



EQuALLS PHASE 2



**Quarterly Report
April – June 2007**

Submitted to USAID Philippines

by

Education Development Center, Inc.

August 2007

**In accordance with
Cooperative Agreement No. 492-A-00-06-00024-00**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Introduction**

- II. RFA Development**

- III. Sub-grants Management**
 - A. Sub-grants with Save the Children and Real World Productions**
 - B. Center for Educational Measurement, Inc. (CEM)
Purchase Order**

- IV. Continuation Activities**
 - A. Alternative Learning Systems**
 - B. Search Institute**

- V. Donor Coordination and Collaboration with the Australia-funded
Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM) project**

- VI. Monitoring and Evaluation**
 - A. Meeting with USAID's Office of Education**
 - B. Meeting with Save the Children**

- VII. Outreach and Communications**

- VIII. Project Operations**
 - A. Staffing**
 - B. Technical Assistance from EDC's Home Office**
 - C. New Office**

- IX. Look Ahead to Next Quarter**

Annexes

I. Introduction

The EQuALLS2 project quarter, April through June 2007, included the following highlight activities by month.

Month	Priority Activities
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Submit January-March 2007 Quarterly Report▪ Visit from EDC Project Manager, Nancy Devine▪ RFA Release▪ Launch EQuALLS2 Website
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Selection of Security Firm▪ Continuing consultations with DepEd and DepEd ARMM on EQuALLS2 and RFA directions;▪ EDC TA from Dr. John Comings▪ Initial TA to BALS: Action Research, IM quality improvement▪ ALS Service Provider Contract Extension for NDMU▪ BEAM/EQuALLS post teacher training activity assessment▪ Hire additional program and grants management staff
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review RFA Applications▪ David James Wilson visit focused on Search Institute DAP Tool▪ Draft year-2 Work Plan

II. RFA Development

The EQuALLS2 Project Manager, Nancy Devine, traveled to Manila from EDC's home office for two weeks in April to consult with USAID and work with the local team to complete EDC's Request for Applications. Ms. Devine and the CoP, Bill Potter, met with the OEd CTO, Tom Kral and USAID contracts officer, Ray Edler on April 11th to clarify final RFA related issues.

The RFA was released on April 20th and solicited eligible organizations wishing to partner with EDC in implementing the EQuALLS2 core set of interventions as defined in the Project Description. Interested organizations were requested to detail (i) their interest, (ii) demonstrated organizational, technical, and managerial capacity, (iii) direct or related Mindanao experience, (iv) ideas for innovation, (v) commitment to collaborative program implementation and (vi) capacity to leverage public-private sector resources. Seven geographic clusters were identified for implementation, and applicants were requested to identify their preferred geographic clusters with an associated cost proposal.¹

The deadline for interested organization to submit applications was June 1, 2007. EDC organized a technical review panel involving senior program and grants management

¹ This is paraphrased from page 2 of EDC's Request for Applications (RFA), released on April 20, 2007.

staff. On June 12th, EDC met with USAID to clarify the content of the Neg-memo which was subsequently prepared and submitted to USAID on June 22nd.

III. Sub-grants Management

A. Subgrants with Save the Children and Real World Productions

EDC program staff conducted coordination meetings with its sub grantees Save the Children and Real World Productions during the quarter, including a careful review of technical and financial feedback provided to each on their quarterly accomplishment reports. EDC has developed a common reporting template to be used by its sub grantees when producing quarterly reports.

The quarterly reports for the period April – June 2007 for both Save the Children and Real World Productions are attached in annex 1.

B. Center for Education Management, Inc. (CEM) Purchase Order

As reported in last quarter's report, EDC commissioned the Center for Education Management to determine the degree of change in the mathematics and English proficiency levels of teachers who had undergone EQuALLS sponsored English and mathematics training programs. CEM used the following tools to conduct post-test exercises with 1,900 sample teacher who had participated in the pre-test.

