



## **EQuALLS PHASE 2**



# **Quarterly Report July - September 2007**

**Submitted to USAID Philippines  
by  
Education Development Center, Inc.**

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## I. Introduction

EQuALLS2 highlights of activities for the period July through September 2007 include the following:

Month	Highlights
July	▪ EDC submission of RFA Negotiation Memo to USAID
	▪ Selection of EDC's 3 prospective sub-grantees
	▪ EQuALLS Project Advisory Committee meeting
August	▪ Joint Implementation Planning Workshop
	▪ DepEd BESRA Orientation
	▪ EQuALLS2 Orientation Meetings with DepEd Regions 9 and 12
	▪ EDC Community Engagement Specialist visit to Mindanao
September	▪ Review process of sub-grantee Work Plans and Budgets
	▪ Conduct of NEPP orientation for DepEd Administrators
	▪ Data build up for in-school M & E indicators
	▪ Project visibility through billboards and posters at airports

## II. RFA Development

### 1. Selection of EQuALLS2 Sub-Grantees.

EDC submitted to USAID a Negotiation Memo on June 11, 2007 documenting the process and subsequent results of the RFA application review and selection process which included the following sequential steps:

- a) Release of the EQuALLS2 Request for Application (RFA) document
- b) Response to clarifying questions from prospective applicants
- c) Receipt of 30 RFA applications
- d) Review and scoring of RFA applications
- e) Proposed sub-grantees submitted to USAID with suggested next steps.

USAID provided technical and cost comments in response to EDC's Negotiation Memo. Subsequent discussion with the USAID-Office of Education resulted in proposed geographic assignments for EDC's proposed sub-grantees as follows:

Sub-Grantee	Sites to be Covered
<b>Save the Children</b>	Salug, Siocon (Zamboanga del Norte) - Dinas, Margosatubig, San Miguel (Zamboanga del Sur) - Alicia, Malangas, Olutanga (Zamboanga Sibugay) Zamboanga City, Isabela City, Datu Piang, Datu Saudi Uy Ampatuan, Mamasapano (Maguindanao) - Luuk, Talipao (Sulu) - Midsayap (North Cotabato) - Lutayan (Sultan Kudarat)
<b>Synergeia Foundation</b>	Jolo, Siasi, Patikul (Sulu) - Ganassi, Kapatagan (Lanao del Sur) - Datu Paglas, Paglat (Maguindanao) - Upi, Buldon, Barira (Shariff Kabunsuan) - Marawi City

<b>IYF/ELSA</b>	Lantawan, Maluso (Basilan) - Bongao, Panglima Sugala (Tawi-Tawi) - Cotabato City, Pigkawayan, (North Cotabato) - Malapatan, (Sarangani) - Santo Niño, Tantaran, (South Cotabato) - Esperanza, Lambayong (Sultan Kudarat)
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**2. One-on-one Meetings** were conducted by EDC senior technical and finance team (which included the participation of EDC home office staff, Nancy Devine, Brenda Bell and David James Wilson) with each of its 3 prospective sub-grantees during the week of July 30 – August 3, 2007. The meetings focused on EDC providing technical guidance on core strategy elements and projected targets expected with implementation of the anticipated 4-year sub-grants.

**3. Joint Implementation Planning (JIP)**

EDC facilitated a three-day planning workshop on August 5-8, 2007 at the Eugenio Lopez Center, Antipolo City with the theme, “*Getting the Right Tools into the Right Hands to do the Right Jobs.*” The workshop was facilitated by David James-Wilson and Brenda Bell from EDC and was attended by EDC President Dr. Luther Luedtke, Dr. Tom Kral from USAID/OEd and leadership and staff representatives from the International Youth Foundation/ELSA, Save the Children, and Synergeia Foundation. (Please see Annex 1 for a complete list of participants.)

The primary outcome of the JIP was the completion of the first draft of year 1 and 4 work plans with corresponding budgets by EDC’s prospective sub-grantees. The Technical Notes from the RFA were used during Intermediate Result Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings as source documents to discuss expected quality standards and core strategies to be used during the implementation of sub-grants. Further guidance was given on how to incorporate core approaches and strategies into the formation of respective sub-grantee work plans and budgets for submission to EDC for review and approval.

At the close of the JIP workshop, it was agreed that the prospective sub-grantees would submit to EDC their work plans and budgets, aligned to the discussed EQUALLS2 core strategies and interventions, by August 17, 2007, as the basis for eventual sub-grant agreements with EDC.

