

**FORGING PARTNERSHIPS IN ADVOCACY
FOR FAMILY PLANNING:
TSAP STORIES IN THE FIELD**

by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the first quarter of 2003, active partnership activities in the promotion and practice of family planning have been undertaken with major organizations in the country by TSAP-FP with the AED as primary contractor particularly its Advocacy and Social Mobilization (ASM) unit. Among these groups are (a) the *Kalipunan ng Maraming Tinig ng Manggagawang Impormal* (Katinig-NCR), a national federation of associations and groups from the informal sector that is a member of the Basic Sector Council of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) with affiliates based in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, and Cagayan de Oro City; (b) the Cebu City United Vendors' Association (CCUVA), an affiliate of Katinig-NCR and also a NAPC Basic Sector member is a coalition of 64 local organizations of street and market vendors with an estimated number of 10,000 members; and (c) the Muslim Religious Leaders (MRL) that comprise of *ulama* (scholars), and *imam* from various Darul Iftah (House of Opinion) as well as other Muslim professionals and scholars in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

To determine the status of the foregoing partnership in the past 19 months (January 2003-July 2004) a qualitative study was undertaken particularly about the (a) processes and strategies used by TSAP-FP to engage its partners in family planning advocacy, (b) the perceived factors that have facilitated and hindered the partnership as well as the strategies the partners utilized to manage the difficulties, (c) the advocacy efforts undertaken by the partners within their respective constituencies and target communities, (d) the lessons obtained by the partners from the collaboration with TSAP-FP, and (e) the challenges confronting the partners including the sustainability of the FP advocacy.

Qualitative research methods particularly document review, key informant interview, group interview and focus group discussion were utilized in the study. A total of 88 leaders (60 females and 28 males) were covered (42 from Katinig-NCR, 33 from CCUVA, and 13 from MRLs) in the research. Except for the youth group, the adult informants were 25 years & older. The field study was conducted in June and July 2004.

A pattern emerged from the strategies utilized by TSAP-FP in engaging its partners in the FP advocacy and these are: (a) the utilization of FP champions from each association, (b) the consultation with each partner's formal leaders to obtain commitment to FP advocacy, (c) the involvement of other FP advocates within the organization, (d) the linkage with government and non-government agencies, international organizations, national and regional FP champions, (e) the provision of administrative support and technical assistance through its competent central, field staff and resource persons; and (f) the financial assistance through its Small Grants Program to enable each partner to pursue its planned advocacy activities.

Because of different social contexts and structures of the partner organizations, however, variations in the processes utilized by TSAP-FP in the implementation were noted. Other strategies were added whenever these were relevant to the situation of a partner organization.

TSAP-FP dealt solely with Katinig-NCR in developing a customized training program for its leaders and its core as well as youth groups. It also collaborated with the organization in designing the advocacy strategies for the association's target communities. New groups emerged from Katinig-NCR's FP involvement particularly the Katinig Youth Federation and male-led homeowners' associations.

In Metro Cebu, TSAP-FP dealt with two entities, PopCom Region 7 and CCUVA. The PopCom served as TSAP-FP's conduit in the provision of administrative and technical assistance to CCUVA. It also collaborated with TSAP-FP in training leaders from CCUVA and from other informal sector groups, NGOs, women's organizations, the academe, public and private health institutions. The involvement of several CCUVA partners in meetings organized by TSAP-FP and PopCom have led to the creation of the Metro Cebu Community Advocacy Network (MetroCAN) with the goal of making FP acceptable to all Cebuanos including the local government units and the private sector.

TSAP-FP collaborated mainly with MRLs from Cotabato City, the location of the most respected Darul Iftah (House of Opinion) in the ARMM. The various activities of the partnership with the Darul Iftah focused on writing the national fatwah (a religious edict) on Reproductive Health (RH)/FP. The development of the national fatwah was a complicated process because it involved (a) several stakeholders from international organizations, regional and national government agencies and NGOs, (b) an assessment of the complex health and social conditions in the ARMM, (c) a study-observation tour made by selected MRLs in prestigious academic institutions and agencies in Cairo and an audience with the Egyptian Grand Mufti who endorsed the signed national fatwah by the muftis from the ARMM's Darul Iftah.

The religious edict which was written in Arabic and English was launched with the participation of Muslim and Christian FP champions, the media, and the youth. The launch was a major event because the national fatwah is an important document that is expected to significantly alter the FP behavior of Muslims in the ARMM. A marriage guidebook was subsequently developed with the national fatwah as its framework. The MRLs and its FP advocates are now in the process of conducting community fora to disseminate the religious edict through its newly-created NGO, the Society of Family Development and Education of the Philippines (SOFDEPI).

The informants from the three partner organizations cited similar factors that hastened their collaboration with TSAP-FP in the past 19 months. These are (a) the TSAP-FP's administrative and technical assistance through numerous training seminars and workshops to hone their capability to become effective FP advocates, (b) the support provided by other external agencies and influential persons, and (c) the commitment and cooperation from the leaders of each group or association.

The hindering factors mentioned by the three partners in their collaboration with TSAP-FP focused mainly on the problems within each partner association and other external forces such as the Catholic Church, the local government units, and the people with low awareness and knowledge of FP. Some comments were raised about their collaboration with TSAP-FP. These include: difficulty in tapping TSAP-FP personnel anytime because of their involvement in other training activities, TSAP-

FP's affiliation with the USAID including suspicions from some Muslims about TSAP-FP's intentions in Muslim Mindanao, and the AED/USAID administrative policy of disallowing lodging and per diem in local training workshops/seminars for community advocates from the ARMM and the informal sector.

The major lessons obtained from the partnership focused on the effects of the training workshops on the leaders and their organizations. These training activities have enlightened the leaders about the need to practice FP especially among the members of their organizations.

The main challenges confronting the partners in the next few months are as follows: (a) how to effectively apply the knowledge they acquired from TSAP-FP capability-building activities in their advocacy work in their target communities and constituencies; (b) how to reach out to LGUs and obtain their support for FP; (c) how to raise more resources to expand their FP advocacy activities in their respective locale and to sustain their associations; (d) how to ensure that FP commodities are available at the health facilities; (e) how to mobilize men and get them to practice FP; (f) how to sustain the interest and commitment of their organization's leaders and members; and (g) how to adequately meet their family responsibilities and sustain their voluntary FP advocacy tasks with the precarious nature of their livelihood in the informal sector.

The leaders from the three TSAP-FP partners have expressed that it would be difficult to sustain their activities once financial assistance ceases. However, suggestions were made to sustain their advocacy. These are as follows: (a) lobby for support from the LGUs and tap its Gender and Development (GAD) budget; (b) seek assistance from other funding agencies including the private business sector; and (c) utilize their own resources or engage in fund-raising activities. Among the MRLs, the inclusion of the national fatwah for RH/FP in the Madrasah's (Arabic religious school) curriculum was proposed to effect long-term changes in the acceptance of FP and in the empowerment of Muslim women and girls.

This qualitative study recommends that the new indigenous networks that emerged from the 19-month engagement with the three partners should be provided with additional technical and logistical support by TSAP-FP because these committed groups have the potential of pushing forward the FP advocacy agenda. The partners' organizational structures and management system should also be examined to enhance their capability to sustain their commitment to TSAP-FP. The USAID/AED administrative policies in supporting local training workshops/seminars should be reviewed to make them more responsive to the contexts of community FP advocates. Finally, the strategies and processes which will be utilized by the partners and their new networks/groups should be continually documented until the end of the project life. TSAP-FP may develop a documentation format and a system for regular feedback from the foregoing groups.

Acknowledgment

Our institution, the De La Salle University-Social Development Research Center, is honored that TSAP-FP chose our research team to document its collaborative experiences since the first quarter of 2003 with three of its most influential partners in FP advocacy. Our two-month (June-July 2004) field immersion and continuing dialogue with TSAP-FP and its FP champions and community advocates from the informal sector of the two largest Philippine metropolises and from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), are most inspiring because we were privileged to interact with dedicated Filipinos who are committed to improve the quality of life of populations with highest unmet need for family planning.

We want to express our appreciation to the Academy for Educational Development TSAP-FP's primary contractor, particularly its Chief of Party Ms. Eleanora de Guzman and Deputy Chief of Party Dr. Cecilia Lantican for making this research journey a truly rewarding experience because they together with Mr. Romeo Arca, their Advocacy Advisor, Ms. Filipinas Santos, Ms. Regina Greja-Canda, and Dr. Eva Kimpo-Tan, TSAP-FP's Advocacy and social mobilization specialists—provided a supportive social environment that enabled us to complete the study on time. We are also grateful to their support staff, Ms. Cristina Maningas and Mr. Ramon Espiritu, for assisting us in locating valuable documents and reports for the research.

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ACRONYM

ABACA	<i>Alliance of Barangay Apas Community Association</i>
ACDI-VOCA	<i>Agricultural Cooperative Development International- Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance</i>
ALU-TUCP	<i>Associated Labor Unions- Trade Union Congress of the Philippines</i>
AMWIM	<i>Association of Moslem Women in Morolandia</i>
ARMM	<i>Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao</i>
ASM	<i>Advocacy and Social Mobilization</i>
BEMAI	<i>Barangay Ermita Mother's Association, Inc.</i>
BHW	<i>Barangay Health Worker</i>
BLAWN	<i>Barangay Labangon Women's Network</i>
BLHMPC	<i>Barangay Luz Homeowners' Multi-Purpose Cooperative</i>
CCUVA	<i>Cebu City United Vendors' Association</i>
CDSVA	<i>Cebu Downtown Side Walk Vendors Association</i>
CEDPA	<i>Center for Development and Population Activities</i>
CHO	<i>City Health Officer</i>
CoP	<i>Chief of Party</i>
CREST	<i>Coalition for the Recognition and Empowerment of Street Traders</i>
CTO	<i>Cognizant Technical Officer</i>
CYC	<i>Cebu Youth Center, Inc</i>
DOH	<i>Department of Health</i>
DMPA	<i>Depot Medroxyprogesterone Acetate</i>
DOLE	<i>Department of Labor and Employment</i>
EnRich	<i>Enhanced and Rapid Improvement of Community Health</i>
EXECOM	<i>Executive Committee</i>
FPOI	<i>Family Planning Organization Incorporated</i>
FPOP	<i>Family Planning Organization of the Philippines</i>
GAD	<i>Gender and Development</i>
IEC	<i>Information, Education and Communication</i>
IPHOS	<i>Integrated Provincial Health Offices</i>
KABP	<i>Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior and Perception</i>
KAGABAY	<i>Kabataang Gabay ng Bayan</i>
KAMANSI	<i>Kooperatiba sa Ambulantiing Manindahay sa Sugbo, Incorporated</i>
KASECA	<i>Kalipunan ng mga Sektor para sa Kalusugan</i>
KATINIG	<i>Kalipunan ng Maraming Tinig ng Manggagawang Impormal</i>