- Scholastic Reading Inventory and Fluency Assessment Tools
- CEM mathematics Diagnostic Test for Grade 6 Students (CMDT – G6)

CEM presented its findings to OEd and the EQuALLS implementing partners at the EDC office in Makati on June 4, 2007. The English reading comprehension diagnostic assessment result showed that:

- Approximately half of the teachers evaluated showed increases in grade level equivalents in reading comprehension scores and overall change was significant in all teacher-groups evaluated
- Sixty three (63 %) of the teacher-samples still had scores below Grade 6 level;
- Teacher mentors maintained relatively higher scores than the mentees;

Concerning math, 300 teachers took both the pre- and post-tests in CMDT-G6 (math) tests with the following results:

- The teacher sample mean score increased slightly from 44 % to 48 % but was still far below the prescribed 75 % percent passing mark;
- The content area of Number Theory remained a particularly weak area among the teacher-samples. Specifically, the teacher-samples demonstrated inadequate skills in division of numbers, identifying prime numbers, enumerating factors of

given numbers, determining the greatest common factor, least common multiples and the prime factors of numbers.

EDC was invited to present the overall pre test and post test results with conclusions and recommendations, to the National Academy of Science and Technology on June 15, 2007. The presentation was made by EDC's technical specialist Ms. Ina Aquino, a copy of which is included as annex 2.

IV. Continuation Activities

A. Alternative Learning Systems (ALS)

EDC responded to the request of DepED-BALS Director Carolina Guerrero, for a Technical Assistance (TA) on the following areas: (i) revision of the Accreditation and Equivalency Test; (ii) action research aimed at developing and field testing an instructional quality improvement training component for Instructional Managers; and (iii) conduct of a Literacy Survey.

On May 14-18, 2007, EDC through the EQUIP 3 commissioned Dr. John Comings to facilitate a series of discussions and a workshop involving senior staff from the BALS at the central office, Alternative Learning System (ALS) coordinators from regions 9, 12 and ARMM, EQUALLS implementing partner from NDMU and EDC staff. Dr. Comings also discussed the proposed case study on the Philippines ALS model for an international audience, to be covered under EQUIP 3.

Based on the outputs of the discussions, Dr. Comings presented the following recommendations to Director Guerrero: (i) that the revisions on the A & E test should focus on measuring the achievements of the core competencies rather than as a test of the general skills and knowledge equivalent to those of a secondary school graduate; (ii) that a training support for IMs be developed that will serve as a continuous improvement program with BALS providing technical guidance; and (iii) for the Literacy Survey, BALS may consider the Literacy Assessment Monitoring Programme (LAMP) developed by UNESCO.

The EQUIP3 case study will describe the ALS components; identify outcomes (the skills and knowledge learned) and impact (the positive life changes that result from acquiring new skills and knowledge) reported by the participants and other stakeholders; measure outcomes and relate outcomes to design features of the different components. The study will also develop in-depth descriptions of ALS community learning centers in selected barangays.

Findings, recommendations and suggested next steps were presented technical memorandum by Dr. Comings, now attached as annex 3.

B. Search Institute

During the first week of June, Mr. Art Sesma from the Search Institute visited the EQuALLS2 program, under the auspices of EQUIP3. Mr. Sesma was accompanied by EDC's OSCY technical advisor, Mr. David James-Wilson and together they organized a joint field activity in Mindanao, to test the Search Institute's Development Assets Profile (DAP) tool, as part of EDC's year 1 learning agenda. The objectives for the field activity were four fold:

(i) Orient the Search Institute to the Field Level Realities of EQuALLS2 in

Mindanao – EQuALLS2 is interested in working with the Search Institute to explore the possibility of integrating the Developmental Assets Profile (DAP) tool into EQuALLS2 programming for in and out-of-school youth. A first step is to determine the: (a) cultural relevance, (b) reliability, and (c) validity of the DAP within the context of EQuALLS2 work with in and out of school youth in Mindanao. Since the Search Institute has not been active in the Philippines before, it was judged to be essential to provide a direct orientation to the community and institutional contexts in which EQuALLS2 works.

(ii) Test the Overall Cultural Relevance of Search's 40 Assets Model and Tools –

While EDC, and EQUIP3's senior technical staff, have a growing field level experience base with the Search Institute's 40 Asset model and DAP tools (in countries as diverse as Uganda, Jamaica, India, Tajikistan, Bolivia, and Morocco) it is deemed important to test the overall cultural relevance of the 40 Asset Model and the DAP and other Tools with the Mindanao setting.

