as soon as the last amortizing payment is paid, said Milagros Galo, who also resides in the same village in New Cortes. The next loanable amount would be P5,000, then P8,000 to P10,000, P15,000 and P20,000.

Galo’s younger sister was able to access a loan of P40,000 for her small agricultural store.

All of them belonged to a “selda”, or cell, a kind of peer group to pressure members to seriously abide by the terms of the loan agreement and to religiously pay the amortization.

Otherwise, other members of the group would either have to contribute together to pay the unpaid amount of one of the members or suffer the same fate as the erring member and be barred from availing another loan.

Financial backing for Entrepreneurs

Mahinay spent most of her P3,000 loan then, to meet the school needs of her children.

She explains that while it went to a non-entrepreneurial intention back in 2006, the loan is actually meant to offset the lean period during planting and harvesting.

Mahinay is a member of a “kumboy” group of farm laborers who contract work during

planting and harvesting. Mahinay’s husband is a driver. Without the SEED lending they would have to go to loan sharks to pay for their children’s schools. But with the SEED loan, instead of going to loan sharks, where requirements are nil and money is given intact, Mahinay said that the loan program designed by the Davao City-based Institute of Primary Health Care gives them a supportive facility to meet the basic needs of the household.

For Galo, the money went to sustaining the family-sized rice farm.

The women are thankful that the requirements are not strict and therefore the lending program can easily get them away from the loan sharks.

“This is really a big help to us. The interest is not big and it is easily approved in one hour,” Milagros said.

Collateral is only required for the big loans, in a form residents can provide, such as a photocopy of the land title, barangay clearance and *cedula* (residence certificate).

They also commend the affordable amortization, paid weekly. For P3,000, it is paid at P200 per week and for a P15,000 loan, it is paid at P710 weekly.

Microlending

The SEED program started in 1999 as part of the Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD). It was established as an intervention and response to the expected economic pressure among families of New Corella, where a minimum basic needs assessment shows that 65 percent of them live below the poverty line.

As in many poor rural municipalities, both farmers and small businesses either go into borrowing as a regular activity, or are deep in debt already.

The need for accessible and affordable lending for the poor surfaced during the dif-

ferent organizing activities for the different sectors, which were prepared and oriented to support the implementation of the SIAD.

IPHC conceptualized the SEED project for the families engaged in some form of livelihood or small business activities.

As fallout in amortizing became frequent, the IPHC redesigned the system and no longer bars center members of good standing from acquiring higher amounts of loans even if one of the members defaults or delays repayment. But the defaulting or erring member has to get the endorsement of the other members if he or she wants to apply for another loan under the SEED project.

The micro-lending fund is the same fund that was given by the US Agency for International Development which provided the initial fund. The SEED management ensures that the fund gets rolling from and to the borrowers.

PABASAK Project: Micro-lending for Government Workers

It's not only the common residents that go into borrowing.

In 2004, Edil Bermejo, former barangay captain of Poblacion barangay, also borrowed P35,000 to do repairs on her house and to buy seeds and other farm inputs. Under the loan agreement, she has to pay it within six months in regular amount.

Councilor Arniel Omega, also of Poblacion

barangay, borrowed P15,000, also within that 2004-2006 period.

Dubbed as PABASAK Project, the micro-lending was designed to help barangay officials and people's organizations defray the expenses of crop production. The lending would require borrowers to agree to automatic deduction from their honorariums to pay off the loans.

High Rate of Repayment

Collection efficiency is rather high for the borrowers of these two separate micro-lending ventures for residents and for barangay functionaries.

Most of the loans go to buy school materials for their children, to repair houses, to pay off debts, buy farm inputs and resupply their retail stores.

Borrowers Strongly endorse SEED and PABASAK

Both Mahinay and Galo, who belong to the same center in New Cortes, would be glad to endorse the micro-lending project to neighbors and hope that it will be continued.

The barangay officials also hoped that the lending facility would expand to more areas "so that more could avail of it".

They said that it is the best option to escape the grip of loan sharks, and chronic poverty that enslaved them before this SIAD-derived project started.

Pahulam pangnegosyo, pangkatilingbanon kalamboan

Usa nga inang-ang nga pahulam– pasaka ang kantidad matag kompleto'g bayad sa unang ulus– nga gihimo sa New Corella, Davao del Norte, ang gitan-aw karon nga pinakahaom nga pahulam sa yanong lumulupyong.

Ang SEED, o Socio Economic and Enterprise Development, ang gisundog nga malampusong programang pagpahulam sa mga kabus, nga gisugdan sa nasud Bangladesh, nga gitawag didto nga "grahmeencredit".

Ang mohulam salaon ug pamatud-an nga nasulod sa kategoryang "entrepreneurial poor", o mga kabus nga andam magnegosyo. Kini sila hatagan og P3,000 sa unang hulam, nga

bayaran sulod sa upat hangtud unonm ka bulan ug adunay interes nga tulo ka porsyento, matud ni Emma Mahinay, nagpuyo sa Purok 3, Sitio Kauswagan, sa Barangay New Cortes.

Makahulam pag-usab ang nakahulam human iyang maimpas pagbayad ang unang nahulam. Ingon pa ni Milagros Galo, nga nagpuyo sa maong dapit sa New Cortes. Ang sunod nga mahulam pu-ede na patas-an sa P5,000, ug mosaka sa P8,000, dayong P10,000, padulong sa P15,000 ug P20,000.

Gani, ang manghud ni Galo nakaabot sa P40,000 nga pahulam para sa iyang gamay'ng tindahan sa panguma.

Silang tulo sakop sa ginatawag nga “selda”, usa ka grupo sa mga managkaila o managsilingan, diin ang matag usa nagadasig sa usag-usa nga motultol gayud sa regular nga pagbayad sa iyang gihulam.

Kay kung ang usa kanila mapakyas pagbayad sulod sa natakdo nga kasabutan, ang ubang membro sa selda dili na usab makahulam sa sunod nga ang-ang.

Tabang sa negosyo

Gigasto ni Mahinay ang iyang nahulam nga P3,000 sa pagpalit sa galamiton sa eskwelahan sa iyang mga anak.

Iyang giasoy nga bisan pa man nagasto didto sa dili pangnegosyo niadtong 2006, ang katuyuan man adto mao ang pagtubag sa hinanaling panginahanglan samtang wala pa ang ting-ani. Si Mahinay membro sa grupong “Kom-boy”, usa ka grupo sa mga mag-uuma ug mga lumulupyo nga nagakontrata sa pagtrabaho sa umahan sa uban takdo sa pagtanom ug pag-ani.

Drayber ang bana ni Mahinay. Kaysa modangop sila sa mga nagapahulam sa “5/6”, o utang nga dunay tubo nga 20 porsyento, nalipay si Mahinay nga adunay usa ka programang pahulam sa ubos nga porsyento lamang, ang ilang madangpan panahon sa panginahanglan.

Ang kay Galo, naadto ang iyang gihulam sa pag-atiman sa iyang gamay’ng uma.

Usa pa, silang mga kababayan-an nalipay usab nga dili istrikto ang mga rekisitos sa paghulam, butang nga makahilayo kanila as mga nagapautang nga daku ang tubo.

“Daku gayud kini ug katabang sa amoa. Dili taas ang porsyento ug dali ra ma-aprobahan sulod sa usa ra ka oras,” matud ni Milagros.

Ila usab gidayeg ang makaya ra nga bayranan. Sa P3,000 nga hulam, bayaran kini og P200 kada semana, ug sa gihulam nga P15,000, bayaran og P710 kada semana.

Pangayoan lang og “collateral”, o tugbang kabtangan, kung daku na ang hulamon. Kinahanglan na kini og “photocopy” sa titulo sa yuta, clearance sa barangay ug “cedula”.

Pabasak

Dili lamang mga yanong lumulupyo ang nagahulam.

Niadtong tuig 2004, si Edil Bermejo, kanhing barangay kapitan sa Poblacion, nakahulam og P35,000 para ayohon ang iyang balay, ug pagpalit og mga binhi ug abuno. Ubos sa kasabutan sa paghulam, kinahanglan kini niyang mabayaran ubos sulod sa unom ka bulan.

Si Kagawad Arniel Omega, nga taga Poblacion usab, mihulam usab og P15,000, niadtong mga panahon sa 2004-2006 nga gidalit sa programang PABASAK.

Pagbayad

Dili problema ang nahitabong pagkolekta sa pagbinayranan na sa gihulam.

Kaya sa mga yanong lumulupyo ang tagi-tagti nga pagbayad gikan sa ilang kinitaan sa ilang ginagmay’ng trabaho. Ang mga lideres sa barangay, sa laing bahin, sa ilang honorarium ginakaltas ang bayad sa ilang nahulam.

Ang kabahin sa mga lideres sa barangay, ang ilang mga honorarium magkalahi. Adunay magdawat og P5,000 kada bulan alang sa mga barangay nga tua sa hilit nga dapit. Mokabat usab sa P10,200 ang honorarium sa mga kagawad para sa Poblacion ug sa palibot lang niini nga barangay.

Ang dakung bahin sa gihulam maadto sa pagpalit sa mga kinahanglan sa mga anak nga nagtungha, o sa pag-ayo sa balay, o pagbayad sa utang, o kun dili galing, maadto sa paghulip sa kulang baligya sa ilang mga tindahan.

Pahulam sa mga kabus

Ang programang SEED gipatuman sa tungang dapit sa napulo ka tuig nga program sa Sustainable Integrated Area Development, kon SIAD, o nasugdan niadtong 2004. Ang programa sa SIAD gisugdan niadtong 1999-2000 ug nahuman niadtong 2010.

Kini gimugna nga programa isip pagtubag sa hinanaling panginahanglan sa kwarta sa mga yano ug kabus nga lumulupyo sa New Corella, diin ang usa ka survey sa Minimum Basic Needs gipakita nga lampas sa katunga, o 65 porsyento sa mga lumulupyo nag-ilaid sa kawad-on.

Ug sa kasagarang kahimtang niining mga munisipyo, ang mga mag-uuma ug gamay’ng negosyante kanunay nagasalig sa mahulaman, o kung wala pa man gani nalubong na sa utang.

Ang panginahanglan sa pagtubag panginahanglan nila sa mahulaman mitunga niadtong ilang mga pagpulongpulong ug pagpatapok sa mga lumulupyo.

Gimugna sa IPHC ang programa sa SEED aron iyang matabangan ang mga pamilya nga aduna nay gitukog nga gamay’ng negosyo.

Gisundog kini sa programang pahulam sa mga kabus nga ginahimo na sa Grameen Bank, usa ka organisasyon ug banko sa Bangladesh nga nagatunol og hinabang pinansyal aron ma-

suportahan ang mga negosyo o pagkakitaan sa mga pamilya. Gitawag kining “grameencredit”. Ang kining pamaagi wala nagapangayo og uban pang mga rekisitos, apan mohangyo lamang nga maghimo og grupo ang mga mohulam diin ang mga membro na ang mopaseguro nga mabayaran ang gihulam.

Sa New Corella, ang mihulam gigrupo sulod sa gitawag nga “selda”, diin ang matag usa moawhag ug modasig sa usag-usa sa pagbayad. Usahay, ang mga membro moamot aron lamang mabayaran ang gihulam sa usa ka membro ug mapadayon ang ilang paghulam sa mas daku na nga kantidad.