KISLAP	<i>Kalipunan ng mga Informal Sektor sa Lansangan ng Pangkabuhayan</i>
LGU	<i>Local Government Unit</i>
LRT	<i>Light Railway Train</i>
MAKATAO	<i>Mga Kababaihan Para sa Tao Foundation</i>
MetroCAN	<i>Metro Cebu Community Advocacy Network</i>
MMDA	<i>Metropolitan Manila Development Authority</i>
MRL	<i>Muslim Religious Leaders</i>
MUCARD	<i>Muslim Christian Agency for Rural Development</i>
MVG	<i>Muslim Vendor Group</i>
NAPC	<i>National Anti-Poverty Commission</i>
NCR	<i>National Capital Region</i>
NCCP	<i>National Council of Churches in the Philippines</i>
NEOFPRHAN	<i>Negros Oriental FP/RH Advocacy Network</i>
NFP	<i>Natural Family Planning</i>
OHNAP	<i>Occupational Health Nurses Association of the Philippines</i>
PBSP	<i>Philippine Business for Social Progress</i>
PEMALAKA	<i>Pederasyon ng mga Manininda Sa Lansangan ng Kaloocan</i>
PETA	<i>Philippine Educational Theatre Association</i>
PLCPD	<i>Philippine Legislators Conference on Population and Development</i>
PMAPA	<i>Pederasyon ng Manininda sa Pasay</i>
PNGOC	<i>Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health & Welfare</i>
PODA/TODA	<i>Pedicab Owners/Drivers Association/ Tricycle Owners/Drivers Association</i>
PopCom	<i>Commission on Population</i>
POPNET	<i>Population Network</i>
RHAPWID	<i>RH Advocates for Productive Workers and Industrial Development</i>
RTS	<i>Responsible Teen Sexuality</i>
SANAMAI	<i>Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Manininda ng Intramuros</i>
SEC	<i>Securities and Exchange Commission</i>
SIVA	<i>Sinugba Vendors Association</i>
SOFDEPI	<i>Society of Family Development and Education of the Philippines</i>
SPM	<i>Sagip Pasig Movement</i>
SSVA	<i>Sanciangco Sidewalk Vendors Association</i>
SSS	<i>Social Security System</i>
STEP UP	<i>Strategic Partnership for the Urban Poor Program</i>
SWU	<i>South Western University</i>

TFGI	<i>The Futures Group International</i>
TSAP-FP	<i>The Social Acceptance Project on Family Planning</i>
TUCP	<i>Trade Union Congress of the Philippines</i>
TWG	<i>Technical Working Group</i>
UMHPP	<i>United Muslim Health Professionals of the Philippines</i>
UNFPA	<i>United Nations Fund for Population Activities</i>
USAID	<i>United States Agency for International Development</i>
VAW	<i>Violence Against women</i>
WBVA	<i>Warwick Barracks Vendors Association</i>
WHCF	<i>Women's Health Care Foundation</i>
WMSU	<i>Western Mindanao State University</i>
YAC	<i>Youth Advocacy Center</i>
YAN	<i>Youth Advocacy Network</i>
ZVA	<i>Zapatera Vendors Association</i>

Chapter One

Introduction

To respond to the high unmet need for family planning, the growing sexually-active adolescent and young adult population, and the low contraceptive prevalence rate as well as the low usage rate of modern FP methods, the Academy for Educational Development (AED) in collaboration with The Futures Group International (Futures), the Center for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA) and Ketchum Public Relations, launched The Social Acceptance Project on Family Planning (TSAP-FP) in the Philippines. With support from the USAID, the three-year (August 2002 to August 2005) project's goal is "to help achieve greater social acceptance among the Filipino public of family planning as part of a healthy lifestyle." Apart from the objective of increasing "public approval of FP as part of a way of life," TSAP-FP also aims to "increase the number of key segments of society advocating the use of family planning" and to "increase the acceptance of FP as part of the routine health package."

To effect behavioral change, communication and advocacy strategies have been designed and implemented by the project. Communication strategies include the "implementation of advertising, public relations and other communication activities to promote public approval of family planning among men and women in industrial and urban areas." Advocacy efforts, on the other hand, cover a "set of targeted actions to convince influential persons and organizations to publicly support and endorse family planning." In addition, TSAP-FP intends to hold activities that are directed at public health providers "to increase their capacity to provide correct information on modern family planning methods."

Since the first quarter of 2003, active partnership activities in the promotion and practice of family planning have been undertaken with major organizations in the country by TSAP-FP particularly by its Advocacy and Social Mobilization (ASM) unit. Among these groups are (a) the *Kalipunan ng Maraming Tinig ng Manggagawang*

Impormal (Katinig-NCR), a national federation of associations and groups from the informal sector that is a member of the Basic Sector Council of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) with affiliates based in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, and Cagayan de Oro City; (b) the Cebu City United Vendors' Association (CCUVA), an affiliate of Katinig-NCR and also a NAPC Basic Sector member, is a coalition of 64 local organizations of street and market vendors with an estimated number of 10,000 members; and (c) the Muslim Religious Leaders (MRLs) that comprise of *ulama*, *imam*, and *alima* from various Darul Iftah (House of Opinion) and other Muslim professionals as well as scholars from the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

To determine the status of the collaboration in the past 19 months, De La Salle University's Social Development Research Center conducted a qualitative study in June and July 2004 and documented the partners' perceptions and experiences in advocacy for the acceptance of FP in the country.

Objectives and research methods

The research study has the following objectives:

- (1) To describe the processes and strategies used by TSAP-FP to engage its partners in family planning advocacy;
- (2) To identify the factors perceived by the partners to have facilitated the partnership with TSAP-FP;
- (3) To determine the partners' perceived hindering factors of the partnership-building process and relationships that were cultivated with TSAP-FP and the strategies to manage these difficulties;
- (4) To describe the advocacy efforts undertaken by the partner organizations within their respective constituencies and other target groups;
- (5) To draw out lessons learned by the partners from the FP advocacy and engagement with TSAP-FP;
- (6) To identify the challenges in FP advocacy confronting the partners; and

- (7) To determine the partners' views about the sustainability of the FP advocacy in their areas.

To attain the foregoing objectives, the study utilized the following qualitative methods—document review, key informant (KI) interview, group interview, and focus group discussion (FGD). Document review entailed an examination of TSAP-FP and its partners' reports and other pertinent literature to obtain information about the partner organizations' profiles, strategies, activities and other relevant data concerning their collaboration.

To determine the partners' experiences and perceptions regarding their collaboration with TSAP-FP, key informant and group interviews including focus groups were conducted with knowledgeable individuals particularly FP champions and community leaders in the months of June and July 2004. The interview guides for the KI and group interviews covered the following major topics: (1) factors that facilitated and hindered the partners' collaboration with TSAP-FP, (2) the management of difficulties that were encountered in the partnership, (3) lessons obtained from their collaborative venture, (4) past, ongoing and future advocacy efforts with target groups or constituencies, (5) challenges confronting partners in their FP advocacy, and (6) perceptions regarding the sustainability of FP advocacy efforts in the partners' respective locale.

A total of 88 leaders (60 females and 28 males) were covered in the study (42 from Katinig-NCR, 33 from CCUVA, and 13 from the MRLs). Seven key informants were identified by TSAP-FP as FP champions while 81 are leader/FP advocates from the three groups. Except for the young people from Katinig-NCR's youth group, informants were 25 years and older. Table I provides a summary of the research methods used and the number of respondents and key informants in the study.

Table 1. Research methods and number of respondents/key informants from each TSAP-FP partner

Partner	Number		Number		Number	
	FGD	Respondent	Key informant interview	Respondent	Group Interview	Respondent
Katinig-NCR	5	41	1	1	-	-
CCUVA	5	30	3	3	-	-
MRLs	1	5	1	1	3	7
Total	11	76	5	5	3	7

Respondents from target communities were excluded from the study because the community fora have just been implemented by the partners at the time of the study. Thus the views of target communities and groups of the partners are not covered in this report.

Chapter Two

Results of the study

This chapter presents a brief description of each partner's profile particularly its brief history, goals and objectives, organizational structure, membership, and activities related to FP advocacy. It also describes the strategies and processes TSAP-FP utilized to enable each partner to collaborate with the project staff and other stakeholders. The factors that facilitated and hindered each partner's collaboration with TSAP-FP as well as the management strategies to overcome difficulties are included. Lessons obtained from the partnership with TSAP-FP, the advocacy challenges and prospects for sustainability are also described.

Kalipunan ng Maraming Tinig ng Manggagawang Impormal (Katinig-NCR)

The *Kalipunan ng Maraming Tinig ng Manggagawang Impormal* (Federation of Many Voices of Informal Workers) known widely for its acronym Katinig is a federation that was founded in 1996. It comprises 106 organizations in the informal sector or underground economy particularly market and street vendors, small transport workers (tricycle and pedicab drivers), construction workers, home-based workers (dressmakers and handicraft workers), and others (beauticians and laundry women) in three major urban areas in the Philippines—Metro Manila or the National Capital Region (NCR), Metro Cebu, and Cagayan de Oro City. It is a member of the Basic Sector Council of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). It was duly registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission in March 1997. Katinig-NCR, however, does not require its member organizations to be registered at SEC and the Department of Labor and Employment. Any group or association with at least four to five individual members who share a similar cause may join the federation.

Vision, objectives of Katinig. Katinig was formed because of its members' need for social protection and security in their workplaces. Prior to its establishment, the members of Katinig, particularly the street vendors experienced major demolitions or removal from their vending sites by the local government units. Because street vendors were unorganized, their main source of livelihood was often threatened by local government policies and actions.

Maiangat ang kabuhatan ng manggagawang inormal sector upang mapakinggan ng pamahalaan upang magkaroon ng proteksiyon para maiangat ang klase ng buhay is the vision of Katinig. The federation envisions to raise the workers' quality of life through improved livelihood and social protection from the local government. Katinig also links up with other agencies (such as CARE Philippines and Saliga a lawyers' organization at the Ateneo de Manila University which provides paralegal aid and training on gender sensitivity and the local government code) in some programs and projects. In the long run, it wants to be a power block that can push its own agenda in the government.