**4. Work Plan and Budget Review Process**

Each of EDC’s three prospective sub-grantee partners submitted work plans and budgets during the second half of August, following the joint implementation planning workshop. Subsequently, EDC conducted one-on-one meetings with each organization in late August and through September, to discuss concerns and recommendations aimed at producing final plans and budgets as the basis for sub-grant agreements. Discussion points related to program strategy and cost effectiveness were still being addressed with each sub-grantee at the close of the quarter. EDC anticipates signing sub- contracts with each of its three sub-grantees in October.

### III. Sub-grants Management

#### A. Sub-grants with Save the Children, Real World Productions, and CCC-Notre Dame of Marbel University

In line with EDC's role of providing technical guidance and direction, EDC Technical Specialists and Area Coordinators participated in key activities of its current implementing partners to monitor progress of activities, gain a better understanding of partners' approaches across the three IRs, and to gather insights to clarify and refine core program elements for EQuALLS2. Partner activities visited by EDC during the quarter are listed below:

Partner Activity	Description	Venue	Date
SAVE The Children Formulation of Community Education and Skills Plan	Students, OSY, parents, LGU and DepEd officials from a cluster of barangays gathered in one venue to discuss education-related concerns, formulate their mission and vision for education improvement and prioritize plans to be supported with a School Improvement Grant	Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur	July 4-5, 2007
		Bilaan ES, Talipao Sulu	July 15-16, 2007
Appreciative Community Mobilization (ACM) for Instructional Managers	An enrichment training for IMs on communication skills and community engagement	Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur	July 6, 2007
STII Launching and MOA signing	Signing for the collaboration of EQuALLS2, TESDA, and LGUs in the STII training of learners	Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur	July 23, 2007
		Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao	September 11, 2007
3L Learning Activity Book Utilization Training	Training on enriching or supplementing 3L module by integration of English and math learning activities	Midsayap, Cotabato	August 14-16, 2007
Real World Productions IELTLM Project District Supervisors Re-orientation Training	Re-orientation to maximize the utilization of school-based guides and other instructional materials and equipment given to the recipient schools through the help of the district supervisors	Dinas, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay	July 12, 2007
NDMU-CCC MOA signing between NDMU, LGU and other stakeholders	MOA signing, induction of officers of the different Learning Groups and the induction of officers of the Alternative Learning System Action (ALSA) Team to build awareness and generate community support for OSY programs	Malapatan, Sarangani Province	July 13, 2007
		Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat	July 18, 2007
		Paglat, Maguindanao	July 27, 2007
Enhancement Training for IMs	Consultative Conference with 8 IMs, ALS Supervisors and Coordinators on the roles of	Paglat, Maguindanao	July 20, 2007

	IMs, major themes for enhancement training for the next 6 months	Paglat, Malapatan and Esperanza	Aug 9-10, 2007
Training on Monitoring ALS & A&E Programs	Field-based capacity building for ALS Field Personnel of NDMU-CCC Staff and DepEd ALS Coordinators	Koronadal City	Sept 19-21, 2007

Save the Children’s activities showed progress in engaging barangay/community level stakeholders to participate in education improvement planning for in-school and out-of-school youth, as well as in mobilizing support of LGUs, TESDA, DepEd and other agencies. The details are in [Annex 2](#).

CCC-NDMU organized local action teams and obtained the commitment of both municipal and barangay LGUs, DepEd, and parents to support ALS programs in their areas. In Malapatan Poblacion Learning Center, the LGU donated P100,000 for the construction of a two-room ALS building. A total of 332 learners enrolled (representing 38% of the target 875 OSCY) in the 13 CLCs as of August 31, 2007. The details are in [Annex 3](#).

Real World Productions activities during the period focused on completing remaining activities, specifically the printing and utilization of school-wide use manuals and conduct of end-of-project evaluation. The details are in [Annex 4](#).

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

In collaboration with AusAID’s BEAM project, EQuALLS embarked on a pilot program that aims to equip Grade 1 teachers with approaches and strategies for teaching beginning reading. The EQuALLS-BEAM Beginning Reading Program envisions to make “Every Learner in the ARMM Pilot schools a reader by Grade 3” in line with DepEd’s “Every Child a Reader Program” (ECARP).