Sa dihang miubos na ang koleksyon, giusab sa IPHC ang pamaagi. Dili na madamay pa ang ubang membro sa usa ka membro nila nga nasipyat o napakyas na ang pagbayad. Apan kung ang membro nga nagkaproblema sa pagbayad gusto mohulam usab, kinahanglan na niya ang pag-endorso sa ubang membro sa iyang selda.

Ang programang SEED gitabangan sa US Agency for International Development (USAid), nga maoy naghatag og pondo niini. Usa ka komitiba ang nagalantaw sa dagan sa pagpahulam diin iyang ginaseguro nga ang pondo nagatuyok ra ug mabayaran.

Sa kaso sa Pabasak, o ang pahulam para sa mga lideres sa barangay, ang panggamhanang

lokal sa munisipyo sa New Corella nakadawat og P300,000 paunang pondo gikan sa IPHC. Kining pondo gikuha didto sa natipigan nilang pondo sa mga nanglabay nga programa pahulam usab.

Usa sa nilabay’ng programa sa IPHC sa pahulam mao ang RESPOND Project, nga para sa pagtabang sa mga kagawad sa mga barangay ug mga “people’s organizations” nga mapadayon nila ang pagtanom. Ang mohulam ubos niini nga programa nasayod nga sa ilang honorarium Ikaltas ang ilang tagi-tagì nga bayad.

Madasigong pagsugot

Ang pagdayeg sa mga nakabenepisyo sa programa mihatag og daku nga puntos para sa pag-implementar niini.

Matud pa ni Mahinay ug Galo, ilang ikalipay nga iduso sa ilang mga silingan ang program ug naghandum nga ipadayon kini.

Ang asoy usab ni Bermejo ug Omega, naghandum sila nga padayonon kini ug ipalawig pa sa ubang kasigpit nga barangay “aron ubay-ubay ang makapahimulos”.

Ingon nila nga kini na ang pinaka nindot nga pamaagi sa paglikay kanila sa nga tigpahulam og dakung tubo ug pagluwas kanila sa kapit-os nga kahimtang una pa miabot ang programang SIAD sa ilang munisipyo.

Komboy: Farm Laborer Tackle Poverty Through Cooperatives

Many families in New Corella are poor, although conditions are slowly improving. Even in the late 1990s, 65% of the population was living below poverty level. In this rural area, families with little or no farmland have long been a marginalized group, even among the poor.

However, the traditional Filipino spirit of *bayanihan* (mutual assistance and cooperation) is strong, even among these families. This spirit is behind the komboy (Pilipino for convoy farm laborers' cooperatives) operating in the municipality since the late 1970s and further developed through the SIAD program to support self-help organizations among marginalized groups.

Since 2009 though, as much land in New Corella is being converted from rice farms to banana plantations, the komboys – and laboring families – are facing changes in demand for farm labor. However, through their experience developing Komboy associations, farm laborer families have gained management skills and know-how to weather the changes in local economy.

In Barangay Mesaoy, Dioscoro Esteban heads a group of 21 persons, including a son, Gerry, 40, who contract farm work for neighbors in this rice-producing village. New Corella as a whole is a major rice producing area, and work was not wanting when the municipal government assisted them by providing farm machinery in 2005.

In the few years between 2005 and 2009, komboys members were finally able to visibly improve their living standards. Ethel Tabloc, 43, another member, bought a motorcycle, a cheap television set and other appliances. With she and at least four other children working in the komboys, their share of sometimes P2,500 per person, could more than set aside savings.

Natividad Compedio, with six children, has a similar tale to tell. Her house also bought several cheap appliances too.

The Komboy System

Farm work calls for intensive labor during short periods of the year. The komboys come in groups to prepare the land for planting, and do harvesting, for landowners with big farms to tend. There is no limit to the number of family members who can join a komboy, as long as there is work to do. In the Philippines, it is traditional for women to work in the fields. Joining the komboy they can ensure their families' income.

Esteban, of Purok 15, recalls that the komboy system in Barangay Mesaoy started sometime in 1979 or 1980. "We were about five neighbors, and we went around the barangay to offer our services to plant or harvest for them."

"We would earn P700 per hectare. Usually, we could clean or harvest five hectares," he said. The payment was usually two sacks for every 25 sacks harvested. With a good harvest, a hectare would yield 70 sacks.

Farm contracting back then was tedious and backbreaking work, with no farm implements to facilitate weeding, tilling or harvesting. During harvest and planting, members of the komboy could earn double their usual income, but Esteban said that the money had to be budgeted and stretched to last over the quiet months.

"In between, we would be asked to clean the farm of the weeds, but it would not be as komboy anymore," he said. "Usually, a landowner would ask for only two or three persons to do it." A person would be paid P150 per day.

Municipal Support for Komboy Cooperatives, 1986

In 1986, the municipal government asked these scattered groups of farm hands to form themselves into associations. There was the Dasing Laborers Association (Dalas), and later, the Barangay Mesaoy group was named Dasing Purok 15 komboy Association.

When the IPHC conducted a benchmarking of komboys in the area in 2001, a needs assess-

ment identified members' desire to formalize these groups into an association, with a cooperative system to manage their other concerns on health, sanitation and members' contribution, as well as their demand for farm equipment to make their work more productive. At that time the municipality listed 10 komboy which were later provided with farm implements.

One of the other early group of komboy was the San Juan komboy Association (Sajukoma), which started in 2001 with 15 farm workers, mostly neighbors. IPHC helped organize the members, and trained their officers in cooperative management.

They started with hand tools during planting (between May and June) and harvest (August to October), usually under a work arrangement with the landowners that would require 15 persons to work per one hectare of land. They would be paid P2,000 on *pakyawan* system, or one complete job per payment.

Two years later, in 2003, they acquired the *baobao*, or farm tractor, and a rice thresher, given to them by the municipal government. They were also given a loan of P35,000 to acquire other harvest equipment.

The Barangay Mesaoy group also acquired a thresher, a trailer and a *kuliglig*, a motor-driven tractor.

"This allows us to cover more areas," Esteban says.

The crude implement would occasionally bog down, and the association would have to take out some of its savings to fix it, spending about P1,000. "Often, it's the gear box that would need repair. You have to replace all the 24 bolts. Before, each bolt would cost P3, now it's already P10 apiece."

Maintenance costs are funded sustainably by renting out the implements to specific komboys. The association charges P1,400 for the use of the implement, and the money is kept in a separate account.

Leadership Challenge

The komboy cooperatives were a unique organizational scheme to promote community effort to address poverty. The leaders continually sought and found approaches that worked well for many years to involve and serve members and keep them within the organization's fold.

The Mesaoy association, for instance, has its own fund-raising system, the regular contribution of which would come from the regular meetings. The contribution would depend on how much a member would like to give, "the bigger the amount, the bigger one would accumulate in the end".

"They can borrow from what they have accumulated, but they could not borrow more than that," Compendio says. "One member has accumulated P500".

The association imposes a penalty too, for failure to attend regular meetings, at P10 per meeting, and to participate in the farm work, at P50.

As Landowners Switch from Rice to Banana, where next for the Komboy?

However, the economic situation in New Corella changed in 2008, when the first few farms were converted to banana. While Davao del Norte was the first known banana province in the Philippines with plantations being established in the 1970s and 1980s, a section of its major rice farms in the western part remained devoted to this major staple of the Filipino diet.

Esteban and his members watched helplessly as the banana farms continue to cover more of the former rice farms. With decreasing rice farms comes decreasing demand for their work. Some members have voluntarily left the komboys because they have regular paid plantation work. "They cannot participate anymore because they only have one day off (from the plantation), while our work demands continuous work for several days."

Savings of the association also begin to dip, from P16,000 in 2009 to only P6,000 as of December 2011. "Savings decreased, and our members also decreased as the area planted to rice also decreased," he says.

To weather the challenges of irregular work and expanding crop conversions, the komboy associations have to devise new ways to involve and serve their members.

The association membership has yet to meet with to study and recommend strategies to survive. "The meeting would surely discuss how to make our komboy still a relevant livelihood for us and our neighbors," says Esteban.

As the town's agriculture changes, komboy members' experience in participatory organizing has prepared them to respond actively for the good of their families and community.

Kababayen-an miapil sa “Komboy” pandugang sa kita

Daku'ng tabang ang pagsalmot sa kababayen-an sa mga trabahong panguma sa paningkamot nga madugangan nila ang kita sa ilang mga bana. Sa ila usab nga pagduyog, gitabangan nila ang mga grupo sa mga trabahanteng panguma sa pagpasayon sa pagtrabaho sa ilang pangontrata sa pagtanom o pagsanggi.

Bisan pa man nga ang trabaho sa uma dili kanunay ug dugay ang lat-ang, ang pagsalmot sa kababayen-an sa trabahong panguma ang nagahulagway sa padayon nga Bayanihan, ang buhing diwa sa pagtinabangay sa mga Pilipino nga kasagaran makita sa kabanikanhan.

Ang pagpangontrata sa mga trabaho sa umahan sa mga grupo sa mga magbabaol ug mga walay ginatitad nga yuta ang ginatawag nga “komboy” ug napraktis kini sa pipila ka barangay sa New Corella, mga 19 kilometros sa amihanan-kasadpan sa Tagum, Davao del Norte.

Ang “komboy” nagsumikad sa ilang sistema sa panarbaho diin ang mga trabahante usa ka grupo nga mangotrata sa pagtrabaho sa pagtanom o pagharvest, o paglimpyo ba sa uma samtang gatubo pa ang mga gitanom nga humay. Sa paglabay sa panahon, nakaangkon na sila og mga kahimanan ug makinarya nga gitabang kanila sa lokal nga panggamhanan sa munisipyo aron madasig ang pagkinaugalinong sa mga magbabaol ug mga trabahante nga panguma.

Pananglitan, sa Barangay Mesaoy, si Manong Dioscoro Esteban ang gadumala as grupong “komboy” nga adunay 21 ka membro, lakip na ang iyang anak nga si Gerry, 40, nga maoy gapangkontrata sa trabahoon sa mga umahan sa mga adunahan nilang silingan nga halapad nga ektarya sa humay ang ginatitad. Tungod kay ang New Corella usa sa mga dagkung tigpamunga sa humay, ang mga “komboy” dili mawad-an og trabahoon sa mga uma.

Mao nga sa panahon lagpas sa tuig 2005 pipila ka membro sa “komboy” ang nakasinati na og sobrang kita. Usa kanila si Ethel Tabloc, 43, miasoy nga nakapalit na siya og motor, ug usa ka baratohton nga TV ug uban pang appliances. Kini human nga makadawat siya og P2,500 kada membro sa “komboy”.

Si Natividad Compedio, adunay unom ka anak, makaasoy usab sa samang benepisyo. Makita sa iyang panimalay ang pipila ka mga kabtangan.

Dili ginalimitahan ang kadaghanon sa membro sa pamilya ang makaapil samtang ana usab ang panginahanglan sa daghang motrabaho.

Tungod kay aduna man silay gamay nga tindahang sari-sari sa ilang balay sa Purok 15, makahan-dum gayud ang pamilya ni Esteban sa dugang pa dyud nga kita gikan sa mga silingan nga andam usab mogasto kay sila mismo midaku pud ang ilang kita sa pagka membro sa “lumboy”.