The Katinig in Metro Manila (Katinig-NCR) has a Board of Trustees with 12 members from the various member organizations within the metropolis and from the five main informal sectors particularly vendors, workers from the small transport, home-based craft, construction, and others (beauty parlors and laundry shops). It does not collect membership fees and maintains a secretariat but the coordination of the organization's activities is undertaken by its president, Mercedes Nicolas popularly known as "Ka Dedeng" (Ka is a Tagalog term connoting respect for a person in authority or one's elder). Her home serves as the current office of the federation. The federation usually holds an annual assembly. However, in the past two years, Katinig-NCR has not held this national activity because of resource and other administrative constraints.

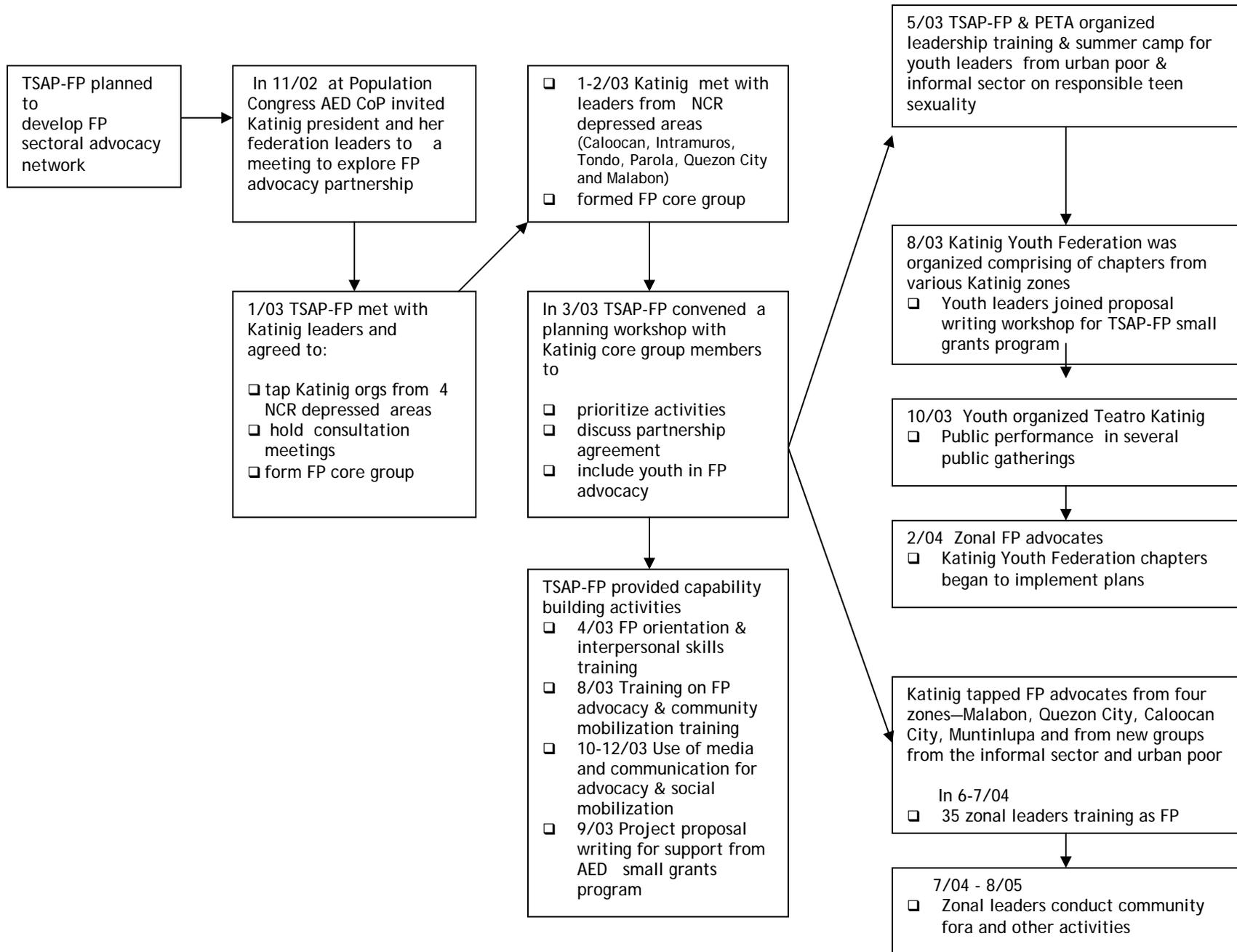
The Metro Manila organizations that are affiliated with Katinig-NCR include (a) PMAPA which comprises five street vendor organizations in Pasay City; (b) *Kasama*

sa Lansangan ng Quezon City (Companions in the streets of Quezon City) has 17 local member organizations in four districts with more than 1,000 members who are mostly squatters living in the Commonwealth area; (c) *Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Manininda ng Intramuros* (SANAMAI) of Manila with about 100 members; (d) *BANGKETTA*, a vendors' association in Muntinlupa City; (d) *KISLAP*, a small group of home-based workers particularly 30 urban poor women who are engaged in paper craft; and (e) *PEMALAKA*, an II-association of street vendors that has around 1,000 members (each association has around 70-100 members) comprising mostly (75 %) of women vending around the Monumento Light Railway Train (LRT) station and in the two districts of Caloocan City.

The Katinig-NCR, does not have an exact number of its organizations' individual members because they are generally mobile and are hard to track since their space or stalls (if any) in the streets are often demolished by the authorities. In addition, several members live in squatter communities which are frequently threatened by demolition either from the local government or private land owners.

A major accomplishment of Katinig-NCR from its advocacy work was the issuance of Executive Order 452 by former President Fidel V. Ramos in October 1997 which provides registered vendors alternative vending sites. EO 452 was utilized by the Quezon City local government in building "uniform stores" which are sold to vendors. It also helped improve relations between Katinig-NCR vendors and some Caloocan City officials and personnel. Katinig-NCR is also in the process of obtaining a Social Security System (SSS) and PhilHealth insurance for its members.

Figure 1. The strategies and processes utilized by TSAP-FP in its partnership with Katinig-NCR



Summary of the strategies and processes used by TSAP in engaging Katinig-NCR as its partner in FP advocacy

TSAP-FP had planned on involving the informal sector in its FP advocacy particularly urban poor communities and workers in the underground economy because these groups are among those with high unmet need for FP. The November 2002 Population Congress that was organized by the Commission on Population (PopCom) was the occasion where TSAP-FP's Chief of Party Ms. Eleonora de Guzman "discovered" Katinig-NCR's president and FP champion Mercedes Nicolas who is popularly known as "Ka Dedeng". The latter served as discussant to a paper on population and family planning. Ka Dedeng made a convincing analysis of the relationship between FP and poverty as well as the potential role of FP to improve the quality of life of her federation's impoverished members. Impressed by her ability to associate poverty and high fertility and the potential role of her organization in the FP advocacy, Ms. de Guzman subsequently arranged a meeting between TSAP-FP and Ka Dedeng and the leaders of Katinig-NCR.

This first meeting took place on January 16, 2003 at the headquarters of SANAMAI, a Katinig-NCR-member association in Intramuros, Manila. Six Katinig-NCR leaders were present in the meeting. Katinig-NCR's profile, its advocacy to ensure the implementation of EO 452 including its negotiations with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), were presented by Ka Dedeng. Katinig-NCR's previous involvement with the USAID-funded CREST project with Care Philippines and its participation in the 17-member Informal Sector Council of NAPC were also mentioned. Some agreements made between TSAP-FP and Katinig-NCR are as follows.

(1) The initial sites of the partnership were going to be started by Katinig-NCR member organizations in depressed areas particularly in Caloocan City (thru PEMALAKA), Intramuros, Parola and Tondo (thru SANAMAI); (2) The Katinig-NCR leaders would meet with the area leaders from the foregoing sites from January 17 to 26, 2003 to explore their interest to promote FP in their respective communities; (3) A

meeting would be convened by Katinig-NCR between its area leaders and TSAP-FP representatives about the proposed advocacy project and about FP issues, FP practice and methods; (4) After the partnership with TSAP-FP is formalized, Katinig-NCR leaders would form a core group comprising mainly of the leaders who met with TSAP-FP staff representatives, to plan, mobilize, and implement FP activities in the selected sites; (5) TSAP-FP staff would organize a planning workshop with the core group and key leaders to develop strategies to mobilize communities for FP advocacy; and (6) TSAP-FP staff would conduct training seminars and workshops, provide IEC materials, and organize community advocacy and other related activities.

The Katinig-NCR leaders stressed the need for monetary allowance to the core group members to make up for their loss of income on days that they would volunteer for the project. It was also agreed that the terms of partnership between Katinig-NCR and TSAP-FP would be defined during the proposed planning workshop.

After the consultation within the federation and the selection of 12 core group members, the FP planning workshop was held on March 10, 2003 at the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) Training Center in Intramuros Manila. TSAP-FP's program staff assigned to provide administrative and technical support to Katinig-NCR (Ms. Filipinas Santos) served as the facilitator of this activity. The main topics were Katinig-NCR's views and experiences about FP, TSAP-FP project, and Dr. Corazon Raymundo's paper on FP and poverty. Issues were raised during the open forum particularly the informal sector's unpleasant experiences with government health providers, the Catholic Church's conservative stance about FP, and FP promotion among the youth particularly adolescents. Plans for action were the main output of this joint activity with TSAP-FP.

Eleven days later (March 21, 2003), a follow-up meeting took place between the core group and TSAP-FP staff at Chicken Bacolod Inasal, a small restaurant in Quezon City's Memorial Circle. Action plans made during the planning workshop were reviewed and priority activities were made. The core group also clarified their specific roles in the

advocacy and the terms of the partnership agreement between TSAP-FP and Katinig-NCR.

After the March 2003 meetings, TSAP-FP solely or in collaboration with other NGOs, conducted a total of 12 capacity-building activities for Katinig-NCR's core group and other leaders including the youth (refer to Table I in the appendix). It is noted that the training workshops or seminars were held in communities outside the National Capital Region (NCR).

The orientation and training activities convened by TSAP-FP were intended to enhance the FP advocacy skills of three types of Katinig-NCR members: (1) FP core group and federation leaders; (2) youth group; and (3) community FP advocates.