(iii) Engage Some Key EQuALLS Stakeholders in Field Testing the DAP

Instrument – During last year's Island Cove2 workshop there was an expressed interest among a number of EQuALLS2 stakeholders (especially from DepEd) to capture the impact of participation in education beyond results on standardized academic tests. Principals (and ALS center directors) understand that in a post conflict (or ongoing conflict) environment, participation in education programming provides essential opportunities to develop supportive relationships, enhance community engagement, improve social skills, foster increased educational commitment and develop a more positive view of the future. The DAP tools (and others from Search Institute) are designed to track just these kinds of results with a fairly simple to use set of tools – and can be used in both in school and out of school contexts. The DAP can be used for monitoring work by educational stakeholders and for evaluation purposes as well. It is a good baseline tool, and can be used in experimental design settings as needed. It is essential, nonetheless, to engage a range of EQuALLS 2 stakeholders in determining for themselves the opportunities the DAP may offer – while at the same time surfacing any limitations that might need to be addressed or overcome.

(iv) Plan for Next Steps with the Search Institute – A final objective for this joint field activity was to work with Search Institute to determine the reliability and validity of the DAP within the context of EQuALLS2's ongoing work.

A series of focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted on June 4 -7, 2007 in Midsayap, involving 105 in-school and out of school youth aged 10-18 including parents and barangay officials. The FGDs were conducted in four locations, namely: San Ysidro School, Barangay Sadaan, Barangay Central Glad and Barangay Poblacion. A wide scale profiling of Mindanao youth will be conducted in the next months to establish baseline data on the needs to improve community engagement skills, educational commitment and developing a more positive view of the future among Mindanao youth.

V. Donor Coordination and Collaboration with Australia-funded Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM) project

EQuALLS-BEAM Summer INSET Program

As reported in the previous quarterly report (January – March 2007), EDC coordinated closely with BEAM to undertake a joint program to train all Grade 1 and 2 teachers in the ARMM on beginning reading. Following a ToT activity conducted last quarter, the EQuALLS-BEAM In-Service Training for Teachers in the ARMM was conducted from April 9 – May 10, 2007 including approximately 3,100 Grades 1 and 2 teachers and 1,000 heads of schools coming 1,380 schools in 9 divisions of ARMM. The 4-day training course had a major focus on strengthening the capacity of the teachers to teach beginning reading.

BEAM used its program support systems to conduct preparatory activities to include the selection of the participants, setting of schedules and venues for the simultaneous conduct of the training activities in 63 venues. EDC provided the technical inputs and modules on beginning reading (developed in NEPP) and trained 22 trainers on this topic. The trainers were subsequently deployed to all of the venues.

EQuALLS2 technical staff were present all throughout the training in all venues providing technical support to the trainers, in some areas pitching in as trainers when the trainers were not able to properly deliver some parts of the training topic.

During an activity review meeting held on May 24th between EQuALLS2 and BEAM staff the highlights from this cross-donor project collaboration were cited as follows:

- The activity demonstrated to DepEd ARMM officials and teachers that we are not competing programs but that we are committed to collaboration, coordination, and complementation on the ground and leading to common teaching practices inside the classroom;
- The activity fostered greater respect for each project's strengths: EQuALLS2 for the demonstrated technical leadership on beginning reading as well as the full technical support during the actual training on the ground and BEAM for the

systems developed over the years including being able to mobilize the DepEd Officials to ensure support

The next step will be to develop a one year school-based reading program with 18 schools (two formal schools and one madrasah per division) in the ARMM to pilot the best of the BEAM and EQuALLS systems. EQuALLS will take the technical leadership in this facet of the program and will apply our National English Proficiency Program experience.

Madrasah Program

One of the collaborative activities that we agreed to with BEAM is to work towards joint program support to madrasah education in ARMM to initially include a survey of madaris in ARMM. In June, DepEd ARMM submitted the proposal “*Survey of Madaris in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*”. A workshop with DepEd ARMM is planned on July 26-27, 2007 to refine the proposal and plan for its implementation.