Ang “komboy” sa Barangay Mesaoy nasugdan niadtong mga tuig 1979 o 1980. Matud pa ni Esteban: “Lima lamang kami ka managsilingang trabahante ug among ginalibot ang barangay pangita og matrabaho sa pagtanum ba o pag-ani sa mga dagkung umahan.”

“Mokita kami og P700 kada ektarya. Kasagaran, molimpyo kami o makaani sa lima ka ektarya,” matud niya. Ginabayaran sila og duha ka sakong humay sa kada 25 ka sako nga ila maani. Sa maayong tanum, makaani og 70 ka sako kada ektarya.

Hago ang pangontrata kaniadto. Walay kahimanan ug makinarya pagpasayon sa paglimpyo, paghikad o pag-ani. Sa mga panahon taliwala sa pag-ani hangtud sa sunod nga pagtanum, puwede nga madoble ang kita sa mga membro sa “komboy” sulod sa usa ka bulan lamang. Apan nagpasidaan si Esteban nga kinahanglang tipigan ug inatong ang pag-badyet sa kita isip pagpangandam nga adunay mahulbot nga kwarta sa mosunod nga tulo ka bulan nga dili na pud makakuha og kita.

“Taliwala niini, ginahangyo kami nga molimpyo sa mga sagbot nga motubo sa uma apan dili na kami magkomboy niini,” matud ni Esteban. “Kasagaran moingon ang tag-iya sa yuta nga kinahanglang lamang niya og duha o tulo nga tawo.” Kada tawo niini bayaran og P150 kada adlaw.

Nagsugod niadtong 1986 ang “komboy” sa dihang giawhag sa lokal nga panggamhanan sa New Corella ang mga nagkadiyang grupo sa mga trabahante nga ang trabaho ang motabang-tabang lang sa mga nanag-iya og dagkung umahan sa panahon sa pag-andam sa yuta, pagtanum ug pag-ani. Una sa mga natukod ang Dasing Laborers Association (Dalas) sa Barangay Dasing. Ang grupo sa Barangay Mesaoy namugna ngadto sa Dasing Purok 15 “Komboy” Association.

Sa dihang nangalap og sukaranang datos, o “benchmarking” sa tuig 2001 ang Institute of Primary Health Care, usa ka pribadong organization sa Davao Medical School Foundation sa Davao City, migawas nga ang kakulang sa makinarya o de-makinang kahimanan ang gikinahanglang sa mga “komboys”. Kini ang mitunga sa usa na “needs assessment”

nga lakip na sa “benchmarking”, diin nakita usab ang kamahinungdanon ang pagtukod sa kooperatiba aron modumala niinng mga kahimanan, ug aron moatiman na usab sa ilang panginahanglan sa panglawas, kahinluan ug amotan sa mga membro.

Adunay 10 ka “komboys” ang nalista nianang panahona diin nahatagan sila og mga de-makinang kahimanan.

Ang San Juan Komboy Association (SaJuk-Koma) ang usa sa mga naunang natukod niadtong 2001 ug aduna pay 15 ka membrong trabahante. Kasagaran sa ila mga silingan. Gitabangan kini sa IPHC sa pag-organisa sa ilang membro, lakip na ang pagbansay sa ilang liderato sa pagdumala sa organisasyon.

Nagsugod kini sila sa mga simpleng kahimanan sa pagtanom (sa mga bulan sa Mayo hangtud Hunyo) ug sa pag-ani (Agosto hangtud Oktubre), ubos sa kasabutan sa nanag-iya sa umahan nga adunay 15 ka trabahante ang motrabaho kada usa ka ektarya nga yuta. Bayaran sila og P2,000 sa usa ka pakyaw nga trabaho.

Milungtad pa og duha ka tuig una sila nakapanag-iya og “bao-bao”, o manu-mano nga traktor, ug “rice thresher”, nga gihatag sa munisipyo. Nagtunol usab og P35,000 nga pautang ang munisipyo aron mapalit sa “komboy” ang uban pang kahimanan sa pag-ani.

Ang “komboy” sa Barangay Mesaoy nakabaton usab og usa ka thresher, usa ka trailer ug “kuliglig”, usa ka de-makina nga traktor. “Kini ang gahatag sa ato og oportunidad nga mas daku nga erya ang ato matrabaho,” matod pa ni Esteban.

Usahay, mopalya ang mga makinarya, ug kinahanglan nga mogasto gyud ang asosasyon pagkumpuni niini, nga mokabat sa P1,000. “Kasagaran ang gear box ang ayohon, ug iilan ang tanang 24 ka bolts, diin mitaas na usab ang presyo, gikan sa P3 kada bolt sa una, karon P10 na.”

Ang gastos ginakuha sa pondo gikan sa renta sa paggamit sa makinarya ug kahimanan. Ang renta niini, mokabat sa P1,400 kada gamit. Ang pondo ginatipigan sa lahi nga pondo.

Hagit Sa Liderato

Ang pagpatapok sa mga membro ug ang pagpadayon nila sa grupo ang usa ka dakung hagit sa liderato, kung unsaon niini pagpahapsay sa pagdumala aron madani ang partisipasyon ug pakigsandurot sa mga membro.

Ang mga pagmugna sa mga “komboys” ang usa ka talagsaon nga pagpatapok sa mga kapareho nga kahanas ug tumong pagpalambo sa ilang kahimtang. Sa usa ka Minimum Basic Needs assessment nga gihimo niadtong mga sayong bahin sa dekada 1990’s, nakita nga 65 por siyento sa lumulupyo sa New Corella ang nagpuyo ubos sa level sa kapobrehon.

Aron malampasan ang kahingawa sa dili regular nga panarbaho ug ang hagit sa nagalapad nga pagkambiyo sa mga pananom, gikan sa humay ngadto sa saging, mapugos gyud ang liderato sa pagdapat og mga pamaagi para dili mahimulag ang mga membro niini.

Pananglitan, ang grupo sa Mesaoy naga-himo og fund-raising aron modaku ang pondo. Ang regular nga amot sa mga membro mao ang gigikanan pa gihapon sa pondo, ug ginaawhag ang mga membro nga himuon mas regular ang kontribusyon ani, ug pwede pud padak-an nila aron mas daku ang ilang makuhang kwarta.

“Makautang sila gikan sa pondo, base sa kaugalingon pud nila nga napondo. Dili sila makautang nga sobra pa sa ilang naamot,” matod pa ni Compendio. “Adunay membro nga nakahulam og P500 gikan mismo sa iyang naamot sa asosasyon.”

Nagadapat og mga silot usab ang “komboy”. P10 kada meeting nga dili maapilan, ug P50 sa dili pag-apil sa pagtrabaho sa uma.

Ang kahimtang sa lokal nga ekonomiya nausab niadtong 2008, sa dihang ang pipila ka humayan gikambiyohan og saging. Samtang ang Davao del Norte naila na nga probinsya sa saging diin ang mga plantasyon niini gitukod niadtong dekada 1970 ug 1980, aduna pa gihapon halapad nga kayutaan nga gitamnan sa una sa humay ang padayon pa gihapon sa pagtanum og humay.

Kini ang ginalantaw ni Esteban ug ang iyang mga membro, nga dili nila mapugngan ang pagkaylap sa kasagingan. Klaro sa ilaha nga ang pagdaghan sa kasagingan nagpagamay sa oportyunidad sa pagtrabaho nila sa kahumayan.

Taliwala niining pagsulod sa kasagingan ang pagkunhod usab sa pondo sa asosasyon, gikan sa P16,000 sa tuig 2009, ngadto sa P6,000 niadtong Disyembre sa tuig 2010.

“Ang among pondo mikunhod ug ang among membro nangawala sa dihang migamay usab ang kayutaan nga gitamnan sa humay,” ingon ni Esteban.

Adunay membro nga nananghid na gyud nga dili na nila ipadayon ang ilang pagkamem-bro tungod sa regular na nila nga trabaho sa kasagingan. “Dili na sila makaapil kay usa ra ka adlaw ilang pahuway,” matod pa niya.

Ipatawag pa usab sa asosasyon ang tanan pang nabilin nga membro nila aron istudyohan ang ilang kahimtang ug makasugyot sila og pamaagi aron malampasan ang hagit. “Hisgutan sa among panagtapok ang pagpahimong importante pa gihapon ang among grupong komboy para sa among pamilya ug sa among kasilinganan,” matod pa niya.

Sustainable Agriculture Supports Local Farmers

Insects as effective pest control, farm waste as fertilizer

Given the high cost of farm chemicals, many farmers in New Corella are switching from cereal crops to cash crops like banana and mango. But not Jacinto Condole, 57, a widower and who is convinced that using available natural resources to combat infestation allows farmers to produce Filipinos' own staple grain crop and make farming economically and environmentally sustainable.

Slowly creeping through New Corella farms, banana plantations have already forced some of Condole's neighbors to sell their farm lots, or become laborers in the plantations, rather than till their farms to raise cereal grains.

Condole would not be tempted though, because he has not been spending much anyway to maintain his farm since he adopted organic farming in 2000, and started putting to good use his knowledge of integrated pest management (IPM).

In his simple computation, he will be earning a lot because he is not spending on chemical inputs to grow rice.

"And why would we use chemicals when there are better uses of insects as the natural enemies of crop pests? Aside from cutting on costs, this method will preserve the natural fertility of the soil," he says.

"You don't have to spray to control the worms and stem borers. Just tap the dragonfly and the grass spiders. They are the natural enemies of these pests because the dragonfly preys on the borers, and the spider on the borers," he quips.

There are also the termite-like insects locally called "piangao" that also eat the worms.

This he learned from a training he got on IPM sponsored by the Gagmay'ng Kristohanong Katilingban (GKK, a Catholic Church basic ecclesial prayer community). The training required them to attend 3 days of each

month for 5 months at the Parish Social Action Ministry and was given by technicians from the Department of Agriculture.

About 20 farmers from Barangay New Cortes were trained that time on the application of IPM.

"I remember in 2001, when my farm was attacked by pests. My wife told me that our farm has turned white because of the infestation of the aphids and worms that last for one month," he says. "I immediately bought pesticide and burned the plants."

The IPM method and organic farming form part of the drive of the municipality to adopt sustainable agriculture, also part of the Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) approach in local governance to protect the environment and promote the social and well-being of its residents.

After Condole and the other farmers adopted Sustainable Agriculture practices as encouraged by the municipal government in 2004, fighting or controlling the pests was no longer expensive and life-threatening.

"I experimented on the smelly rotting dead pingaos by keeping them inside the coconut shell. The worms are usually attracted to them and it would be easy to burn them," he says. His neighbors also found a way by soaking cloth with urine. The worms pack into these soaked cloths and cling to them like mad.

He used this method after observing that the worms are easily attracted to bad-smelling objects, including the piangaos.

"Don't you know that American frogs are also helpful to control the borers? If you observe that they have powerful jumping ability because of this particular preying ability of the frogs on pests. They jump to get these borers," he adds.

He is grateful for the training "because since then, my farm remains fertile and I don't need to buy inorganic fertilizers".

“I just put in back the dagami, or rice stalks, to the land when I till it again,” he says.

Unfortunately, this organic practice has a downside, too. The Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has placed the Philippine agriculture sector as one of the big generators of greenhouse gas emissions “mainly because farmers burn the rice stalks and rice hulls after harvesting”.

The DENR said that the agriculture sector accounts for almost two thirds of the country’s land area “and that would give us a picture why this sector accounts for big contribution to the emission of greenhouse gases”, former DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun told a national climate change summit in Davao City in March 2011.