Activities with the core group and other Katinig-NCR leaders. Several activities were organized by TSAP-FP with Katinig-NCR's core group for FP and with the other leaders/FP advocates and they are as follows:

- (a) The three-day orientation in April 2003 from TSAP-FP and Friendlycare (a private health organization that received support from USAID and has clinics in major thoroughfares in the metropolis), about family planning concepts and methods, human sexuality, reproductive health and effective interpersonal communication at Henry's Barn, Calamba, Laguna.
- (b) The June 3, 2003 meeting at Chicken Bacolod Inasal in Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City which was convened to share the outcomes of their consultations with the member organizations in selected urban depressed communities, the linkages with PopCom-NCR and with Friendlycare, and the implementation plans and roles of the collaborating groups.
- (c) The August 18-21, 2003 training workshop on FP advocacy and community mobilization at the Tagaytay International Convention Center in Tagaytay City

- involving 35 Katinig-NCR leaders. The workshop focused on the principles and practice of advocacy and the drafting of several advocacy action plans as a framework for future engagement in the leaders' respective communities. The TSAP-FP shared its expertise on how to make advocacy campaigns that are deliberate, data-based, scientific and well planned. The training was intended to create a critical mass of FP advocates and champions from the urban poor and informal sector.
- (d) Joint workshop at Merced Bakeshop in EDSA, Quezon City, with TSAP-FP on September 17, 2003 on proposal writing regarding Katinig-NCR's advocacy plan for support from TSAP-FP Small Grants Program.
 - (e) On September 25, 2003, Katinig-NCR leaders joined the *Barangay Leaders' Forum on Family Planning and Reproductive Health Bahaginan at Barangayan: Usapang RH/FP* which was held at Ramon Magsaysay Center Hall, Manila. This forum was convened by WHCF and TSAP-FP in collaboration with Katinig-NCR and other partners particularly PBSP, STEP UP, SAGIP PASIG MOVEMENT and PopCom-NCR. The situation of FP and RH in the NCR was presented by Ms. Rosalinda Marcelino, the PopCom- NCR Director. Senator Rodolfo Biazon, a known national champion for FP and RH, talked about the relation between poverty and population. RH/FP and good governance were discussed by Congressman Nereus Acosta Jr., another national FP champion from District I of Bukidnon province.
 - (f) The Advocacy training which was convened on March 19, 2004 at Forest Hills Village, in Subic Freeport in Olongapo City, by TSAP-FP in collaboration with the Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health & Welfare (PNGOC) involving 37 Katinig-NCR community leaders. The topics discussed were FP & poverty, RH issues, FP advocacy, community mobilization, monitoring and evaluation, as well as the proposed organization of the Metro Manila Community Advocates' Network.

- (g) The March 23, 2004 forum entitled “*FP for community advocates in Quezon City*” was organized by TSAP-FP in collaboration with PopCom for 135 leaders from 16 urban poor organizations and 10 informal sector associations in Quezon City, and other partner community advocates. This forum was designed to gauge the knowledge, attitude and practice of FP among the foregoing groups. This also provided FP’s initial gains, opportunities and challenges in the NCR, and identification of key activities for networking.

- (h) The June 29 to July 3, 2004 training at Cooyeesan Hotel in Baguio City was convened by TSAP-FP and PopCom for 35 FP community facilitators from the four Katinig-NCR zones—Malabon, Caloocan City, Quezon City, and Muntinlupa City—to prepare the foregoing group in the implementation of the small grants’ activities particularly the community fora in target barangays.

It is worthwhile to note that in this training workshop Ka Dedeng gave a lecture with the use of her hand-written visual aid that clearly illustrated her concept of FP and poverty. Ka Dedeng claimed that her concept was obtained from consultation meetings that she conducted with the members of her federation. TSAP-FP printed a flip chart of her concept and this IEC material is now being utilized for advocacy.

Apart from the foregoing activities, Katinig-NCR leaders also attended workshops that were organized by TSAP-FP for all leaders of the informal sector including other NGOs and the MRLs (refer to Table 2 in the appendix). These activities were the (a) April 2003 training workshop on media and social mobilization at the ABS-CBN Training Center at Mother Ignacia Street in Quezon City, (b) October 2003 planning workshop on public relations for FP champions at Don Filemon Rodriguez Training Center in Tagaytay City, and (c) December 2003 public relations and media training workshop for FP champions in the venue of the foregoing.

Activities with the youth. Because of the concern to involve the youth in FP advocacy, TSAP-FP and Katinig-NCR organized several training activities for in- and out-of-school young people who are children of Katinig-NCR members from different zones (also included are young people who are not children of Katinig-NCR members but have been invited to the orientations and who have expressed desire to join the group). During the summer break particularly on 12-14 May 2003, 44 urban poor youth leaders from various Katinig-NCR affiliates received orientation from TSAP-FP and the Philippine Educational Theatre Association (PETA) about leadership, sexuality, and FP as well as the problems encountered by the youth and their solutions, at Don Filemon Rodriguez Development Center in Tagaytay City. This initial activity led to a summer youth camp which involved more urban poor adolescents on the last three days of May at MOMARCO in Tanay, Rizal. The issues related to responsible teen sexuality were the topics of this activity. The youth assumed various responsibilities during the summer camp either as secretariat members or as camp officers.

After the celebration of the Family Planning Day on August 1, 2003, TSAP-FP convened a workshop on August 2-3, 2003 on network development for 35 young people from Katinig-NCR organizations at Gems Hotel in Antipolo City. Responsible teen sexuality, networking strategies, team building, formulation of the vision, mission and values as well as action plans of Katinig-NCR Youth Federation were the main activities of this two-day workshop. The youth specified in their action plan that they would use community theater tools in its FP advocacy. The youth demonstrated their talent during TSAP-FP public forum entitled *Bahaginan at Barangayan: Usapang RH/FP* (Sharing with the community: Discussing RH/FP) by performing several creative numbers particularly doxology and interpretative dance which highlighted the young people's concerns.

The youth's impressive performance led to the organization of the four-day (October 16-19, 2004) repertory theater guidance workshop by TSAP-FP in collaboration with PETA for 30 Katinig-NCR adolescents at the Makiling Highlands, Los Banos, Laguna. Aside from covering issues related to responsible teen sexuality, the

training discussed youth problems, basic lessons in acting, singing, dancing, designing and production design.

The training received by the youth from PETA enabled them to perform in public gatherings. They had a play entitled *Pasan kong daigdig, carry mo ba?* on November 3, 2003 at the Raja Sulayman Theater in Intramuros, Manila. The play featured the lives of three childhood friends and their journey to self-discovery and it included messages on responsible sexuality. This play was also presented on December 20, 2003 at the Malabon City Amphitheater. As a result Teatro Katinig-NCR, the group's theater company, has been sought by other agencies such as the PopCom and the Commission on Higher Education, to perform in their respective events.

Community forum on FP. To touch base in communities where Katinig-NCR members reside, TSAP-FP in collaboration with Friendlycare, organized an orientation about FP and contraceptive method-related issues to six KISLAP leaders and 19 members on June 21, 2003 at the barangay health center in Concepcion, Malabon. Another FP orientation took place among 45 leaders of the *Samahan ng mga Manininda ng Caloocan* (vendors association of Caloocan) on July 19, 2003 in a barangay in Caloocan City.

The Katinig-NCR has prepared zone community and youth FP advocacy activities from January to December 2004 in its proposal for the Small Grants Program (refer to Table 3 in the appendix).

Because the attention of the country in the first five months of 2004 centered on the May national election, Katinig-NCR postponed the first community fora in the various zones from February to July 2004. Instead the leaders and members decided to campaign for local officials who included RH/FP in their electoral agenda. In Caloocan and Malabon, Katinig-NCR members joined multi-sectoral city advocacy networks which were organized by other NGOs.

Facilitating factors of the partnership between TSAP-FP and Katinig-NCR

The factors perceived by the federation leaders and the youth group which have facilitated the partnership between the Katinig-NCR and TSAP-FP focused mainly on the administrative and technical support provided by TSAP-FP, the cooperation from within the federation, and support from other external groups.

Perceived facilitating factors among Katinig-NCR leaders. The sole FP champion of Katinig-NCR, Ka Dedeng, who has been involved in all the FP advocacy activities from the beginning of the partnership with TSAP-FP, perceived four main factors that facilitated the FP advocacy. These are (a) TSAP-FP administrative and technical support, (b) the support by Katinig-NCR members particularly their frontline leaders or those who are working directly with their constituencies, (c) the growing awareness and support from local government officials and health providers, and (d) the rising need for FP in their target communities.

From a scale of 1 to 10, Ka Dedeng gave TSAP-FP a score of 8 because the latter meets its part of the agreement with Katinig-NCR. *Tumutupad sa usapan namin.* TSAP-FP staff was perceived as very open and flexible. They are said to be responsive to the articulated needs of the members of Katinig-NCR particularly their desire for capacity-building training workshops. She perceived that the administrative and technical support provided by TSAP-FP has provided the federation leaders and community advocates with FP knowledge, and advocacy as well as social mobilization skills. TSAP-FP's personnel and resource persons were assessed as competent and compassionate. TSAP-FP has also linked her organization to many external groups and agencies.

The leaders of Katinig-NCR, particularly those who are working closely with their constituents on the ground, were assessed to have hastened the advocacy work because of their commitment to participate in the FP promotion activities. Ka Dedeng

also observed that there is a rising need for FP in the various target communities because poverty is most felt in these areas. The local government units, particularly the officials from the cities of Quezon and Caloocan, were mentioned to have a growing awareness and appreciation of her federation's mission and FP advocacy. Even barangay health workers or the community health volunteers from their target communities have expressed willingness to join them in their FP advocacy.

The focus groups among the community FP advocates/leaders from the four zones (Malabon, Caloocan, Quezon City and Muntinlupa City) who joined the FP training for community advocates on June 20 to July 3, 2004 in Baguio City, perceived similar facilitating factors. Because most of the FP advocates are new to the advocacy program, they mentioned factors which they thought would hasten their future advocacy activities in their respective sites. These are (a) TSAP-FP financial and technical assistance, (b) anticipated support from their local government officials, health officials, and other groups, (c) encouragement from the federation leaders, and (d) the cooperation among the zonal leaders.

The zonal leaders claimed that they will not be able to pursue their planned activities without the financial and technical support from TSAP-FP. The FP information flyers, token materials, and the needed venue and equipment to hold their community fora that will be provided to them will hasten the acceptance of their FP messages in their target communities.

Pagbibigay ng pondo ng TSAP pang merienda kasi mahirap yung puro salita lang sa tao, hindi a-attend ng forum.

(The provision of financial support by TSAP including snacks is important because it is difficult to simply talk (without logistical support) to mobilize the people to attend the forum.)