The program is being implemented in SY 2007-2008 and includes 2 cycles of training for Grade 1 teachers and their administrators from 18 schools in the ARMM. The first cycle of training focused on program orientation. It provided them with skills in basic beginning reading concepts covering phonological awareness and phonemic awareness and associated teaching strategies. The Cycle 1 training was held on August 20 – 24 for the mainland ARMM and August 27 – 31 for ARMM islands with a total of 162 participants. The breakdown of participants is in [Annex 5](#). In Cycle 2 training, emphasis will be on vocabulary development and word recognition, comprehension, and fluency. The training will also provide them with skills on the use of literature to enrich the reading program, strategies for reading remediation and making of instructional materials.

## **V. Monitoring and Evaluation**

During the quarter, the M & E and MIS team continued to consolidate data for the cluster profiles which were distributed during the Joint Implementation Planning workshop for reference in the planning and budget preparation by the Lead Implementing Partners (LIPs). The LIPs will validate these data at the field levels. Project targets and outcome indicators per geographic cluster were revised to incorporate updated information on number of barangays and schools to be targeted by the project. The updated project targets and outcome indicators by geographic cluster are in Annex 6. EDC's MIS database and data collection tools for gathering baseline data were further developed during the quarter. Also, baseline database build-up commenced during the quarter covering school level enrolment data for school year 2006-07 and results of the National Achievement Test for grade 6 gathered from the DepEd.

## **VI. Outreach & Communications**

During the quarter, the Outreach and Communications team made excellent progress on developing the following EQuALLS communication products:

- 14 weekly highlights written; 12 published/used by USAID
- 13 press releases printed in local newspapers; 3 stories printed in national dailies
- 2 success stories written for USAID website
- Edited and formatted BEAM-EQuALLS Beginning Reading training manual
- Distributed profiles, brochures, flyers to administrators, teachers, local government units, USAID visitors
- Produced billboards and posters displayed in airports of Cotabato, Zamboanga, General Santos, Davao; produced billboards displayed at DepED12 regional office to step up EQuALLS visibility campaign
- Spearheaded the conduct of an enrolment information campaign for DepEd Region 12 resulting in overall increase of 2.1% or 2,201 students who returned to school in 8 EQuALLS municipalities and 1 city (increase is however, not directly attributable to the information campaign alone); produced announcement streamers and public service announcements on radio and conducted advocacy campaign with mayors in 2 municipalities with the highest enrolment decrease.
- Coordinated tri-media coverage of important EQuALLS events
- Provided communication support to various program trainings and orientations
- Started the production of EQuALLS audio-visual presentation (AVP)
- Arranged tie-up / coordinative agreement with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) in Region 12 and Region 9 as a way of getting the involvement of other government agencies and private media groups in education in general, and with the outreach and communications activities of EQuALLS in particular. PIA 12 extended assistance in the enrolment campaign while PIA 9 assigned their cameraman to the shooting for the EQuALLS AVP in Zamboanga Peninsula Both PIA offices have started disseminating EQuALLS press releases in their own radio programs, website, and print outlets. Tie-up with the private media in Region 9 has likewise been started.

The samples of these products are in [Annex 7](#)

## **VII. Other EQuALLS Phase 2 Activities**

### **A. Meetings with DepEd Regions 9, 12 and ARMM**

To orient the Region and Division Officials on the EQuALLS phase 2 geographic coverage, approaches and core interventions, briefings were conducted on August 21-22, 2007 in Davao City with DepEd Regions 9 and 12. DepEd officials suggested that the Project launch be a dialogue with LGUs and other education stakeholders and may be

conducted at the provincial level or clusters of municipalities. EDC highlighted the project objectives for collaboration and deepening of impact and requested that a DepEd focal person be assigned for every Region. DepEd Region 12 officials suggested that EQuALLS attend Regional Management Committee meetings as necessary to ensure coordination of project activities. The briefing for the ARMM officials was conducted alongside the NEPP orientations.

#### **B. NEPP Orientations for Administrators**

The National English Proficiency Program is a core program deliverable under EQuALLS2. Consistent with the DepEd's national roll-out of NEPP in other areas, EQuALLS is catching up by introducing NEPP in its target sites beginning this school year. EDC and DepEd Central Office representatives met with principals, district supervisors as well as division officials to give them an orientation on EQuALLS2, and at the same time, an orientation on NEPP. In this forum, the mentors' selection criteria and the specific activities to be undertaken were discussed. A total of 790 DepEd school heads, district supervisors, and division officials participated in the activity (Annex 8).