“It also eases up on land preparation because I use the ‘Golden Kuhol’, [snails, that when left uncontrolled, also become pests] to finish off the weeds that remained after land preparation,” Condole says.

From High Yield to Sustainable Varieties of Rice

The resulting harvests may not be as voluminous as those farms using high-yielding varieties, but Condole was thankful anyway that sustainable methods will avoid heavy reliance on artificial inputs.

Farmers in New Cortes harvest between 65 to 80 sacks of rice per hectare per cropping season, a far cry from the 90 to 110 sacks that they once had when they used Miracle Rice, C4 and other high-yielding varieties in the 1970s and 1980’s

With a reduced cropping season, many of these high-yielding varieties developed by the International Rice Research Institute in Los Banos, Laguna, had to be propped up by chemical inputs to sustain their fast growth and

high yields per hectare. Through the decades though, farmers became heavily indebted to traders who advance the expensive fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers in exchange for their farm yields every harvest.

Condole and neighboring farmers also raise their yields through an irrigation system, built by the government but managed by the farmers themselves. As members of the New Cortes-New Bohol Irrigators Association, they can now control irrigation at an affordable rate of two sacks of rice per hectare. The contribution serves as the maintenance fund of the infrastructure, put up by the National Irrigation Administration.

Their contribution will partly fund the concreting of the remaining portion of access irrigation canals going to the other farms of member farmers, spanning 300 meters each for the Lateral A and Lateral B canals fed by the Anaman River traversing New Bohol.

Condole still recalls the place when it was a jungle where monkeys abounded up to the 1970’s. “There were a few rice paddies then. The place was planted to abaca, and corn and soybeans began to be planted later,” he says.

From Kauswagan, Leyte, Condole joined a group of pioneering settlers to New Bohol to establish a settlement of residents migrating from Bohol Island in central Philippines. He married a local in 1976 and began to make a clearing for a small-sized farm.

It was sometime in the mid-1980’s that the settlers began planting rice in what would become one of the fertile plains of Davao del Norte and a major rice producer in the Davao Region.

“It’s good to observe the natural farming method because Nature would always collect what you wrought on her,” he says.

Organic Fertilizer Amazes Other Local Governments

Passion is written all over Merlinda dela Vega's face when she recalls the establishment of the Organic Fertilizer Mixing Plant in New Corella, Davao del Norte, apparently the only one anywhere else in the Philippines that was put up by a local government unit.

In fact, it has been her pet project since she was chosen from the New Corella Farmers Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (Necofarbea) in 1998 to head the town's organic farming program. The program began to produce earnest when the plant was constructed using the infrastructure support fund of the municipal government to give teeth to its environmental advocacy in the farm sector.

The plant produces Guano Mix organic fertilizer from raw materials abundant in this town. The town has several caves where bat droppings form the fertilizer-rich guano; Bio-Nitrogen (or Bio-N) fixing bacteria, fungus activator and trichoderma, are derived from vermiculture .

When it started operation in the middle of 2000, the plant was producing 1,500 bags, which increased to as many as 3,000 bags per cropping season between 2006-2008, to cater to demand from rice farmers.

"It is about five bags per hectare," says Dela Vega, the plant manager.

The municipality has adopted organic farming to this largely rice producing town, and it encouraged consumption of its own organic fertilizers as a condition for availing the rice loan.

Josephine Maambong, the officer-in-charge of the Local Economic Enterprise and Management Development Office, attests to the interest expressed by visiting local government officials not only to how the municipality set up the office, but also how it operates the fertilizer plant.

Maambong takes over the helm from Joel Quinanahan, the municipal planning officer, who was one of the prime movers from the LGU in implementing the Sustainable Inte-

grated Area Development (SIAD) when it was started in 1999.

The plant building houses the various equipment bought with local government funds, as well as the storage and warehouse area. Outside is the cemented drying area and to its left is the vermiculture section, where a new batch of fertilizer is being processed this month.

At the edge of the drying area are piles of the common household biodegradable garbage that is being left to decay before being fed to the vermiculture boxes to create fertilizer.

The mixing plant sprawls over a one hectare lot about two kilometers from Poblacion New Corella.

Dela Vega used to work with the Department of Science and Technology as its point person in the Necofarbea in pushing for organic farming. The farmers' association covered only a few barangays then, but when the municipality needed to step up support for organic farming, it did not have second thoughts at asking her to head the municipal-wide program.

"We organized the farmers to conduct our education program on organic farming, so that they would embrace it as a good agriculture practice," she says. To ensure patronage of the product of the mixing plant, the municipality has made a policy that farmers should utilize the organic fertilizers as a condition to avail of the rice loans.

It did not take long however, before farmers learned to like and adopt organic farming.

She has developed a number of types of fertilizer. One uses Trichoderma, a microorganism, to decompose many agricultural wastes.

Later, other fertilizers were made from corn cobs, guano, limestone, charcoal gum, coconut dust and bio-nitrogen.

Bio-N, as it is known, has a total of 13 elements.

The mixing plant has also made organic feeds for swine, from starter, to grower to the finisher feeds. The bags of feed are being sold

on credit by the Council of Women, which manages the swine feed production.

Feed production, using two feed mill machines, is done on the same site.

Production for farm fertilizer has decreased lately as some farms have converted to planting to banana, but Dela Vega says her

organization is studying the potential for banana farm owners to tap their products.

“Anyway, foreign markets like Japan are already very strict about commercial and synthetic farm inputs used in the banana that they buy. So we see hope that they would use our products in larger quantities,” she says.

Organic nga pamaagi sa panguma gadala og inspirasyon sa uban

Alang kang Merlinda dela Vega, ang pagtukod sa Organic Fertilizer Mixing Plant sa New Corella, Davao de Norte, usa ka kaanguhan sa dugay na niyang pagdumala sa pangumang organic sa usa ka kooperatiba.

Sa pagtukod sa planta, nakita niya ang paglapad sa usa ka pamaagi sa panguma nga gamit ang mga butang nga anaa lang sa kinaiyahan, ug luwas sa makadaut nga mga kemikals.

Ang iyang gikuptan nga kasinatian sa pagpatuman sa organic nga panguma samtang konektado pa siya sa New Corella Farmers Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (Necofarbea) ang kahimanan nga iyang gihuptang kaalam dihang gitugyan sa iya ang pagdumala sa planta.

Diha lamang siya nakasinati og kalipay sa pagkakita niya nga gisugdan na gayud ang pagtukod sa planta. Ang munisipyo na mismo ang misagubang sa pondo sa pagtukod sa planta isip pagpatinuod sa iyang kampanya sa maayong panglawas ug hapsay nga panimuyo.

Ang mixing plant nagagama og Guano Mix, usa ka abuno gikan sa mga hinulog ug gikalibang sa mga kwaknit nga makuha lamang sa mga langub. Ang New Corella abunda sa mga guano tungod sa halos tanan niyang mga langub ginapuy-an usab sa gatos ka liboan nga mga kwaknit.

Ginahimo usab sa planta ang “Bio-Nitrogen, og ang Bio-N, fixing bacteria”, ang fungus activator ug ang trichoderma, usa ka bacteria nga makuha pinaagi sa prosesong “vermiculture”.

Sa iyang pagsugod niadtong tuig 2000, nagahimo ang planta og 1,500 bags hangtud naabot niini ang 3,000 bags kada tanuman sa mga tuig 2006-2008 aron matubag niya ang nagkadakung panginahanglan sa mga umahan.

“Mahulog nga makagama kita og lima ka bags nga abuno kada ektarya nga tanuman og humay,” matod ni Dela Vega, ang nagadumala sa planta.

Gipahiluna sa munisipyo ang pamaaging organic sa panguma. Usa ang New Corella sa mga tinubdan sa produktong humay sa probinsya sa Davao del Norte.

Ang iyang kusganong duot sa natural nga pamaagi sa panguma gamit ang organic nga mga materyales ang nakaawhag sa interes sa mga ubang lokal nga panggamhanan, diin ang mga namisita sa New Corella naggikan pa sa mga layong lugar, sama sa Ozamiz City sa amihan-kasagpang dapit sa Mindanao. Gusto niining mga bisita ang mahibalo kung giunsa sa munisipyo pagduso sa pagtukod sa planta ug sa pagduot sa organic nga pamaagi.

Kini mismo ang napamatud-an ni Josephine Maambong, ang kasamtangang hepe sa Local Economic Enterprise and Management Development Office, ang opisina nga gadumala sa mga proyektong negosyo sa munisipyo. Si Maambong ang mipuli kang Joel Quinanahan, ang municipal planning officer nga usa sa mga nagpasiugda sa programang Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD).

Ang SIAD usa ka programang nagaseguro sa limpyo ug hapsay nga pagdumala sa usa ka local nga panggamhanan.

Makita sa sulod sa mixing plant ang pipila ka kahimanan o kasangkapan nga gipalit gikan sa pondo sa munisipyo, Aduna usab kini storage ug warehouse. Sa gawas, makita ang sementadong luna kung diin ginabulad ang mga ubang sangkap sa paghimo og abuno. Sa pikas kilid sa planta ang lugar diin ginaproseso ang pagpalata sa mga materyales sa prosesong “vermiculture”.

Sa tumoy sa bularanan nahimutang ang mga madunot nga basura gikan sa mga panimalay. Kini ang ginabutang sa mga kahon diin ginahimo ang proseso sa paglata pinaagi sa vermiculture.

Ang planta nahimutang sa usa ka ektaryang yuta duha ka kilometro gikan sa sentro sa New Corella.

Dili na halayo sa kasinatian ni Dela Vega ang mga prosesong ginahimo sulod sa planta. Gikan siya sa Department of Science and Technology (DOST) isip tigpatuman sa programang organic nga panguma sulod sa Necofarbea.

Pipila lang ka barangay ang nahisakop sa kooperatiba, apan sa dihang gitanyag kang Dela Vega ang katungdanan nga modumala sa mixing plant ug motabang sa pagpatuman sa organic nga panguma sa tibuok lungsod, wala na siya nagduahduha pa.

“Among gitapok ug gi organisa ang mga mag-uuma sa pagpaabot sa atong edukasyon sa organic nga panguma ug madawat kini nila isip usa ka tino nga pamaagi sa agrikultura,” matod ni Dela Vega. Ug pagseguro nga ilang matabangan ang mixing plant, ang munisipyo nagpagawas og polisiya nga kinahanglan mopalit ang mga mag-uuma sa ilang abuno didto sa planta isip usa ka kondisyon aron sila makautang sa munisipya.

Ang New Corella migahin na og P5.8 milyon aron suportahan ang produksyon sa humay, mais ug gulay.

Wala magdugay ug pipila na ka mga mag-uuma ang miawat sa pamaaging organic. Sa kasamtangan, mikabat na sa 600 ka mag-uuma ang nakakuha na sa pinansyal nga hinabang sa munisipyo ubos sa maong kondisyon. Ang utang anaa sa P7,000 hangtud sa P12,000. kada ektarya

ug adunay 2.5 por syento lamang ang ipatong kada tanum.

Matod pa ni Dela Vega, halapad ang ila paggamit sa Trichoderma paggama sa abuno. Ang Trichoderma usa ka dali nga makontrol nga kagaw nga ilado na sa pagtabang sa pagpalata sa mga basura gikan sa mga kalabayan.