The clear explanations by TSAP-FP and the resource persons regarding the relation of FP with poverty and FP methods were perceived as very useful in helping the community leaders correct erroneous information and beliefs about FP among many

people in their respective areas. They assessed that they are now better equipped to assume their FP advocacy tasks. A zonal leader who used to be against FP because of his religious background, claimed that he was very impressed with the talk of Senator Biazon and Congressman Acosta because they had shown to him that modern contraceptives can improve the quality of people's lives. He was convinced that these FP methods are not abortifacients.

It was cited that TSAP-FP staff are very concerned about the plight of the Katinig-NCR members. For example, when some of their members' dwelling units burned down, TSAP-FP personnel extended immediate assistance to the families.

The federation leaders particularly Ka Dedeng, is reportedly very responsive to their zonal needs. Thus, they are emboldened to engage in advocacy work in their respective communities because of her confidence in them. They also perceived that the unity within their zonal teams and the enthusiastic support extended by each zonal member to their group will no doubt hasten the success of their advocacy in their target communities and constituencies.

They also anticipated that the acceptance of FP in their target communities will be facilitated by their supportive local government units. In Muntinlupa City, for example, a male leader from a homeowners' association is the current mayor's special adviser. His zonal team was optimistic that additional financial assistance might be provided by the city mayor's office which would enable them to sustain and expand their FP advocacy.

Perceived facilitating factors of the Katinig-NCR youth group. The youth group perceived that there are two main factors that facilitated the partnership between their federation and TSAP-FP. The first factor is the full support and dedication of the Katinig-NCR youth group leaders to implement their advocacy plans.

Pursigido kami na ipatupad yung mga ina-advocate naming. Gusto naming maging instrumento kami na makatulong sa mga kabataan through the provision of RTS (Responsible Teen Sexuality) skills. Dedicated din kami sa trabaho, masaya kami sa ginagawa namin.

(We are determined to carry out what we are advocating. We want to be the instruments that will help the youth through the provision of RTS. We are dedicated in our work, we are happy with what we are doing.)

The second factor is attributed to the administrative and technical support that TSAP-FP staff has given to Katinig-NCR. The funds that are provided by the TSAP-FP enabled Katinig-NCR youth leaders to participate in several training activities and to improve their skills to become FP advocates.

Napakalaking tulong ng mga training, aware na kami sa nangyayari, alam na namin kung ano yung family planning. Nakilala na kami ultimo ng PopCom, naging way din sila (TSAP-FP staff)na makilala kami.

(The training activities are a great help because we are now aware about what is happening, we now know what is family planning. We became well known to others including PopCom, they (TSAP-FP staff) have been the avenue for others to know us.)

The youth group also mentioned that there will be other facilitating factors in their future activities. They cited the continued cooperation from within the federation, the acceptance of the people in their target communities, and their federation's ability to negotiate with local government officials particularly in their barangay and cities. Although the Catholic Church rejects the use of modern FP methods, they assessed that responsible teen sexuality (RTS) which is being promoted by the federation, might be acceptable to the religious hierarchy. They added that their group intends to encourage more young people to join the Katinig-NCR Youth Federation to enable them to gain advocacy skills that can help them promote FP and RTS.

Hindering factors in the partnership and the management of these difficulties

The hindering factors cited by the Katinig-NCR leaders were directed mainly at the leaders and policies of the federation, the Catholic Church, the local government, and the people in their target communities.

Katinig-NCR leaders' perceived hindering factors. There was only one factor that appeared to have hindered the partnership between TSAP-FP and Katinig-NCR in the past. This is related to the availability of TSAP-FP specialists and resource persons. It was cited that the foregoing could not be easily consulted because they were busy in other TSAP-FP training assignments.

The zonal leaders and Ka Dedeng gave potential hindering factors because the proposed activities of the various zones were not yet implemented at the time of the study. They anticipated opposition from the Catholic Church when they would conduct their community fora. They believed that the pro-life stance of the Catholic Church is shared by many people in their communities. This religious position is perceived to have created cultural barriers to the effective promotion of FP. It has also led to some confusion among some people who belong to Catholic religious organizations and to Katinig-NCR. In Malabon, for example, some Katinig-NCR women members who are affiliated with the Catholic Women's League (a conservative Catholic organization that is known to campaign for church marriages) are reportedly caught between the opposing views of their federation and their religion.

The other potential problem is the low level of FP knowledge among women and men in the communities. The zonal leaders cited several couples in their communities who have misconceptions about FP methods because some have experienced or heard, from friends and relative, of the side effects about pills and other modern contraceptives. According to Ka Dedeng, there is a misconception that FP is going to deprive couples from engaging in sexual intercourse. *Yan na lang ang kaligayahan namin,*

kukunin mo pa (That is our only source of happiness, you will still take it away from us). In addition, FP is not seen as a priority compared to housing and livelihood. The zonal leaders in Caloocan City, for example, anticipated difficulty in motivating community members who view FP as a waste of time because they do not believe that it is important for human development.

Poor families in Malabon were reportedly uninterested in FP because no immediate benefits could be obtained from it. *Hindi makain, hindi mapagkaperahan* (It can not provide food, it can not be a source of income). In Muntinlupa City, high-income families or those with “*malalaki ang bahay*”, were perceived to have negative views about FP, thus making the zonal team’s work more difficult in this area. People in depressed communities, on the other hand, were perceived to give higher preference for bingo and card games than FP fora. *Sa mga depressed areas, mas pinahahalagahan nila ang bingo at tong-its.*

The Malabon and Muntinlupa zonal leaders expressed that the absence of FP programs and lack of appreciation for FP by some barangay officials might be a problem in their community advocacy. They asserted that LGUs should be supportive of FP because of its benefits to many poor people.

The change of leadership in a homeowners’ association in Muntinlupa City in the next few months were anticipated to have a negative effect on the planned FP advocacy activities. This may mean that the trained advocate might not have enough clout or following when he would no longer hold a key position in his organization.

Other difficulties were expected by Caloocan City zonal leaders when they would conduct their community fora. These include the people’s availability during scheduled fora, absence of a venue which can accommodate several people especially during rainy season, availability of resource persons from TSAP-FP and from other partner agencies, and inequitable division of tasks among the members of the zonal group.

The Caloocan zonal team was the only group that attempted to provide solutions to their anticipated problems. They did not however, indicate how they would manage the Catholic hierarchy. They instead suggested that they would meet with conservative Catholics individually and would talk to them about FP informally. To avoid future conflicts within the team, the members would make sure that their tasks will be distributed equitably. *Tulong-tulong kami sa pagbaba ng kaalaman patungkol sa FP sa komunidad. Mas madali pag lahat gumagalaw.* (We will help each other in disseminating our knowledge about FP to the community. It is easier if everybody is helping.)

In the event that TSAP-FP and other resource speakers would not be able to come to their scheduled community activity, they would see to it that they would be ready to provide FP information or give the lecture. They will also try to find a venue that could accommodate many people especially during the rainy season. To attract the people from their target communities to come to their FP forum, they were thinking of giving out medicine (which they believed could be obtained from Friendlycare), rice, and other basic commodities that are useful to the poor, especially among those who will not have any income as a result of their participation in their zonal activities.

The youth group's perceived hindering factors. The members of the youth group who have longer collaborative experience with Katinig-NCR and TSAP-FP, expressed that they have had difficulties with some federation's older leaders, the Catholic Church, the conflicting schedule of their members, and with finances.

The young people observed that there appears to be a rivalry among the federation leaders to obtain support from Ka Dedeng. They reported that they do not receive the needed support from some leaders who tend to talk behind their backs and who meddle in their activities including the liquidation of the Teatro Katinig-NCR funds. They also claimed that they were not adequately informed about Katinig-NCR's activities. They managed the foregoing difficulties by saying *Di na lang namin papansinin*

(We will simply ignore them). To ensure autonomy from the older members of Katinig-NCR, they created their own organization, the Katinig-NCR Youth Federation. They also intend to organize a youth chapter in each zone, e.g., Katinig-NCR Youth Malabon chapter. They hope that they would be able to register their federation at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The youth group members reported that the Catholic Church tends to view the young people who are involved in their activities as promoters of abortion because the messages of their plays touch on critical issues of FP, RH, and teen sexuality. They said that they would manage this problem by holding a dialogue with nuns and priests who are known to be supportive of RH/FP.

Because of conflicting schedules, the youth group expressed that they have had difficulties in meeting regularly. They solved this problem by updating one another regularly about their individual schedules. Financial difficulties have confronted the young people in the past few months. They said that their members would make a daily contribution of two pesos starting August 1, 2004 so that they could raise funds for their activities. To be able to make more money, the youth group plans to sing Christmas carols and sell recycled materials and handicraft.

Because the members of Katinig-NCR Youth Federation hail from various areas in the metropolis, they have agreed that the home of Ka Dedeng will become their meeting place. They intend to fix Ka Dedeng's house and purchase a vehicle for the group. To facilitate communication among the members, they planned to purchase a cellular phone for their federation and assign a coordinator for each chapter. They added that they needed IEC materials for their FP advocacy. They thought of asking TSAP-FP for FP flyers and other advocacy tools.

Lessons learned from the partnership between Katinig-NCR and TSAP-FP

The lessons learned by the Katinig-NCR adult and youth leaders are related mainly to the perceived benefits derived from the many capability-building activities that TSAP-FP had organized. The acquisition of new FP knowledge, improved self-esteem and confidence, ability to effectively communicate FP to others, and improved relations within the organization were the benefits obtained from the partnership with TSAP-FP.

The youth group claimed that the leadership training that was conducted by TSAP-FP and PETA taught them to be more self-reliant and effective communicators. They asserted that they were more confident in dealing with other people. They have acquired skills in managing and facilitating workshops, writing project proposals and preparing minutes of meetings. They have learned to be patient and tolerant of others in their group. A male youth leader expressed that he was no longer shy around women because his female friends in the federation have encouraged him to share his ideas about teen issues.

The zonal leaders from the four sites, on the other hand, expressed that they have gained numerous lessons from their partnership with TSAP-FP specifically (a) about the relationship between FP and poverty particularly in their own lives and families, (b) the need to correct misconceptions or erroneous information which prevented them and their own relatives from practicing FP, (c) FP services that are available in the local health system, (d) adolescent reproductive health and sexuality, (e) the role of men in FP, (f) advocacy and team building skills which will make them effective FP advocates in their communities, (g) knowledge about different modern FP methods, and (h) the need to link up with other groups and agencies particularly with local government unit officials, to facilitate the promotion of FP in their communities.