VI. Monitoring and Evaluation

A. Meeting with OEd

The EQuALLS2 Monitoring and Evaluation indicators were reviewed and discussed in detail with Mr. Tom Kral and Ms. Beth Fontanoza at a meeting held at the EDC office on May 24, 2007. It was agreed that the phase 2 targets will be derived from the cumulative EQuALLS targets less actual accomplishments in phase 1. The baseline school year for phase 2 shall be 2006-2007. And OEd expressed possible reconsideration of the following indicators:

Outcome Indicator	Proposed Targets, phase 2	Revised Target
1. Number of education stakeholder groups increasing governance, management and advocacy skills	At least 60% of the stakeholder groups assisted by the project	At least 50%
2. Number of OSCY improving their basic education competencies	70% of the 120,000 OSCY	50% of the 120,000 OSCY
3. Number of OSCY using new and/or improved livelihood skills	69,600 or 80% OF OSCY from categories 3.3 and 3.4 (OSCY improving basic education and OSCY improving livelihood skills)	3,000 or 60% of OSCY only in category 3.4 (OSCY improving livelihood skills)
4. Number of workforce	(To be determined)	18 (25 initiatives less 7

development initiatives		accomplished in Phase 1)
5. Increase in capacity of IMs to deliver ALS	(To be determined)	Consult with BALS Director

It was also noted that the overall target of 1.8 million textbooks and other learning materials target are to be accomplished by Brothers Brothers Foundation before the end of their grant with USAID in September 2007. Hence, a phase 2 target will be established in accordance with the design of the eventual materials and technology RFA to be released by EDC.

EDC also informed the OEd of its recent discussion with Save the Children on piloting the M&E strategic framework for Phase 2 in their on-going scope of work. Save the Children agreed to already collect and report project progress in accordance with the outcome indicators and the reporting formats.

B. Meeting with Save the Children

On May 18, 2007, EDC and Save the Children conducted a discussion on the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategic Plan for EQUALLS Phase 2. The discussion established a common understanding of the EQ2 M&E Framework and in particular the Project Accountability (Strand 2). EDC and Save the Children agreed on data collection protocols, and progress reporting protocols. Save the Children agreed to model the M&E framework which will be integrated in core activities as part of the Learning Agenda. Save the Children also agreed to use the suggested Quarterly Reporting Format which include reporting of cumulative program accomplishments and financial disbursements. EDC also took note of the existing tracking system of Save the Children for OSCYs participating in various basic literacy and livelihood programs. The said system will be useful for determining the actual impact of the trainings availed by an OSCY under EQUALLS phase 2.

VII. Outreach & Communications

During the quarter, the Outreach and Communications team made excellent progress on developing the following EQUALLS communication products (samples included in annex 4):

- **EQuALLS Kit** - Produced EQuALLS kit composed of box, folder, cd cover, profile pages of EQuALLS and 7 current implementing partners
- **Project Website** – Completed development of the EQuALLS web site, making it 100% functional
- **Press Releases**
 - 4 news release published in 1 Mindanao paper

- 1 full-page feature story (EQuALLS PR) printed in Manila Bulletin
 - 1 full-page feature story printed in Philippine Daily Inquirer (through newspaper columnist)
 - 3 photo releases published in 2 Mindanao papers
 - 2 full-page feature stories each published in 4 Mindanao dailies
 - Cover page story in EDC Updates
 - Regular contributions in EQUIP 3 Newsletter
- **Weekly Highlights for USAID**
 - 17 stories published out of 22 submitted
 - 17 photos published

VII. Project Operations

A. Staffing

EDC hired twelve (12) new personnel during the quarter, indicated in the chart below.