Sa paglabay sa mga panahon, ang mga abuno pwede na mahimo gikan sa mga pakaw sa mais, guano, limestone, uling, bagaso gikan sa mga bagol sa lubi, ug ang original nga Bio-N.

Ang paghimo sa Bio-N kinahanglan og 13 ka sangkap.

Ang mixing plant nagahimo na usab og mga pagkaon, o organic feeds, para sa baboy. Aduna sila starter nga feeds, grower ug hangtud sa finisher feeds. Kini gibaligya ngadto sa mga pamilya sa mga mag-uuma nga adunay mga hayop binuhi.

Ang pagdumala ug paghalapad sa mga organic nga fertilizer ug feeds gihatag na sa mga Council of Women isip tabang usab sa fund-raising sa kini nga grupo. Giabagan sila pagpasayon sa produksyon pinaagi sa pag-angkon og makinarya. Makita kini sila sa likud nga parte sa building.

Ang nakadismaya lang sa karon nga panahon, ang produksyon sa organic nga abuno mi-kuhod uban sa pagpalapad sa mga plantasyon sa mga pang export nga kasagingan. Apan ingon pa ni Dela Vega nga gina studyohan na nila ang pag-awhag sa mga tag-iya sa plantasyon sa kasagingan nga gamiton nila ang produkto sa mixing plant.

“Bisan pa man, ang mga langyawng merkado ang nagpadayag na man usab sa ilang panginahanglan sa usa ka barato apan organic nga produkto.

Market Day in New Corella Expands Sales for Organic Farmers

On any Saturday, the Poblacion (town center) area around the public market of New Corella bustles with life as locals sift and pick through bundles of vegetables and fruits, fresh from the upland and lowland farms of remote barangays in the municipality.

In all their greenery are stacks of leafy vegetables like *kangkong*, *pechay* and *alugbati* to bundles of *ampalaya*, or bitter melon, *sayote* and *carabansos*. There are also the cauliflower and broccoli, all of them robust and slightly bigger than what one sees in urban markets, showing the healthy soil environment where they are grown.

But the price is not what one pays at the supermarket prices: they are negotiable as neighbors have been doing for generations when they sell, bargain and trade with each other.

A bundle of a few string beans costs around P5 at a city *tiangge*, or small market. At the *taboan* in New Corella one could get double, even triple the package for the same price. And the vegetables come with a sweet package: dewdrop freshness free of dangerous chemicals.

A decade ago, the place beside the jeepney terminal was a simple unused space as one would find in many sleepy rural towns in the Philippines.

Only eight years ago, in 2004, when the municipal government encouraged organic farming and farm labor cooperatives called *komboys*, attention was given also to providing space to vegetable growers to tap the local market, rather than go to the provincial capital or other town centers.

It was found out in an informal study conducted that year that many vegetables bought by residents of New Corella shopping in Tagum City, about 19 kilometers to the southeast, were actually grown in some barangays of New Corella.

The study was initiated by the Local Economic Enterprise and Development Man-

agement Office (LEEDMO), established to determine, develop and spur local economic activities. The LEEDMO was in fact one of the innovations in local government economic management developed under the Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) program that was being piloted in the town.

An assessment that followed noted the potential of bringing vegetable prices down if New Corella growers could be encouraged to vend their vegetables directly at the Poblacion market. Thus the LEEDMO established market stalls for these vegetable growers and rented them out at an affordable rate of P20 per day.

Cornelia Sab-a, a former barangay health worker of Purok 6, Barangay New Cortes, used to deliver her vegetables to sell in Tagum City. When the *taboan* was established in New Corella, she saw the opportunity to try the nearer market.

There are six planters and farm owners in her barangay, and she tills the family farm of four hectares.

Volume produced varies per week, sometimes six sacks, at other times four sacks, and she pays P60 per sack for transportation to the Poblacion market. "Often, I negotiate with the driver, whom I already know, for P500 for a round trip to the New Corella market and back to New Cortes, in case I would be bringing more sack-load of vegetables."

"Sometimes, I ask the driver to charge only P10 for the sack of eggplant that I bring," she says.

Also one of the planters in New Cortes, Diding Bastasa shares the same experience of Sab-a.

"Sometimes I pay P200 per sack of *pechay*," she says.

To save on transport cost, planters ask each other to sell their few vegetable harvests. "They just chip in for transport cost."

For a time, vendors were required to sell just one product per week, and different areas

of the market were assigned to different vegetables to avoid swarming the stalls with the same kind of item.

For a while the system worked, but Sab-a says the system faded out.

At last October's tabo, Sab-a said that a lot of eggplants were being sold, as with squash and root crops.

Cardaba bananas, commonly used for local delicacy like the grilled or fried sweetened banana cue, *maruya* or *toron*, were also all around the market stalls.

Bastasa said that the other vegetable failed to produce a good harvest because of the erratic weather and some pests.

Sales are not always brisk. On the contrary, stall renters sometimes give a sigh when asked about the day's earnings. "Not all are buying because many families here have also their own backyard gardens." This is due to the municipal ordinance directing all households to establish vegetable gardens.

"Customers also ask for additional weight or for lower price," Sab-a says.

Many of the local residents in Barangay Poblacion have also benefited from the Saturday taboan. Many of them are able to avail of the stalls and to sell cooked food and snack items.

Despite the challenges, taboan sellers still earn. Sab-a says she earns around P1,000 in net income, starting with the Saturday selling and discounted selling on Sunday. "We always try not to bring anymore leftover vegetables when we go home on Sunday," Sab-a adds.

Residents express gratitude that the taboan has remained and allows them to sell and buy fresh vegetables.

For the municipal government, the taboan is more than providing safe and healthy food; it also adds to the many economic activities and livelihood opportunities for residents.

Taboan sa New Corella Pagdaku sa kita sa 'organic farmers'

Sa matag Sabado dinhi sa Poblacion, duol sa palangke ug tupad sa terminal sa jeep, buhi na usab sa mga nagtabo ug mamalitay sa gulay ug prutas ang lugar nga gigahin alang sa Tabo, usa ka proyekto sa munisipyo nga masentro sa Poblacion ang mga produktong gulay sa kabukiran.

Makapili ka sa mga preskong kangkong, pechay ug alugbati, ug mga gibugkos nga ampalaya ug carabansos, ug sayote. Anaa nakaplastar ang mga cauliflower ug broccoli, tanan bus-ok pa ug dagku kung itandi nimo sa kasagarang gulay.

Bisan daku, ang presyo dili. Lahi ra sa mga supermarket kay dinhi mahangyo pa ang presyo, o ang kadaghanon sa bugkos o tapok, usa ka pamaaging pakig barter nga sauna pang panahon ginahimo na, ug hangtud karon.

Ang usa ka dakung bugkos sa bus-ok nga batong tag P5 lang,

Dinhi sa Taboan sa New Corella, ang presyo mausab, kasagaran paubos.

Sa milabay nga usa ka dekada, kini nga lugar usa ka bakanteng luna tupad sa jeepney terminal.

Niadtung tuig 2004, nga diin gidasis sa

munisipyo ang "organic farming" ug ang pagtrabaho sa ubang uma, nga gitawag nga komboys, iyang gihatagan pagtagad ang mga nagtanom og gulay nga magahinan og luna diin didto sila mobaligya, kaysa didto sa layong dapit.

Nasuta sa usa ka pagsusi nianang tuiga gihapon nga kasagaran sa mga gulay nga gipalit sa mga taga New Corella didto sa Tagum City, 19 kilometro ang gilay-on, gikan ra usab diay sa New Corella, nga gitanom sa mga hilit nga dapit niini.

Ang pagsusi gihimo sa Local Economic Enterprise and Development Management Office (LEEDMO), aron makahimo og proyekto pagdani sa mga maggugulay nga mamaligya na lang sa Poblacion, ug makaaghat og daghan ug dakung kalihukang negosyo sa sentrong barangay.

Kini nga katuyuan napasulod sa panglantaw sa programang Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) program nga gipatuman sa New Corella.

Ang pagsumada sa mga nasusing datos napunting didto sa posibilidad nga moubos ang presyo kung didto sa Poblacion ibaligya derecho

ang mga gulay. Mao nga gigahin sa LEEDMO ang usa ka luna tupad sa terminal sa jeep ug naghimo kini og mga 'stalls', o pwesto, nga rentahan og P20 kada adlaw.

Si Cornelia Sab-a, kanhing Barangay Health Worker (BHW) sa Purok 6, Barangay New Cortes, nagsugod pagbaligya sa iyang mga gulay didto sa Tagum City, apan mibalhin siya dihang gitanyag na ang puwesto sa Poblacion New Corella ug nakita niya nga adunay kahigayonan sa paglambo sa palengke.

Unom sila ka mag-uuma ug tag-iya sa yutang gitamnan og gulay. Sa iyang kabahin, siya ang nagtikad sa luna nga iya pang gimana.

Ang kadaghanon sa iyang gulay magdepende kada semana. Kasagaran modagan lang sa unom ka sako sa managkalahing mga gulay, usahay pud upat lang.

Mobayad siya og P60 pataas sa pagdala lang didto sa pwesto niya sa Taboan. "Kasagaran, ako pang hangyuon ang driver sa motor."

"Usahay, mohangyo ko nga P10 lang unta ang ibayad sa matag sako sa talong," matud ni Sab-a.

Mobayad og P500 ang mag-uuma sa pagdala sa mga sako padulong sa Poblacion sa New Corella ug pabalik.

Si Diding Bastasa, usa sa mga giimbata nga, mao usab ang iya komentaryo. Matud niya, "mobayad siya pag-usab og P200 kada sako sa pechay."

Aron makaipon sa pamasahi, ang mga mag-uuma mohangyo sa molargang mag-uuma nga idungan na lang baligya ang ilang produkto. Mohatag na lang sila og gamay kantidad pagbayad sa motorsiklo.

Naay panahon niadto nga gimanduan ang lokal nga panggamhan nga iplaster nila ang 'one

town one product". Dinhi nakita asa gagikan ang mga gulay ug asa padulong.

Sa sinugdanan, milahutay pa ang programa.

Kadtong milabay nga October, nakita ni Sab-a nga daghan ng talong ang gibaligya sa palengke. Mao usab ang sa ubang gulay, sama sa kalabasa ug mga lagutmon. Ang saging nga sab-a, nga maoy ginahimong maruya, banana cue, toron ug uban pa, ang daghan usab.

Apan ingon ni Bastasa, nga ang ubang gulay dili maayo ang binungahan tungod sa kalit nga pagkambyo sa panahon ug sa atake sa dangan.

Busa, ang halin dili kanunay maayo. Usahay manghupaw na lang sila kung pangutan-on pila ang ila nahalin.

"Dili tanang pamilya nga manoroy diri mopalit. Tungod kini sa palisiya sa munisipyo nga dapat tanang pamilya sa New Corella adunay gulayan sa ilang tugkaran.

"Anaa pa ang customer nga mohangyo nga dugangan pa ang ilang gihatag," nagkanayon si Bastasa.

Ubay-ubay ang nakakita og kahigayonan nga magnegosyo usab tupad o duol sa taboan. Mobaligya sila'g mga juice, ice, ug mga kakanin.

Apan, bisan pa man sa mga kakulian, ang mga namaligya og gulay makahalin pa gihapon. Ingon ni Sab-a, mokita siya hangtud P1,000 sa usa ka adlaw. Magsugod sila baligya sa Sabado ug mahuman pagkaugma".