#### **C. DepEd BESRA Orientations.**

EDC Senior Officials attended the DepEd orientation on the Basic Education Reform Agenda (BESRA) in Davao City on August 21-23, 2007. The presentations and discussions on the key policy reform thrusts, roll-out schedules and target outcomes particularly for school based management capacity building, provided useful insights for areas of possible collaboration under the EQuALLS project. These areas of collaborations may be as follows: (a) support the SBM capacity building by incorporating SBM dimensions in the EQ2 Administrators training and education stakeholders capacity building under IR1 and IR2; (b) provide technical assistance to DepEd in the formation of School Governing Councils; (c) model the preparation of School Improvement Plans that integrates the needs of in-school and out-of-school youth; (d) collaborate with other donors like AUSAID-BEAM and STRIVE, and UNICEF on the refinement and use of tools for assessment of schools; and (e) development of competency-based INSET Programs.

#### **D. Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting**

The second Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was held in July 11, 2007. Mr. Thomas Crehan, Chief Officer-Office of Education, USAID presided the meeting together DepEd Undersecretary Vilma Labrador, co-chairperson. Usec. Labrador provided a briefing on the DepEd roadmap towards addressing access and quality education gaps. She emphasized the importance of adopting the School Based Management (SBM) as core reform initiative under the Basic Education Reform Agenda (BESRA).

The EDC Chief of Party, Mr. William Potter presented the overall status of EQUALLS project and highlighted the guiding principles for phase 2 as follows: convergence and deepening through geographic targeting, lead partner approach for a more strategic coordination, core of interventions that responds to community education needs, outcomes-based program framework, and a consolidated M&E focused on learning and measuring program impact. Mr. Marcial Salvatierra, EDC Deputy Chief of Party also presented the results of the NEPP and Math INSET assessments conducted by CEM, which highlighted the need to focus on building the content knowledge of teachers.

Dr. Zeny Domingo presented the overall progress of ELSA while Dr. Erlinda Pefianco discussed the summative evaluation results of ELSA text2teach project. The PAC members noted the high learning gains of pupils in text2teach schools and that experience (age and teaching years of teachers) does not automatically lead to a high score. Dr. Pefianco also shared with the body that the non-learning gains such as changes in the behaviors of learners in the text2teach project are under study.

Ms. Rina Lopez-Bautista also presented the overall progress of the Television Education Advancement of Muslim Mindanao (TEAM-Mindanao) of the Knowledge Channel (KCh) in 148 schools. The project's impact showed improvement in Mean Percentage Scores (MPS) for some schools in Zamboanga Sibugay and North Cotabato. That regularly used the KCh.

Ms. Tricia Manalastas of Synergeia-DIWA also reported project impact, notably: increased LGU support to education , significant improvements in the reading skills of children in North Upi as evidenced by decline in the number of non-readers from 87% to 16% for the period 2005 to 2007, and improved education governance through re-invented Local School Boards.

#### **E. Technical Assistance on Community Engagement**

Given the need to move towards a more unified program approach for IR1-community engagement, EDC Senior Technical Advisor, Ms. Elizabeth Pittman conducted field visits/observation of the on-going processes in Midsayap (Save the Children site), Upi (Synergeia site) and Zamboanga City (phase 1 Learning Center and IMPACT School). Ms. Pittman together with EDC-IR1 Specialist and Area Coordinators, held focus group discussions with stakeholders which included pupils, teachers, principals, ALS Learners, Instructional Managers, parents/guardians, DepEd Officials such as District Supervisors, Superintendents, LGU officials such as Mayors, Vice- Mayors, Barangay Council members, and Local School Board members.

Some of the general recommendations from the field visits are as follows:

- IR1 should not only be seen as a foundation for strategies and implementation of activities of IR2 and IR3 but rather should be integrated and treated as a continuous aspect of IR2 and IR3;

- While it is important to work within a system it is also important to remain learner focused;
- It is important that the three prospective Lead Partners share their philosophical/technical approaches and lessons learned with each other;
- For sustainability, it is necessary for EQUALLS2 to work within the framework of national policy such as the BESRA and SBM.

## VIII. Project Operations

### A. Staffing

EDC hired three (2) new personnel during the quarter, indicated in the chart below.