All zonal group leaders realized that FP has a direct bearing on the impoverished situation of their own families and constituents. Zonal leaders who have four or more children said that they did not practice FP before because of erroneous information

about some FP methods such as the pill and DMPA. The sources of these misconceptions were their own relatives or friends who have experienced side effects from using contraceptives. It was expressed that it is possible to correct these erroneous beliefs. *Pwedeng ituwid ang mga maling akala.* The new knowledge gained from the training has made them realize that it is important for others to practice FP to avoid the difficulties of having many children. *Konting anak mas magkakaroon ng mataas na antas ng pamumuhay.* (Few children will raise one's standard of living.)

Knowing FP services as well the referral system of local health centers was assessed as most useful by the zonal FP advocates because they would be able to provide appropriate advice to their target communities.

Men's involvement in FP was raised as an important lesson from the training specifically by male zonal leaders. They articulated that they understood why men have a critical role to play in FP because many women are unable to practice FP due to men's objections and misconceptions. They claimed that they have started advocating about FP among their male co-workers such as pedicab and jeepney drivers and their neighbors. The president of the pedicab association in Malabon gave the following assurance: *Sa kalalakihan, may impluwensiya kami sa ibang pedicab drivers.* (We have influence over other pedicab drivers.) The different zonal leaders including those from new male-led homeowners' associations planned to pursue this effort when they would implement their planned activities in their respective zones.

Learning about the importance of adolescent sexuality was valued by the zonal leaders because of their concern about unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. It was suggested that adolescent sexuality and FP should be taught in school.

Challenges and how these can be addressed

The youth group and zonal leaders expressed a number of challenges in the FP advocacy in their respective target groups. The Katinig-NCR Youth Federation must

address the following: (a) how to clearly explain and encourage the people in their target areas to accept the information that they intend to convey; (b) how to get the support of the Catholic Church and the local government officials; (c) how to attract other young people to join their group; (d) how to explain their voluntary involvement in FP advocacy to their parents whenever they come home late from various activities.

The youth group thought that through stage or street plays they will be able to convey effectively FP and RTS messages in their target communities. They believed that they might be able to obtain the LGU's assistance by holding a dialogue with them. Several strategies were suggested to attract other young people to join their youth federation. These include the establishment of a teen center that will provide many services, e.g., 24-hour hotline, information about responsible adolescent sexuality, peer counseling, sports fest, slogan contest, and others.

The zonal leaders cited the following challenges in their future advocacy work: (a) how to make the target communities see the relation between FP and poverty; (b) how to mobilize men to participate in FP advocacy; (c) how to clearly communicate FP and the various methods; (d) how to mobilize a large area to participate in the community forum; (e) how to manage additional workload or manage their time for work, family and advocacy; (f) how to accomplish the activities according to their time frame; (g) how to recruit at least 15 males to undergo vasectomy and to find women who will submit to ligation; (h) how to obtain support from local government officials to sustain their FP advocacy; and (i) how to prove to TSAP-FP that its investments in training them are not going to be wasted.

To address the foregoing challenges, the following strategies were suggested. The zonal leaders said that they will use the situation analysis that Ka Dedeng presented to them because her lecture materials clearly described the relation between poverty and FP. They will also talk about the advantages of having smaller families. They will visit households and informally discuss FP with their neighbors. They will distribute flyers and other IEC materials that will be obtained from TSAP-FP. The male advocates will

actively pursue their advocacy among the men in their target communities. They also intend to show evidence or facts about FP modern methods to be able to overcome misconceptions about them. They will initiate dialogue with their LGU official to obtain their support for FP. Because they do not want to disappoint TSAP-FP, the zonal leaders said that they will work very hard to implement their plans.

The other major challenge is how to have more FP champions like Ka Dedeng in the federation. Zonal leaders assessed that they did not yet have Ka Dedeng's capacity and commitment for Katinig-NCR and TSAP-FP. They were, however, optimistic that after this year's community fora, new FP champions will emerge.

Prospects for sustainability

The members of the youth group are determined to sustain their federation by contributing some money to their federation, engaging in income-generating projects, and by organizing stage plays about teen sexuality in many schools, (including grade schools for 8-12 year old students). They planned to register at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) during the year, add more RTS issues in their advocacy, look for external sponsors, and apply their facilitation skills in their seminars and youth camp.

The zonal leaders, on the other hand, believed that Katinig-NCR will need TSAP-FP's financial support to enable them to continue their advocacy in other parts of their respective zones. If they would run out of external resources, they would still continue sharing what they know about FP to other people, to their neighbors and to new mothers. *Kahit wala ng TSAP at least may kaalaman na kami na ma-share sa mga tao, kapitbahay, bagong nanay. Hindi na mawawala ito, tuloy-tuloy na.*

The zonal leaders planned to make referrals to Friendlycare, link up with PopCom in their respective areas, and collaborate with local officials so that FP would

be included in the LGU budget. They will support policies, local ordinances, and resolutions that will strengthen FP programs in their respective locale.

It was suggested that the only way for the advocacy project to be sustained is by organizing the zonal communities. Katinig-NCR's existing social infrastructure particularly KASECA may assist them in fund raising. The federation can also help organize new networks that may influence local and national policy makers sustain their FP advocacy efforts.

The Cebu City United Vendors' Association (CCUVA)

The Cebu City United Vendors' Association (CCUVA) has a much longer history than Katinig-NCR because it was formally organized 20 years ago or in 1984. The CCUVA is a network of 64 local organizations comprising mainly of ambulant vendors particularly sidewalk sellers with stalls and street peddlers. It was founded by 13 organizations which were based at Carbon Market, Cebu City's largest and oldest wet market in the central part of the city. The CCUVA is recognized as a people's organization by the local government. It is registered at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Fifty seven organizations are reportedly active in the association. It organized a youth network in 2003 comprising mainly of the children of CCUVA members.

Like Katinig-NCR, CCUVA is also a member of the Basic Sector Council of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). It is affiliated with the National Peace Conference. In February 2002, it affiliated with StreetNET, an international organization of street vendors and was assigned to assist in formulating laws and policies for street vendors.

CCUVA's objectives, structure, and activities. The main objective of CCUVA is to defend the rights of its members and to protect them from abuses and other forms of harassment in their workplace such as unlawful demolition of their stalls or vending sites by government authorities. Its motto *Kaysa magnakaw kami, marangal naman ang hanapbuhay namin* (We prefer not to steal because we have a decent livelihood), is an indication that the members are proud of their occupation.

The CCUVA has a set of elected officers particularly a council (comprising of presidents of its member organizations) and an executive committee. These officers hold regular meetings. Unlike Katinig-NCR, however, this association collects dues from its members for administrative expenses and to help support its programs and projects. The estimated number of CCUVA's members is 10,000 and they hail from the

cities of Cebu, Mandaue, Lapu-lapu, Talisay and Toledo. Most of the leaders and members of CCUVA are females. Around a quarter of its leaders are males. It holds a bi-annual general assembly.

The CCUVA has a registry of its member organizations and affiliates. It represents its members in legal battles. To provide financial assistance to its members, CCUVA organized the KAMANSI (*Kooperatiba sa Ambulanting Manindahay sa Sugbo, Incorporated*), a cooperative that grants loans and livelihood assistance to the members. Since its involvement in TSAP-FP, the cooperative provides FP orientation to borrowing members prior to the release of loans every Monday. The objective of the orientation is to improve the members' knowledge about FP.

The CCUVA leaders and members have actively participated in various study committees of the city government. These committees are the (a) Integrated Vendors' Management Study Committee, (b) Regulatory Body on Street, Sidewalk, and Public Vending, (c) Environmental Protection, (d) Hawkers' Management Study Committee, and (e) Technical Working Committee to study the plight of street, sidewalk, and public vendors.

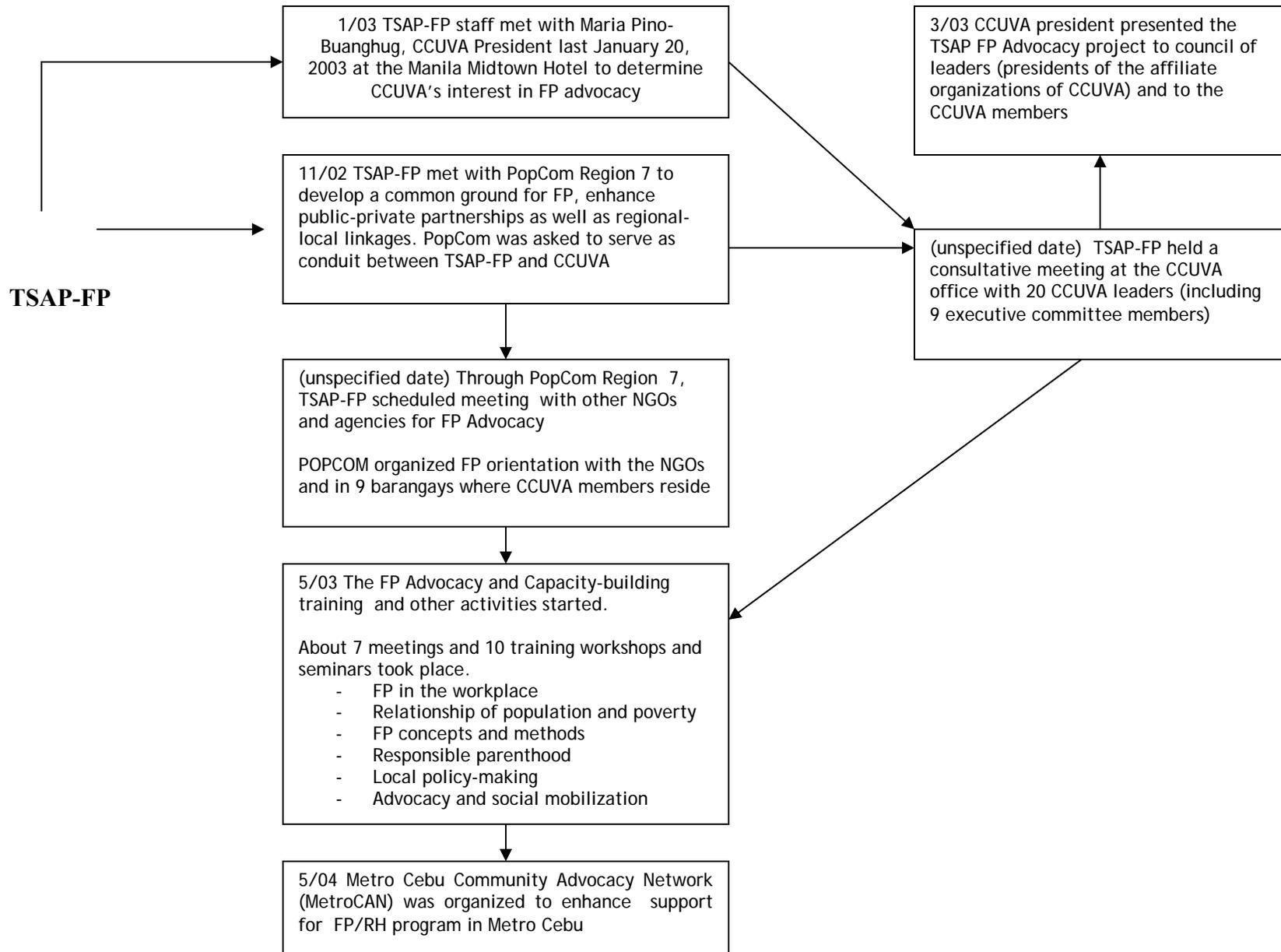
To develop their skills and capabilities, CCUVA leaders and members have joined training workshops that were conducted by NGOs and by local government units. These capacity- building activities include (a) leadership training on participatory management and development, (b) organizational development and education, (c) paralegal training, (d) local governance and legislative lobbying, (e) children's rights, and (f) public speaking.