Ang mga lumulupyo midayeg sa pagpa-dayon as programang Taboan diin makaapil sila sa pagnegosyo.

Para sa munisipyong panggamhanan, ang taboan dili lamang nagseguro sa usa ka lamian ug luwas sa mga kemikals, Kini ang gahatag og kahigayonan sa pagnegosyo.

CHAPTER 5

Excerpts of the 2010 Research on SIAD in New Corella



Summary of generalized impression of people in the communities, members and movers of nongovernment organizations, people's organizations and civil society organizations, and officials and key personnel in the municipal and barangay government.

Integration and Implementation of the SIAD Framework in the Barangays of New Corella, Davao del Norte

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Introduction

The Philippine Agenda 21 (PA 21) is the Philippines' expression of commitment to sustainable development. PA 21 highlights the importance of collaboration between the government and non-government entities in all development efforts. It also recognizes the need to empower the people in improving their conditions and in managing their material and non-material resources. Succinctly, PA 21 emphasizes that development must be area-based, that people and integrity of nature be at the core of development initiatives, and that localization is imperative in all development efforts (NEDA).

In order to concretize PA 21, the Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD) framework was conceived as a blueprint for localization. The SIAD framework defines poverty eradication as the topmost goal of area-based development initiatives, which requires multidimensional efforts. Efforts are multidimensional as development is multidimensional. The Davao Medical School Foundation Institute of Primary Health Care (DMSF-IPHC) has crafted an organizational-based framework of concretizing SIAD, which is the SICHaD (Sustainable Integrated Community Health and Development). The SICHaD delineates the core competencies of the IPHC as an organization that includes securing LGU participation and support in project development (participatory local governance), formation of organized groups (Pos/EBDCs), facilitating community-managed health care, and provision of livelihood assistance. These competencies are considered strategies of the

IPHC in working with the communities toward a multidimensional, area-based, and sustainable development (Primer on SICHAD, IPHC). Thus, the SICHAD integrates the SIAD and the IPHC's organizational strengths.

Inspired by the SIAD framework with SICHAD as an organizational-based framework, and a dedication to positive change, with the support of the Asian Health Institute (AHI) in Japan, the IPHC has been assisting the SIAD initiatives of the barangays in the municipality of New Corella in the Province of Davao del Norte, the Philippines. Since the year 1999, a number of capacity building activities have been implemented by IPHC in order to provide the barangays with knowledge and skills in SIAD. Even though much has been done, evidence-based assessments are imperative in understanding IPHC's and AHI's works on advocating SIAD to New Corella as well as the experiences of New Corella with SIAD. This study has been conceptualized as a response to the need to generate evidence-based assessments about SIAD, its integration and implementation, in the context of New Corella.

Objectives of the Study

Generally, this study seeks to describe the integration and implementation of SIAD in the barangays of New Corella, Davao del Norte. Specifically, this study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. What were the continuities and discontinuities between the municipal-level and barangay-level SIAD?
2. How did the barangays develop their programs in relation to the SIAD framework?

**Editor's Note: Dr. Sabado and his team was commissioned by IPHC to conduct the SIAD assessment study in June 2010.*

3. Who have been the stakeholders of the programs of the barangays?
4. What is the extent of harmonization between municipal and barangay programs?
5. From the different barangay programs, what have been the opportunities provided to the local leaders and the members of the community?
6. What have been the outcomes of the different barangay programs?
7. What have been the best practices of the barangays in the development and implementation of the programs?
8. What mechanisms (initiatives) have been installed to ensure sustainability of the different barangay programs?

Survey of Literatures

On Agenda 21

The Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992 signaled a significant shift in paradigm and commitment in the global community. This summit, attended by more than 160 countries, sealed a global commitment to work towards sustainable development as embodied in Agenda 21. The agenda stand for the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Statement of Principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests. The intent of Agenda 21 is clearly to harmonize efforts for and of development in the context of the challenges of a globalizing world and its implications to environment and society (http://www.cadi.ph/philippine_agenda_21.htm). Specifically, Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action that has a global, national and local character and can be implemented by organizations of the United Nations System, Governments, and Major Groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment (<http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/>).

On Philippine Agenda 21

PA21 was produced under the guidance and supervision of the Philippine Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), Office of the President. The PCSD was created by then President Ramos to ensure that all government undertakings are consistent and coherent with the international Agenda 21 commitments the Philippine government forged at the Earth Summit in Rio. The number “21” in the Agenda

21 stands for the twenty first (21st) century. With this document, the Philippine government, with prodding from civil society, made it clear that it does not intend to pursue a trickle down approach to development. It also agrees with civil society that the Philippines rejects a “grow now, pay later” approach.

Philippine Agenda 21 envisions a better quality of life for all through the development of a just, moral, creative, spiritual, economically vibrant, caring, diverse yet cohesive society characterized by appropriate productivity, participatory and democratic processes, and living in harmony within the limits of the carrying capacity of nature and the integrity of creation. The short-lived Estrada Administration reaffirmed PA21 as the Philippine’s framework for sustainable development and issued Memorandum Order 47, which directed all local government units to localize PA21 through sustainable integrated area development or SIAD (http://www.cadi.ph/philippine_agenda_21.htm).

On the Sustainable Integrated Area Development (SIAD)

SIAD is the framework for localizing PA21 and sustainable development in the Philippines. To concretize PA21 and sustainable development a reality, SIAD approach takes nature as a point of origin. Recognizing the primacy of nature, SIAD takes into context the paramount import of the spirit and letter of PA21 (<http://www.cadi.ph/SIAD.htm>).

SIAD is respectful of existing planning processes and structures of LGUs. SIAD does not mean that LGUs have to initiate an overnight overhaul of all their planning processes. SIAD builds upon existing efforts of LGUs to eradicate poverty and to develop their local area and economy. SIAD offers local executives and planners a range of options as to how they may build upon existing initiatives as entry points to comprehensive sustainable development planning and implementation in line with Philippine Agenda 21

SIAD advocates a multi-dimensional approach to development. SIAD gives anti-poverty advocates a means to address, directly, systematically and in an integrated manner, the various factors causing poverty. As a response, PA21 and SIAD propose a multi-dimensional approach to development. This comprehensive

approach recognizes the value of strengthening non-economic factors in development to complement the macroeconomic policy and programs that are often the predominant focus of conventional development efforts (http://www.cadi.ph/SIAD_Poverty_Eradication.htm).

Methodology

This study is qualitative in type and is descriptive and exploratory in design. Being descriptive in design, reviews and recommendations provided in this study are plainly anchored on descriptive data. As respondents, the research objectives require coverage of five groups and these are the municipal officials, barangay officials, barangay residents, IPHC and AHI functionaries. Respondents from each group were purposively selected and participated either in KII or FGD sessions.

Data analysis consists of three phases. The different phases are the pre-analysis, formal analysis, and post-analysis. The Pre-analysis phase includes the writing of process notes or reflective field notes by the facilitator and documenter after each FGD or KII. On the other hand, the formal data analysis phase covers three stages, which are data organizing, data tagging, and thematic analysis. Post analysis includes data validation and review of data analysis.

Findings and Analysis

The SHIFT: Continuities and Discontinuities between the municipal-level and barangay-level SIAD

Informants identify the late 1990's as the starting period of DMSF's and AHI's SIAD project in the municipality of New Corella. They claim that the project was inspired by different yet intersecting objectives. Some informants identify the need to concretize the concept of participatory local governance (PLG) while others highlight the need to respond to pressing development issues such as poverty and uneven development. They think that the SIAD project addresses these development issues.

In relation to the rationale of the project (referring to SIAD Phase 1), informants have identified a number of project gains or achievements. Some of these are the formation of

an expanded MDC and BDC, formulation of the BDP, promotion of PLG, and creation of poverty reduction ordinances. Along with the gains of the project, informants were also asked regarding the challenges and/or failures. It can be supposed that these failures are more of social and/or relational in nature rather than attributable to the nature of the project. For instance, some informants believe that some SB members failed to understand the SIAD process, thus, hindering the mayor to sign the contract for another phase.

Informants explain that the failure to renew the project was one of the reasons for the shift from the first to the second phase of the SIAD project in New Corella. The main difference between the two phases is in terms of project entry-point. The first phase has the municipality as the project entry-point while in the second phase it is the barangay.

Program Development Process and the SIAD: Experiences of the Barangays

Informants typically cite construction of centers, improvements in barangay facilities, construction of schools, and farm-to-market roads as SIAD related programs. However, in the context of the different dimensions of development, it is impossible to rigidly categorize these infrastructure related programs under a single dimension because they individually cater to the realization of the different dimensions. Some informants cite SEED financing, animal dispersal, sustainable agriculture, livelihood programs for BHWs, backyard gardening, barangay consultations, TAHO sa barangay, expansion of BDCs and passing of ordinances as SIAD related programs.

From the different programs identified, respondents were also asked to recall factors that were considered in the development of these programs. These identified factors can be categorized as political, economic, and social. For political factors, efforts geared towards inclusive and participatory development are noted. Economic factors are described in the context of efforts to strengthen economic opportunities through the SEED, animal dispersal and presence of cooperative. Under social factors, efforts aimed at bringing people together are identified. However, major themes along the lines of the seven dimensions reflect prior

assessments on the absence of the spiritual dimension. Amidst inclusion of the religious sector in the EBDC, this does not show creation as well as integration of initiatives aimed at spiritual development.

Program Stakeholders

Majority of the stakeholders identified by the respondents refer to key-leaders or personalities who occupy government positions. Among these are barangay leaders, purok leaders, representatives of line agencies, officials from the municipal-level as well as the provincial-level. In the SIAD, these stakeholders constitute the polity. Many informants also cite the people or community residents as stakeholders themselves. The participation of the people and their organizations and sector-based groups point to the engagement of the civil society. Nonetheless, the seeming absence of the business (economy) sector calls for the need to engage the said sector. The SIAD framework clearly espoused the tri-sector model or the synergy of the polity, civil society and economy.

From the stakeholders identified, generally, stakeholders could be categorized into internal stakeholders and external stakeholders. Internal stakeholders consist of the barangay council, which some informants describe as the stirrer of development initiatives in the barangay, POs and sector representatives, BLGU-MLGU-PLGU, and the residents of the barangay. IPHC, AHI, and NGOs constitute the external stakeholders.

Extent of harmonization between municipal and barangay programs

Findings from key-informant interviews and focus groups reveal a different understanding of entry points or harmonization. It is something that informants associate to counter-parting. Literally, it is about counter-parting in terms of resources as inputs for a particular project. For instance, some informants recount their experiences before that the municipality required counterpart resources from the barangay for the construction of roads and other infrastructures. Though having counterparts from different levels of government may imply harmonization of resources, harmonization in the SIAD transcends counter-parting.

Opportunities provided to the local leaders and the members of the community

The SIAD seeks to empower local executives and communities through the provision of various opportunities, which are deemed necessary for their advancement. Noteworthy under opportunities provided for the local leaders-executives are seminars on various topics that are either attended by them or have been re-echoed to them. They describe these seminars as empowering as they were given new or additional knowledge and skills. Field trips as with seminars are also considered by informants as learning opportunities. Similarly, key-informants who are health workers cite skills-training sessions.