Full Time Staff

Position	Name	Location	Date of Hire
Area Coordinator - Lanao, Maguindanao & Sharif Kabunsuan	Aranez, Floriano	Cotabato	May 21, 2007
ALS Coordinator	Babon, Hilda	Cotabato	May 15, 2007
Communications Assistant	Bartulaba, Floreen	Zamboanga	May 3, 2007
Specialist, Community Support to Education	Delgra, Joy Emily	Cotabato	June 4, 2007
Area Coordinator – Sulu	Lim, Farouk	Zamboanga	May 21, 2007
Area Coordinator - Lanao, Maguindanao & Sharif Kabunsuan	Loreto, Rhoewena	Cotabato	May 21, 2007
Area Coordinator - North Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato & Cotabato City	Mokamad, Maria Theresa	Cotabato	May 21, 2007
Area Coordinator - North Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato & Cotabato	Protacio, Nethanel Joan	Cotabato	May 21, 2007

City			
Area Coordinator - Zamboanga del Norte Zamboanga Sibugay	Rivero, Ernesto	Zamboanga	May 21, 2007
Area Coordinator - Zamboanga del Sur Zamboanga City	Sebial, Melanie	Zamboanga	May 21, 2007
IT Coordinator	Valeros, Ryan	Manila	May 2, 2007
Area Coordinator - Basilan and Tawi-tawi	Wellms, William	Zamboanga	May 21, 2007

Staff orientation was held for the newly hired Area Coordinators team on May 22-24, focused on the following objectives:

- To orient Area Coordinators on the guiding principles, approach and strategies of EQuALLS2;
- To provide Area Coordinators with an in-depth understanding of the core EQuALLS2 interventions contributing to the achievement of project Intermediate Results;
- To guide Area Coordinators in the preparation of their quarterly work plan; and
- To orient Area Coordinators on EDC administrative and finance procedures and regulations.

EDC also extended the engagement of ten (10) short-term personnel under the direct implementation for NEPP, INSET, Math, IMPACT, and EASE/OHSS activities until May 15, 2007 to prepare the completion report.

B. Technical Assistance from EDC's Home Office in Newton, MA

The EDC Philippines staff continued to receive regular technical assistance from EDC's home office team as follows:

EDC Specialists	Technical Assistance Provided	Dates
Nancy Devine <i>Technical Specialist</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Met with ORP & OED to clarify RFA process to be managed by EDC ▪ Finalized RFA document ▪ Initiated Year 2 Strategic Planning 	April 9 - 18, 2007
Maureen Malley <i>International Business Manager</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reviewed financial management systems and application of QuickBooks with Manila, Cotabato, & Zamboanga finance officers 	April 8 - 18, 2007
John Comings <i>ALS Specialist</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conducted workshop with DepEd BALS focused on enhancing training and support for instructional managers. ▪ Reviewed A&E test design and provided technical feedback 	May 14 - 19, 2007

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (Scope detailed in report narrative above) 	
Brenda Bell <i>Technical Specialist</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participated in the RFA technical review panel ▪ Assisted team with Joint Implementation Planning ▪ Worked with CoP on Year 2 Plan ▪ Assisted to update the M&E document 	May 29 to June 11, 2007
David James Wilson <i>Technical Specialist</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-facilitated a field activity on the use of an adapted version of the Search Institutes Developmental Assets Profile tool for possible inclusion in EQuALLS 2. ▪ Assisted with Joint Implementation Planning design 	May 30 to June 9, 2007
Art Sesma <i>Search Institute</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Co-facilitated a field activity on the use of an adapted version of the Search Institutes Developmental Assets Profile tool for possible inclusion in EQuALLS 2. 	May 30 to June 9, 2007

C. New Office

Director Luz Almeda of DepEd Region XII has recently provided an office space within the regional DepEd compound. The regional office in Marbel is aimed at providing quick response to its clients within the geographic coverage. EDC is currently setting up a workstation for the EDC Area Coordinator who will occupy the new office towards the end of June. A conference room will also be made available for project-related activities.

X. Look Ahead to Next Quarter

Priority activities for the coming quarter (July – September 2007) include the following.

Month	Priority Activities
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project Advisory Meeting ▪ Finalize ALS research design for EQUIP3 case study ▪ One-on-One meetings with new sub grant partners
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joint Planning Workshop with new sub grant partners ▪ Initial EQ2 meetings with Regional DepEd Directors ▪ Review sub grant work plans and budgets
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize sub grant agreements with lead partners ▪ Submit Year 2 Work Plan to USAID