The CCUVA is engaged in various forms of advocacy activities. To call the general public and government authorities' attention on some critical issues that affect their members, they resort to holding rallies and pickets. The association also assists in relocating its members who have been ejected or displaced from their vending sites. Its leaders hold dialogues with city mayors and the provincial governor concerning their

association's issues and situation. They organize press conferences, participate in radio and television programs to discuss their issues and other concerns. They have reportedly proposed and drafted a city ordinance about demolition of vendors' stalls, vendors' rights and alternative vending sites.

Because of its large membership and well-organized structure, the CCUVA has become a formidable force which many local government officials cannot ignore. City Mayor Tomas Osmeña often consults the association on matters that affect their livelihood and well-being. Because of the support and importance given by the mayor to CCUVA, the association spent P300,000 from its own funds to campaign for his re-election in May 2004.

Figure 2. Strategies and processes of TSAP-FP and CCUVA partnership



Summary of the major strategies and processes that TSAP-FP and the CCUVA utilized

To achieve its plan of increasing the FP acceptance rate among the low-income population in Metro Cebu, TSAP-FP collaborated with two major partners, the Population Commission (PopCom) Region 7 and CCUVA. In November 2002, PopCom Region 7 (Central Visayas) director and his staff were met by TSAP-FP representatives (Ms. Filipinas Santos, Civil society mobilization specialist, and Ms. Ester C. Isberto, Advocacy Advisor) and were requested to bring together other NGOs and agencies who were willing to participate in TSAP-FP.

Two months later, TSAP-FP staff particularly Ms. F. Santos and Mr. R. Soriano were introduced by Ka Dedeng (the Katinig-NCR President) to CCUVA's president, Maria Pino- Buanghug at Manila Midtown Hotel during the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) meeting. They informally discussed TSAP-FP and CCUVA's activities and the possibility of collaboration in FP advocacy.

A formal meeting was held between TSAP-FP representatives and 20 CCUVA leaders in February 2003 at the CCUVA office in Cebu City. The topics discussed in this consultation was the population situation in Central Visayas and its relation to poverty and development in the region, modern FP methods including misconceptions and barriers to their usage, and TSAP-FP. This meeting marked the beginning of the partnership between TSAP-FP and CCUVA.

After the foregoing meeting, TSAP-FP representatives (Ms. F. Santos and Ms. E. Isberto) presented the advocacy project to other urban poor organizations, women's groups and other NGOs in a meeting that was organized by PopCom. The PopCom convened another consultative meeting with all partners and sectors to synchronize the FP advocacy agenda with TSAP-FP. After these events, the PopCom Region 7 agreed to serve as the conduit between TSAP-FP, CCUVA and other sectors in Cebu.

In March 2003, CCUVA's president presented the FP advocacy project to the Council of leaders (the presidents of CCUVA's member organizations). She also met with other CCUVA members and partner organizations at the Holiday Plaza to introduce TSAP-FP.

In May 2003, TSAP-FP in collaboration with PopCom, conducted the first capacity-building seminar on FP advocacy. The members of CCUVA's Executive Committee and other leaders as well as the other partners participated in this training. This was followed by 10 more capacity-building seminars and workshops and seven organizational meetings. The topics of these training activities were on FP in the workplace, population and poverty, FP concepts and methods, responsible parenthood, local policy making, advocacy and social mobilization. Refer to Table 3 in the Appendix for the summary of these gatherings particularly the type of activity, participants, convenor, date, and topics.

The CCUVA's Executive Committee members and leaders also received training from TSAP-FP and PopCom on effective communication and interpersonal skills, community mapping, resource profiling, fund sourcing, lobbying or negotiation with local leaders, and proposal writing. They prepared a proposal about their FP advocacy plans which included community and multi-sectoral fora that will involve other NGOs and people's organizations (POs). The proposal was submitted to TSAP-FP's Small Grants Program and was subsequently approved for funding.

In October 2003, TSAP-FP representatives met with leaders from CCUVA and two other NGOs, the Nazareth Homes and Barangay Motherhood Association of Panagtambayayong, Inc. and discussed possibilities of tapping other groups from the informal sector and urban poor associations to form a network of RH/FP advocates. In February 2004, a consultation meeting involving representatives from TSAP-FP, PopCom, CCUVA and the foregoing sectors took place which led to the creation of the Metro Cebu Grassroots Network of RH/FP Advocates. This network was renamed

Metro Cebu Community Advocacy Network (MetroCAN) and it was launched on July 8, 2004, in Metro Cebu by TSAP-FP and PopCom.

The MetroCAN flyer which is written in the Cebuano language stated the following vision:

Ang pangandoy nga ang Metro Cebu CAN adunay hamugaway malipayon, himsog ug responsable nga pamilya inubanan sa aktibong partisipasyon sa kabatan-onan ug suporta sa nakalain-laing sector ug pamunuan sa gobyerno diha sa malamboon nga komunidad nga adunay kalinaw, pagsinabtanay ug pagbinatiay.

(The vision of Metro Cebu CAN is to have comfortable, happy, healthy and responsible families with the active participation of the youth and the support of other sectors and local government unit leaders toward a progressive, peaceful and cooperative community.)

The MetroCAN's objectives are as follows: (a) to disseminate FP information to society; (b) to lobby at the LGU to establish a "City Population Office;" (c) to lobby for support from the city government to obtain support for FP services for families and the youth; (d) to raise the number of users of FP services; (e) to obtain support from religious groups to support the program on responsible parenthood and FP; and (f) to strengthen the network .

The core values that are espoused by the network are cooperation, responsibility, happy family, spirituality, healthy body, discipline, autonomy, knowledge, and strong objection against oppression.

The members of the MetroCAN are: (1) Alliance of Barangay Apas Community Association (ABACA); (2) Barangay Ermita Mother's Association, Inc. (BEMAI); (3) Barangay Labangon Women's Network (BLAWN); (4) BHW Federation-Cebu Province; (5) CCUVA; (6) Barangay Luz Homeowners' Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BLHMPC); (7) Nazareth, Inc.; (8) Panagtambayayong-South District Women's Association; (9)

PBSP-Olango Island Community Association; (10) Warwick Barracks Women's Organization; (11) Barangay Luz Youth; and (12) Mandaue Vendors Association.

TSAP-FP collaborated with PopCom Region 7 and the other partners of the network in celebrating the local FP Day to obtain interest and support for FP in Cebu. Another group, the regional Population Network (POPNET) which involves twenty-four NGOs from Cebu, Negros Oriental and Bohol, was created with support from TSAP-FP.

Leaders of Rotary Clubs in Metro Cebu and Negros Oriental, the Trade Union Conference of the Philippines, and Cebu City Chamber of Commerce and Industry are currently being tapped as new partners by TSAP-FP.

Perceived facilitating factors of the partnership between TSAP-FP and CCUVA

The CCUVA leaders claimed that the factors which hastened the partnership between their association and TSAP-FP are as follows: (a) the administrative and technical support provided by TSAP-FP; (b) the cooperation and commitment within CCUVA particularly among the leaders and other members; (c) the assistance provided by the PopCom staff; (d) the participation and cooperation of other stakeholders and partners from the informal sector, the peoples' organizations (POs), NGOs, business community, local government units, and the academe; and (e) the establishment of the MetroCAN.

TSAP-FP staff, particularly its communications and social mobilization specialist and resource persons, were assessed as competent and supportive of CCUVA's FP advocacy. From the start of their engagement, TSAP-FP has provided funds (through PopCom) and capability-building seminars and workshops which were aimed at providing advocacy and social mobilization skills not only to CCUVA leaders but also to other partners in the informal sector and NGO community. Some leaders were even

sent to training seminars outside of Cebu to learn new skills and to meet other partners in FP advocacy. A male FP champion shared the following:

I have attended several seminars and now I have an idea about how to explain the FP program. I am convinced about the program. I can relate to other people particularly my group, other groups, NGOs, POs, LGUs, when it comes to FP programs. We have the potential to advocate...the program can help (improve) the plight of the vendors.

A female leader articulated similar thoughts.

Mas maayo gyud na naka-apil mi ug seminar kay nakahibaw mi unsaon pag-approach sa tawo, makat-on gyud mi, dili man ingon na FP lang tanan kundi hasta ang pag-gather sa mga tawo.

(It was good that we were able to join the seminar because we were able to know how to approach people, we really learned not only about FP but also how to mobilize many people.)

The commitment and enthusiasm within CCUVA particularly by its president and other FP champions, were vital in facilitating the implementation of the planned FP activities. The leaders are reportedly driven by their desire to improve the quality of their members' and other poor peoples' lives. A female leader said:

Panginahanglan sa mga members, nakita namo na kasagaran sa among members daghan ug anak unya tungod sad sa kalisud sa panahon.

(We saw what most of our members needed [FP] because they have many children and times are really hard.)

Although this is CCUVA's first attempt to engage in a health-related advocacy, their long years of experience in lobbying and fighting for their rights in the workplace and in other aspects of urban development have hastened the implementation of their FP advocacy activities in their locale. Their ability to work with many partners in the NGO community and in the informal sector has facilitated the launching of the MetroCAN.

The informants assessed that the PopCom director and his staff were most helpful in assisting them acquire their needed skills. They have also been instrumental in bringing together urban poor communities and other sectors to the various capability-building workshops, FP day celebration and other advocacy activities.