The outcomes of the different barangay programs

Informants were asked to share their thoughts on the outcomes of the SIAD in their respective barangays. Generally, informants believe that the SIAD has been very helpful to the barangay officials, residents and the community as a whole. Since they have acquired skills from the different capacity building exercises, they think that this has made them more motivated to work. Many informants, especially from the focus groups, share that due to the SIAD, their barangay leaders are more transparent in their process or dealings. Informants believe that the SIAD paved the way for more opportunities to the community.

The best practices of the barangays in the development and implementation of the programs

Best practices identified are made more comprehensible by the competency areas in the SIChAd. Informants were able to note a number of best practices under PLG. Among those that are commonly cited are taho sa barangay, conduct of purok consultations, involvement of POs, and the EBDC. Under community managed health, some informants highlight the benefits from the HIROTA FUND, which is still intact and available for loans to the BHWs. The BnB, on the other hand, is well-funded and a portion of its income goes to the BHW organization. Best practices such as animal dispersal, which majority of the infor-

mants have identified, construction of different facilities, and sustainable agriculture are categorized under economic and infrastructure. In the SICHaD this is worded as 'livelihood enhancement'.

Sustainability Mechanisms

Informants' thoughts regarding sustainability mechanisms highlight two important directions. The first direction refers to governance mechanisms while the second direction points to external support. Under governance mechanisms, informants see it as an imperative to continue the SIAD process. They consider legislative actions such as ordinances and resolutions as strategic in sustaining the SIAD. Majority of the informants also believe on the need to bolster active participation of different groups. In terms of external support, which is the second direction, some informants lament about the possibility of non-renewal of the SIAD program in their barangays. These informants believe that renewal of the program will sustain the SIAD process.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are advanced:

1. That IPHC will revisit efforts made in introducing the SIAD framework to the communities. This revisit may include an accounting of the inputs provided (knowledge and skills) to the communities especially to the leaders; understanding trainers' constructions and biases regarding the SIAD; review of program monitoring schemes and how these schemes have accounted

integration of the different dimensions; and a review of the SICHaD framework and the identification of possibilities where the presence of the other dimensions may be bolstered.

2. That IPHC will conduct SIAD (re)orientation to new as well as old members of the barangay council and the EBDC. This orientation is also an opportunity to revisit and clarify understandings of entry points from the perspective of the IPHC and the barangays.
3. Since the SIAD is about area-based or community-based development, it would be more appropriate if definition as well as indicators of best practice be conceptualized per barangay.

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CHAPTER 6

Reflections



Anak NC

Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC)

Asian Health Institute (AHI)

Insights on SIAD

Joel Amita Quinanahan
ANAK – New Corella



I firmly believe that during Earth's creation God Almighty showed us a blueprint of an ideal state of development. A century ago New Corella was close to a perfect, balanced haven. It was a sacred place for the indigenous living in harmony with nature, 'til intrusion of modern evolution gradually spoiled its landscape.

I grew up in New Corella and witnessed firsthand how people behaved with their popular notion of progress. When I was in primary school I remember a teacher made us draw a picture how we want the future to look. Instinctively, I drew concrete roads, electric lines, high steel towers, plantations, cars, buildings and even flying planes.

What I dreamed of then came into being today. But now I have realized how vague and superficial that desire was. Yes, we have achieved so much growth vital to the economy, yet we have forgotten to nurture some very essential elements of life that God has taught us in His Creation – respect to human dignity, sustenance of life, rich ecosystems, pristine water and air.

I considered SIAD a blessing and an opportunity for New Corellans to collectively rectify our failures in the past and push for a brighter tomorrow thru providing venues for everyone to learn, participate, be heard and make decisions thereby becoming empowered in the process of molding their desired future – "*Vox populi, vox Dei*".

Generally people value SIAD because it is founded on truth and equity. But where there is goodness, evil also lurks—pride, greed over wealth, fame and power to name a few, and it has constantly challenged us, like-minded allies, to unite and bond as one critical mass.

SIAD, as a comprehensive strategy towards attaining a more balanced, sustainable development is our guiding torch in fulfilling our mission as God's stewards in gradually recreating paradise on earth. In that seemingly impossible dream and arduous process sometimes our enthusiasm wanes, yet endures. Why? Because I believe, it is the way of the righteous. It is worth the sacrifice.

IPHC Reflection on the SIAD New Corella Experience

SIAD Project Team and IPHC ManCom

IPHC is one of the few NGOs in Mindanao which implemented the SIAD process as an attempt to improve local governance and develop a sense of empowerment among the governed.

In 1999, we were so eager to learn from the experiences of those who were already implementing the SIAD process. Our benchmarking in Irosin and Iloilo was a stepping stone to our greater involvement with SIAD.

Excitement was all over everybody when we started to engage SIAD in New Corella, from being a member of the MTWG and in the frequent meetings of the MTWG. From Day One to the rest of the more than ten years that it was implemented, from the municipal level to the barangay level, the energy has not waned.

The twists and turns along the way challenged our skill in adapting and innovating to the specific conditions in New Corella. As they say, life is a continuing education, and New Corella, incidentally provided the one big classroom for learning, both for the advocates and for the local government implementers.

SIAD as a process

The implementation of the SIAD process in New Corella became our training ground in the field of participatory local governance:

- It allowed IPHC to have a more direct and deeper engagement with the LGU in the area of participatory local governance;
- It improved our competence in securing LGU participation and support for project planning, implementation and sustainability; and
- It developed our knowledge and skills in assisting the LGU to come up with a comprehensive plan using participatory process.

Despite the lack of KAS on Integrated Area Development (IAD), IPHC pursued its learning the SIAD process. As one Local Community Organizer has said “[Implementing SIAD] helped me strengthened my resolve to learn the ropes for my assigned barangay” while another also said “my community organizing skills have improved a lot and I have learned to deal with different people in the community”.

Sometimes, situations turned hard against the LCO, especially when some barangay residents initially were not willing to adopt to the process.

The Community-Based Development (CBD) program supported by our distant partner, the Asian Health Institute of Nagoya, Japan, and the other trainings conducted by IPHC prior to SIAD, facilitated the emergence of a critical mass in the municipality/ barangay, that served as frontline advocates of SIAD.

We observed, however, that the LGU could not seem to keep up with IPHC’s fast paced implementation of SIAD. While there were suggestions that LGU stakeholders, especially the Local Chief Executive (LCE), take the lead role, or SIAD should not be NGO-initiated like what IPHC did, more efforts had been exerted by IPHC just to keep SIAD going. We would have wanted the LGU to assume greater ownership of the SIAD process and show more political will.

Although there’s the consistent effort of IPHC to sustain the SIAD process by capacitating the local leaders, through exposure and training, still some local leaders failed to sustain the process due to influence of politics. Despite the limitation of the SIAD process over the years, IPHC was able to introduce mechanisms for the community BLGU such as EBDC, BMT and BCO. And results of the SIAD assessment served as basis to determine the specific intervention for the succeeding year.

Strengthening Partnerships

Building and strengthening partnerships are foremost in the SIAD process. In the 10 years of SIAD, it has partnered with local and international institutions (German Agro Action, Philippine Development Assistance Program-(PDAP-PRIME), PhilGer Funds, DOLE, Land Bank, MRDP to name a few) to support its implementation.

AHI's financial assistance was a big support to IPHC in initiating the SIAD process. However, the presence of a block fund to support the meeting of tangible gains through the implementation of community identified projects should have been an integral component. Such funds could be used to leverage for local or external resources. The municipal-initiated Poverty Alleviation and Development Program (PADRE), Hiruta livelihood funds and IPHC's SEED and Pabasak micro-lending program were big support. Resource mobilization should be intensified to respond to the 7 dimensions of sustainable development.

Traditional politicians remained resistant to transparent and accountable governance. Despite the efforts of the former mayor who was very supportive of SIAD, some members of the Sangguniang Bayan (SB) were not convinced in continuing the SIAD process at the municipal level. [Which means that a] change [in] leadership will affect the sustainability of the SIAD. IPHC was not that adept in dealing with local politics; it tried to be nonpartisan. But conflicting principles among some local politicians in the municipality and IPHC affected the SIAD implementation.

Results seen

Local and international exposure visits to New Corella boosted the confidence of IPHC staff. New Corella as an exposure area for DMSF community medicine and dentistry students facilitated access to health service. SIAD accomplishment was a big contribution to the achievement of IPHC's key result areas - participatory local governance, community managed health and livelihood enhancement. SIAD has greatly contributed to the concrete manifestation of IPHC development agenda of holistic development.

Overall, the SIAD experience of New Corella made IPHC became more relevant in meeting CSO/NGO role in the Philippine Local Government Code. IPHC was acknowledged as credible advocate of SIAD. It became known and popular among the NGO community in terms of IAD.

It has also enhanced IPHC's capacity to host international workshop as well as local groups from other regions of Mindanao. New Corella became a learning venue for participatory governance, health and livelihood. IPHC's expertise in Barangay Development Plan (BDP) formulation opened the opportunity to provide BDP consultancy services to the LGUs.

The SIAD New Corella experience has proven that low input project is not a hindrance in achieving high impact results. While IPHC implementation of the SIAD process seemed faster than the municipal leaders could catch up with, a point person designated by the municipal government made the process a whole lot easier.

New Corella as a SIAD Learning Site

IPHC believed that even though SIAD is "phasing-out", IPHC will still continue to advocate IAD in its community development programs. The gains of SIAD should be sustained and strengthened by the local government leaders themselves and the pitfalls should serve as careful points. It is for the people in the communities and leaders of the barangays and the municipality to share their experience with others.

New Corella will be a learning site not only for SIAD but also for other community-based projects. IPHC will continue to promote New Corella as exposure site of students, leaders of People's Organizations (PO), as well as development workers of government institutions in the field of participatory local governance, community-managed health and livelihood enhancement.

Lessons Learned

In implementing any development programs and projects, such as SIAD, it should be noted that Community Organizing (CO) would be a very important and crucial element. In the SIAD process, the presence of Local Com-

munity Organizers and the institutionalization of the Barangay Community Organizer (BCOs) have proved effective in reaching the remote communities, raising their consciousness as well as getting the marginalized basic sectors (farmers, women, indigenous peoples, volunteer health workers) participate in community activities. Their presence ensured the active participation of the community in the SAPIME of their prioritized needs.

The CO process revived the spirit of volunteerism because resources of the barangays were inadequate to meet community needs. Sometimes, however, SIAD implementers may turn leader-centered rather than people-centered, as they assumed that they were expected to immediately achieve significant leap or instant change in their assigned barangays. A regular monitoring and evaluation would check on this.

It should be noted that by engaging on a collective struggle for empowerment proved more sustainable.

The SIAD, or any other development programs and projects, should be better implemented by the localities themselves. In the case of SIAD, it was IPCH that took the lead. While significant impact was already observed in the management style, it was in the barangay-based implementation of the SIAD that saw a wider improvement in terms of micro-governance and community empowerment, when many community leaders gradually embraced it with the sense of ownership, as NGOs and LGUs only assisted them.

The barangay indicators formulated by the members of the Expanded Barangay Development Council (EBDC) were more realistic, suitable and data worthy. These became their yardstick to measure their accomplishments.

Thus, identifying SIAD advocates (CBD/ILDC trained) within the LGU facilitated the integration of the SIAD process at the municipal and barangay level. They became the front advocates because they were more familiar

with the community issues and concerns.