#### *Full Time Staff*

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Homebase</b>	<b>Date of Hire</b>
Finance Manager	Maria Esmeralda de Guzman	Manila	September 1, 2007
Office Manager	Maria Suzetta Yao	Manila	September 19, 2007

Movement of personnel has also been effected as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Old Position</b>	<b>New Position</b>	<b>Homebase</b>	<b>Effectivity</b>
Raymond Chio	Administrative Officer	Grants Compliance Officer (GCO)	Manila	June 18, 2007
Elva Pedronio	Finance Officer	Grants Compliance Officer (GCO)	Manila	July 23, 2007

Moreover, EDC has engaged the services of five (5) short-term staff to comprise the secretariat during the Administrators' Orientation on EQUALLS and NEPP from September 2 to 21, 2007.

### 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:

<b>EDC Specialists</b>	<b>Technical Assistance Provided</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Nancy Devine <i>Program Director</i>	Met with EDC's new sub-grantees. Participated in the Joint Implementation Planning Workshop on August 6-8	July 26 to August 8, 2007
	Provided guidance on sub-grant related issues and development of EDC's Year 2 workplan.	September 23 to 30, 2007

David James-Wilson <i>Technical Specialist</i>	Acted as facilitator in the Joint Implementation Planning Workshop on August 6-8	July 29 to August 8, 2007
Brenda Bell <i>Technical Specialist</i>	Acted as resource person/facilitator in the Joint Implementation Planning Workshop on August 6-8	July 31 to August 11, 2007
Luther Luedtke <i>EDC President</i>	Visited EQUALLS project offices in Manila and Koronadal and met with USAID Mission Director and other key officials Participated in the Joint Implementation Planning Workshop on August 6-8	August 4 to 12, 2007
Elizabeth Pittman <i>Technical Specialist</i>	Collaborated with Specialist on Community Support for Education on IR Community Engagement activities.	August 10 to 26, 2007

### **C. Security Update**

The preliminary report on EDC Area Risk Profiling was submitted by Business Profiles Incorporated in August 2007. The report highlighted provincial and municipal data on security related incidences; crime statistics; presence of illegal activities like manufacture and selling of fake products, illegal drugs, arms and ammunitions; criminal elements engaged in hold-up and kidnapping; sites serving as hiding place and escape routes; road security assessments particularly for the travel of staff to various project sites; and other security related incidences like shooting, and grenade explosions. The profiling activities for the high risk barangays will be covered in the next report. These data will be shared by EDC with the Lead Implementing Partner so serve as guidance in the conduct of various EQUALLS activities.

### **D. New Office**

Director Luz Almeda of DepEd Region 12 has recently provided an office space within the regional DepEd compound. The regional office in Koronadal is aimed at providing quick response to its clients within the geographic coverage. The EDC Area Coordinator is now occupying the new office.

### **E. Other Highlights**

Mr. Luther Luedtke, President of EDC visited the Philippines on August 4-12, 2007. He participated during day 1 of the EQUALLS Joint Implementation Planning Workshop in Antipolo City and inspired the participants with a four point message: (a) focus on the learner; (b) develop partnership spirit; (c) build on local capabilities and experience; and (d) emphasize the importance of sustainability and ownership for innovations beyond the project life.

In addition to paying a courtesy call to USAID Director Jon Lindborg and visiting the EDC Manila office, Mr. Luedtke traveled to Mindanao where he visited project sites,

together with CoP William Potter and USAID CTO Dr. Tom Kral, in Sarangani and observed ALS activities of NDMU.

Mr. Luedtke also met with officials of DOLE Philippines, Inc. in Manila, General Santos, and Davao to appreciate Dole’s active Corporate Social Responsibility interventions focused on education and livelihood skill development of communities. Mr. Luedtke is especially interested in further developing EDC’s growing strategic network of Global Development Alliance partnerships around the world.

### **IX. Look Ahead to Next Quarter**

Priority activities for the coming quarter (October - December 2007) include the following.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Priority Activities</b>
October	▪ Final review of sub-grant agreements with Save the Children, IYF and Synergeia
	▪ Consolidation of Year 2 Work Plan
November	▪ Signing of EDC sub grants
	▪ Submit Year 2 work plan to USAID
	▪ Secretary Jesli Lapus / Jon Lindborg Visit to EQuALLS sites
	▪ National DepEd NEPP Conference
	▪ Complete Security Assessment
December	▪ Complete EDC Security Plan
	▪ Start-up meeting with new sub grant partners
	▪ Provincial Stakeholders Orientation
	▪ TWG Meetings for IR1, IR2 and IR3
	▪ Grants management orientation/training for lead partners
	▪ Develop Base-line tools and Mechanisms