To ensure a better SIAD implementation, a multi-stakeholders participation should be strengthened. The civil society organizations such as the Anak NC (association of development workers in New Corella most of whom are CBD trained), BHW Federation, Municipal Sustainable Agriculture Farmers Association (MSAFA), among others, should take on their role as an active partner of the LGU in community governance and development. Getting the participation of the local business sector as partners in development was also challenging especially among those involved in micro-enterprises.

New Corella became a "Galing Pook" awardee because they have demonstrated that despite a low input project high impact results were seen and felt at the household and community level. Local resources were mobilized and counterparting became a practice.

As agreed in the 2011 SIAD Annual Assessment, the core group from within the Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) committed to ensure the continuity of the SIAD process at the municipal and barangay level. The AHI-assisted Healthy Lifestyle Program (HLSP) can be a venue for IPHC to provide technical and mentoring assistance to those groups in assuming the role of being the overseer of the SIAD process.

A strong local and international partnership would also be an important component. The 25 years of AHI-IPHC partnership have lasted because of trust, mutual respect and common vision to serve the community. Although AHI was not fully immersed in the SIAD process due to distance, an open communication was practiced. The presence of a MOU facilitated the clear understanding of the roles and expectations of each partner. IPHC's local experience of participatory local governance was complemented by the global perspective from AHI. Both agreed that a more strategic LGU advocacy plan (at the municipal and provincial level) is needed when working with the LGU.

Walking Together Toward Participatory Local Governance: Our Role as a Distant Partner of New Corella



UI Shiori

International Program/Training Coordinator
AHI

Jumping into a Community Project

AHI started its first collaborative work in the Philippines in 1983. Our partner IPHC organized training courses for health and development workers. Participants came from all over the Philippines, and later more from Mindanao. Many workers, NGOs and their partners, learned through training at IPHC and returned to their fields with stronger networks and clearer leadership skills.

In the mid 1990s, along with expanding training and follow up activities, AHI reviewed and evaluated our training programs. AHI and our financial supporters wanted to find out the impact of AHI's training courses on people's health and lives, especially among the marginalized. In other words, we wanted to test the relevance of our on-going training activities.

One of the main implications of the evaluation was that our training could have a greater impact on people's health in a context of participatory local governance, a trend emerging in various Asian countries including Japan. At the same time, in the late 1990s, IPHC was considering introducing the SIAD framework in its community work, to promote participatory local governance for sustainable development. AHI was enthusiastic to collaborate with IPHC on SIAD to investigate the following key questions:

- How can our human resource development activities contribute to participatory local governance with active people's participation?
- How can participatory local governance with active people's participation contribute to improving people's health and lives

After thorough consultations with IPHC, the Municipality of New Corella was selected as a locality to try out SIAD. Through a series of internal consultations, AHI decided to get involved in a specific community for a long term project. As the first time to move beyond training activities, this was an epoch making decision for AHI.

Walking together on a Road with Ups and Downs: AHI's Role as a Distant Partner

The eleven-year process of SIAD was a joint journey towards our common vision, with both joys and struggles. From the beginning, AHI sent our staff, board members and supporters to New Corella for short periods to understand the local situation, get to know community people, and monitor progress.

This was AHI's first experience as a partner implementing a field-based project, and we were forced to think carefully about what we could offer to our partners in and near the field. Aside from contributing financially and provid-

ing learning opportunities to key persons, we continually questioned our roles as a physically distant partner.

Over the course of the SIAD project, we identified four key roles: 1) raising critical questions and comments; 2) providing strategic advocacy from an early stage; 3) supporting experience sharing opportunities; and 4) linking people and resources between Japan and the Philippines. The following section summarizes our reflections on these roles and challenges for the future.

1 Raising Critical Questions Through Regular Dialogue

To ensure regular monitoring, AHI arranged regular, relatively long visits by staff, and visits by staff and board members at the time of key events and evaluations. Making use of our distance from the day to day work in New Corella, we raised critical questions and reminded our frontline partners of key long term issues. For example, we repeatedly raised issues of participation by marginalized groups, sustainability of the SIAD process and shifting roles of community leaders and staff of support organizations, attention to health impact, and evaluation as part of the SIAD learning process.

Of course, decision making was primarily in the hands of the local people in New Corella and IPHC, so we did our best to respect their priorities and pace. However, frontliners are often fully occupied with implementing project activities. It was our role to complement those efforts by raising critical questions, reminding everyone to check our compass toward our common goal.

2 Strategic Advocacy from an Early Stage

Things seemed to be going on smoothly until the fifth year of the project, when the municipal government suddenly discontinued its involvement. A core group of New Corella residents promoting SIAD held a series of deep discussions together with the local partner IPHC. As a partner, AHI also discussed gravely what would happen if the SIAD project stopped halfway through the planned term. We were heartened when 16 out of 20 New Corella village communities decided to continue the

SIAD process with their own initiatives. Facing crisis, key stakeholders initiated a new phase of SIAD, at village government level.

AHI reflected that it should have taken the lead in incorporating strategic advocacy to higher level government leaders and organizations from an early stage of the project. While local community and organizations advocated successfully at village level, as a foreign organization, AHI may have been better placed to advocate at different levels. Identifying and fulfilling our roles in strategic advocacy remains a challenge for future efforts.

3 Supporting Opportunities to Share Project Experiences and Encouraging Documentation

One unforgettable event of the SIAD project was in 2006 when New Corella hosted an international workshop on the theme of participatory area development. This was AHI's first experience of co-hosting an international workshop with such strong leadership from the field community, and it was the first time for New Corella to host so many overseas visitors.

Twenty-five practitioners of local governance from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Cambodia, Japan and the Philippines, selected through AHI's network, visited and stayed in New Corella to learn from the SIAD experiences. New Corella offered very stimulating insights, much admired by the visitors. The workshop also raised local recognition of SIAD in New Corella, and local participants were highly motivated by the visitors' comments. IPHC and AHI felt extremely proud of our partner community. We confirmed our belief that SIAD in New Corella was a valuable pioneer project, not only within the Philippines but also internationally. This joint event also further strengthened our tripartite partnership.

Co-hosting this workshop convinced us that one of AHI's roles as a distant partner is to maximize our strength – our Asia-wide network of health and development workers – to support opportunities to share project experiences. In order to share widely, experiences must be documented. AHI should further support monitoring and documentation by local people, focusing not only on concrete impact but also on the processes of how things change

and can be changed. Although AHI is physically distant from New Corella and has limited knowledge of local language and culture, we too can contribute by documenting concrete episodes and our observations/ assessments from our outsider's point of view.

4 Linking People and Resources between Philippines and Japan

As many AHI supporting members visited New Corella and key persons from New Corella visited Japan to participate in AHI's international training, many personal linkages developed, and some AHI supporters wished to offer resources and technical assistance to New Corella. For example, one fund was set up to support income generating activities by health volunteers and organic farmers, and research and health education were conducted in collaboration with Japanese dentists and nurses. Other Japanese student groups were introduced to IPHC and New Corella for exposure visits. We carefully facilitated such linkages to make sure that any new inputs and linkages from Japan would complement and enhance the SIAD process and the self reliance of community people.

AHI consciously tried to link community people in the Philippines and Japan in issues of participatory local governance. We organized forums in Japan inviting training course participants from New Corella to share their experiences with Japanese people interested in similar issues. In many cases, we realized we Japanese communities and workers need to learn more from New Corella's sustainable participatory strategies, including transparency mechanisms such as regular community reports and consultations, innovation building on existing systems, capacity building of a wide range of people, and mobilizing resources to run activities even when higher government support is reduced. "Participatory local governance" has become a key term linking Japanese and Filipinos and has helped AHI clarify its own roles in Japanese communities. Supporting SIAD in New Corella has honed AHI's capacity to build linkages and enriched AHI's local Japanese society.

New Corella as "Our Community"

Working with a certain community for a long period has created special intimacy between AHI and New Corella. Going through joys and struggles together, New Corella has become "our community" as: 1) a reference community in our work, and 2) a community commonly known and discussed by the AHI members.

First of all, long term involvement in a specific community site has helped AHI better understand the concerns and struggles of frontline workers and community people. As much as Nisshin City where AHI is located, New Corella now serves as AHI's reference community to return to and reflect on, enhancing our understanding of other communities. New Corella SIAD is "our own real case" of participatory development and participatory local governance. Further, AHI was able to collaborate with various people/groups at the grassroots and in government, as well as our usual partners, NGO workers. This interaction has been invaluable in deepening our understanding and improving AHI's activities such as the international training course.

Secondly, more than any other AHI project New Corella SIAD has stimulated a wide range of AHI staff, supporters, and board members to get involved, and this common involvement has strengthened AHI as an organization. Despite our limited resources, AHI has prioritized sending staff and AHI community to New Corella and sharing experiences there. We know the names and faces of the same individuals in New Corella, as if it were our relatives' community. Our shared long-term commitment to SIAD in New Corella has increased the sense of ownership among AHI stakeholders and strengthened AHI as an organization. .

Contributing to Participatory Local Governance through Human Resource Development

AHI's main activity is developing human resources in community health through running participatory training courses. But to have a greater impact on community health and development, especially among marginalized groups, our training participants need participa-

tory local governance systems to support their work. Although we have no formal analysis of the mechanisms, our experiences in the New Corella SIAD process showed us one way to link AHI's training programs to participatory local governance. We also saw how a wide range of people from various positions and sectors raise voices in deciding matters related to their lives. Health issues were actively discussed beyond the health sector.

Since the SIAD started, IPHC and AHI focused on human resource development as a base and core for sustainable local governance. We supported various learning opportunities, formal and informal, for community leaders in various fields. IPHC and AHI prioritized participation by key persons from New Corella in our training programs held in the Philippines and overseas. They critically analyzed their SIAD process and shared experiences with other participants. They sought out hints from other workers and brought them home to strengthen ongoing activities and strategies.

Training participants shared their new learnings and skills back in New Corella and encouraged others to join in those learning opportunities. So, year by year, more and more people in New Corella gained a common vision and necessary skills, creating a rich group of SIAD leaders throughout the municipality, all thinking "I am a core person of SIAD in my community. I must be there to play my role in the SIAD process." New Corella's human resources were growing, from a seedling, to a tree, to a forest.

When an AHI team visited in early 2010 to join an annual evaluation meeting, some village leaders mentioned they wanted to make

this SIAD participatory management process a local "tradition," that is a natural part of everyday community life, not as an obligation but as something people enjoy. "Even though the name SIAD will be phased out, the core principles will be continued. From AHI's perspective, the widened circle of local leaders who share such aspirations is the most valuable resource of New Corella, a product of our eleven years' collaboration on SIAD. Through this long-term community involvement, AHI reconfirmed the importance of leadership development.

AHI's Role in Post SIAD

Various sustainability mechanisms have been installed, in terms of systems and human resources. Transparency, participation in decision making, and grassroots leadership have all clearly increased through SIAD. Now the issue is how they are sustained or further developed after inputs and assistance from IPHC and AHI are phased out. All three partners felt the need for some kind of monitoring and follow-up support after the SIAD Project ended.

In consultation with New Corella core persons and IPHC, AHI decided to continue our involvement with the community through a very small-scale health promotion project, more directly with a local group in New Corella, the majority of them graduates of IPHC and AHI training courses. Together with this group AHI will monitor how the basis established through SIAD is sustained and utilized in this specific project. In the coming new phase of partnership, AHI pledges to grow further as a distant but committed partner, based on lessons learned from the SIAD project.