Hindering factors of the partnership between TSAP-FP and CCUVA

The factors perceived by the leaders as hindrances to the FP advocacy focused mainly on some difficulties that they have encountered within their organization and with other groups in the city. These factors are as follows: (a) conflicting schedules of the leaders and some uncooperative members and leaders; (b) lack of support from barangay and other local government officials particularly in the provision of FP commodities; (c) the Catholic Church's conservative stance about FP and the use of modern methods; (d) low awareness and misconceptions about FP of other sectors in the community; and (e) the bad weather.

Some of the foregoing difficulties were managed in the past while others were not. Suggestions were given about what could be done for some unresolved hindrances.

Since FP advocacy is a voluntary undertaking, more often than not, some leaders and members of CCUVA do not reportedly give it top priority because of their need to earn money for their daily survival. Thus some of them were viewed as uncooperative. A female leader noted:

Time of the members is lacking especially if successive ang activity kay manginabuhì man gud sila .

(The time of the members is lacking especially if there are successive activities because they are busy earning a living.)

Conflict would occasionally arise whenever activities were scheduled at a time when leaders and members had work or other responsibilities. This difficulty was

managed through regular sharing by the members of their schedules and availability for CCUVA's FP advocacy tasks.

Absence of support from the local government is viewed as a problem by the CCUVA leaders. The politicians are said to have little understanding of FP and they are in general afraid of the Catholic Church. *Kulang sa pagpasabot, hadlok sa simbahan ang mga local government officials.* Affiliation in a Catholic organization has reportedly affected the provision of FP services by LGU health providers. A female leader observed:

The problem now lies with the LGUs, (that is) if they could provide the necessary supplies and services. Nurses and midwives in the health centers should draw the line because if they are members of the CFC (Couples for Christ), they don't entertain FP clients.

They mentioned that the foregoing difficulties could be managed if their barangay officials and health providers were consulted or included in the planning and implementation of their FP advocacy activities. The Gender and Development (GAD) funds that the local government unit allocates in its annual budget could be tapped for FP commodities and for other related activities with gender dimension such as their advocacy project.

The leaders said that they do not intend to directly confront the leaders of the Catholic Church. They will instead advocate the use of natural family planning (NFP) methods because these are acceptable to the Catholic hierarchy and its conservative members.

To help correct misconceptions in FP, it was suggested that various media forms must be used to convey the right FP information. Community FP advocates must also exercise utmost patience in explaining FP especially among residents in their communities with low levels of awareness and knowledge about FP.

Lessons learned

The leaders mentioned that the FP orientation and capability-building workshops and seminars have made them realize the connection of FP to economics and poverty, population and environmental issues, and how these affect their lives. They appreciated the clear and holistic approach of TSAP-FP in explaining the relationship of FP with the other elements of human development. A youth leader mentioned that he has learned about time management from TSAP-FP because he was able to manage his time properly at school and in the community to enable him to participate in CCUVA's activities. He has also acquired social skills and have applied these in relating with other young people in his community.

The CCUVA leaders have learned about the different FP methods including their advantages and limitations. Their misconceptions about some FP methods were also corrected.

The different capability-training seminars and workshops have equipped the leaders with the necessary communication and leadership skills that are vital in their advocacy activities. They now feel more empowered and confident in advocating FP matters and in correcting misconceptions among family members and other people in their communities.

The women leaders said that their orientation about sexuality and effective communication has provided them with skills and confidence in relating with men and with people from different sectors. They added that they used to link up only with agencies that has similar goals as CCUVA's but their involvement in FP advocacy has broadened their network because they now include in their directory health agencies from the public and private sector particularly NGOs and health training institutions. The CCUVA president shared:

Ni-wide ang networks sa CCUVA (apil ang) city government, NGOs ug ubang agencies, mura siya ug kanang nisakaan iyang pako, nailhan na CCUVA is FP na sad.

(CCUVA now has a wider network (to include) the city government, NGOs and other agencies, it has spread its wings and now CCUVA is also known for FP.)

Challenges of the partnership between TSAP-FP and CCUVA

The informants stated that the challenges confronting their FP advocacy are as follows: (a) how to successfully disseminate FP particularly to people with low levels of awareness and knowledge and those with misconceptions about the different FP methods; (b) how to sustain the interest and commitment of the CCUVA and the MetroCAN members to enable the network to obtain its objectives; (c) how to involve men and the youth in FP advocacy and to practice responsible sexuality; (d) how to encourage 99% of the Cebuanos to practice FP to improve their economic status and quality of life and ultimately the province's population growth; (e) how to sustain their FP advocacy when TSAP-FP ends its support to CCUVA; and (f) how to obtain support from the local government and other funding agencies.

They were confident that they would be able to confront the foregoing challenges because they and their partners are committed to obtain the objectives of the MetroCAN.

Sustainability

The informants were confident that the CCUVA leaders would be able to sustain what they have started in their FP advocacy. A male leader claimed that CCUVA is an influential and well-organized group.

Lig-on (Well established) and known—marami siyang (it has plenty) network for mobilization because we are an organized group so it is easier for us to influence (others).

They assessed that the CCUVA leaders possess the necessary skills to lobby for support from the city government (particularly for GAD funds) for FP clinics and other services. If the vision and objectives of the MetroCAN would be implemented, the informants expected that many Cebuanos would be benefited. The association's collaboration with many stakeholders was anticipated to attract the support of other funding agencies. They thought that the network's ability to lobby and seek for support would be heeded by the local government and can attract the support of other benefactors. The creation of the Cebu PopCom office was envisioned as specifically helpful in attending to the Metro Cebu's FP and other related needs because the PopCom Region 7 office must provide support to the various provinces in Central Visayas.

Tapping barangay tanod or village peace officers who are mostly men in the FP advocacy will be strategic in involving other men in the communities.

The Muslim Religious Leaders (MRLs) in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)

Muslim religious leaders (MRLs) possess extensive knowledge of Islam. They may be Arabic teachers in the Madrasah (Islamic religious school), *imam* or prayer leaders of the mosques, professors in the universities, or active officers of religious organizations and members of the Darul Iftah (House of Islamic Opinion or Decision).

The MRLs are usually conversant in the Arabic language because they are graduates of the Madrasah. However, not all of them have completed secondary or college education in the mainstream formal educational system. Those who have graduated from both systems of education are fluent in Arabic and English and are often employed in public or in private schools.

Historically, the MRLs were not influential in Muslim Mindanao because they were not organized and they had no regular sources of income. They were highly dependent on the support of poor Muslim communities. In the absence of resources, the MRLs were not updated about Islam.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Middle Eastern countries became aware of the plight of Southeast Asian Muslims, particularly the MRLs of Mindanao. Thus, many promising *ulama* were sent to study in Libya, Syria, Pakistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. When they returned to Mindanao, some of them joined secessionist movements such as the Moro International Liberation Front (MILF) and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), while others worked for the improvement of religious studies in their respective locale.

The provision of scholarships to study in Middle Eastern universities continued in the 1980s. Thus, many outstanding Madrasah graduates were awarded scholarships for further Arabic and Islamic studies in prestigious universities in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Iran as well as in neighboring Muslim countries particularly Malaysia and Indonesia. The scholars who have completed their training abroad often occupied high

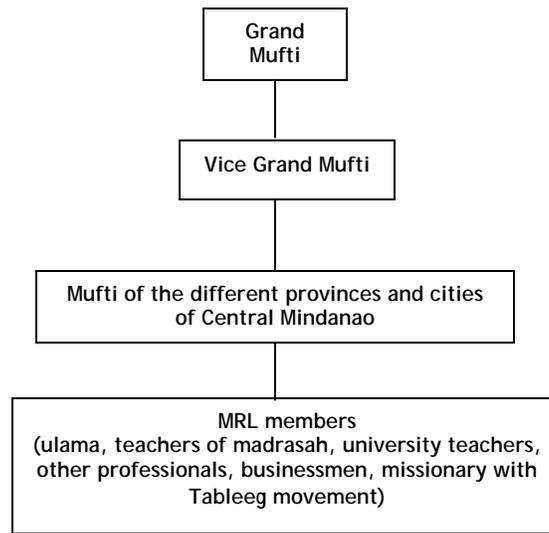
positions in their communities mainly as professors in Islamic centers or universities. Some of them established resource centers to update other religious leaders about proper preaching and guidance of Islam followers. The Islamic Library in Jolo and the Islamic Center in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi are examples of these efforts.

Despite their high levels of education and status in society, the MRLs remained unorganized until the 1990s. In order to gain more religious influence in Muslim Mindanao, the MRLs created the Darul Iftah or House of Opinion in different provinces. The function of the Darul Iftah is to issue religious edicts or decrees in the practice of Islam. This includes, for example, the official pronouncement of the start of the 40-day Ramadhan or fasting period.

Although there are several Darul Iftah in the ARMM, the House of Opinion in Cotabato City is considered as the most important religious group by the *ulama* in Central Mindanao and in Southern Philippines. Figure 3 shows that the Cotabato City Darul Iftah is headed by the grand mufti and is assisted by a vice-grand mufti. Third in the structure are the muftis from the cities and provinces of Central Mindanao. The MRLs (ulama, teachers of madrasah, university teachers, other professionals, businessmen, missionaries with the Tableeg movement) are located at the base of the organization (see Figure 3 below).

Because of the Darul Iftah's sphere of influence in the ARMM, its MRLs were tapped by UNFPA and PopCom for RH programs in 2002. The idea of drafting a national fatwah on RH stemmed from this earlier collaboration. However, this notion was not pursued by UNFPA because of limited financial resources and other organizational constraints. Since TSAP-FP is part of a network of RH/FP advocates, it decided to continue UNFPA's initial efforts with the MRLs in the ARMM because its FP advocacy agenda also included faith-based groups.

Figure 3. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: Darul Iftah



Summary of the strategies and processes of TSAP-FP and MRL partnership

The presence of several Muslim ethnic groups (Maguindanao, Maranao, Tausug, Sama, Yakan, Samals) and several decades of armed conflict between the government and the secessionist groups, have made the ARMM the most complex region in the Philippines. Because of these circumstances, the ARMM's development has lagged behind the other regions. Its infant and maternal mortality rates as well as malnutrition rates are the highest in the country. The high fertility and low contraceptive prevalence rates are an indication of the high unmet need for FP in this area. The pervasive misconception that Islam is against the practice of FP indicates that religion is a major barrier in the promotion of family planning among the Muslims in the various provinces of the region.

The involvement of the MRLs was in TSAP-FP's strategic agenda because they are the most respected and influential sector in Muslim society. Pursuing the development of the national fatwah for RH/FP was the main strategy that occupied TSAP-FP and the MRLs as well as the other stakeholders in the region. To facilitate the

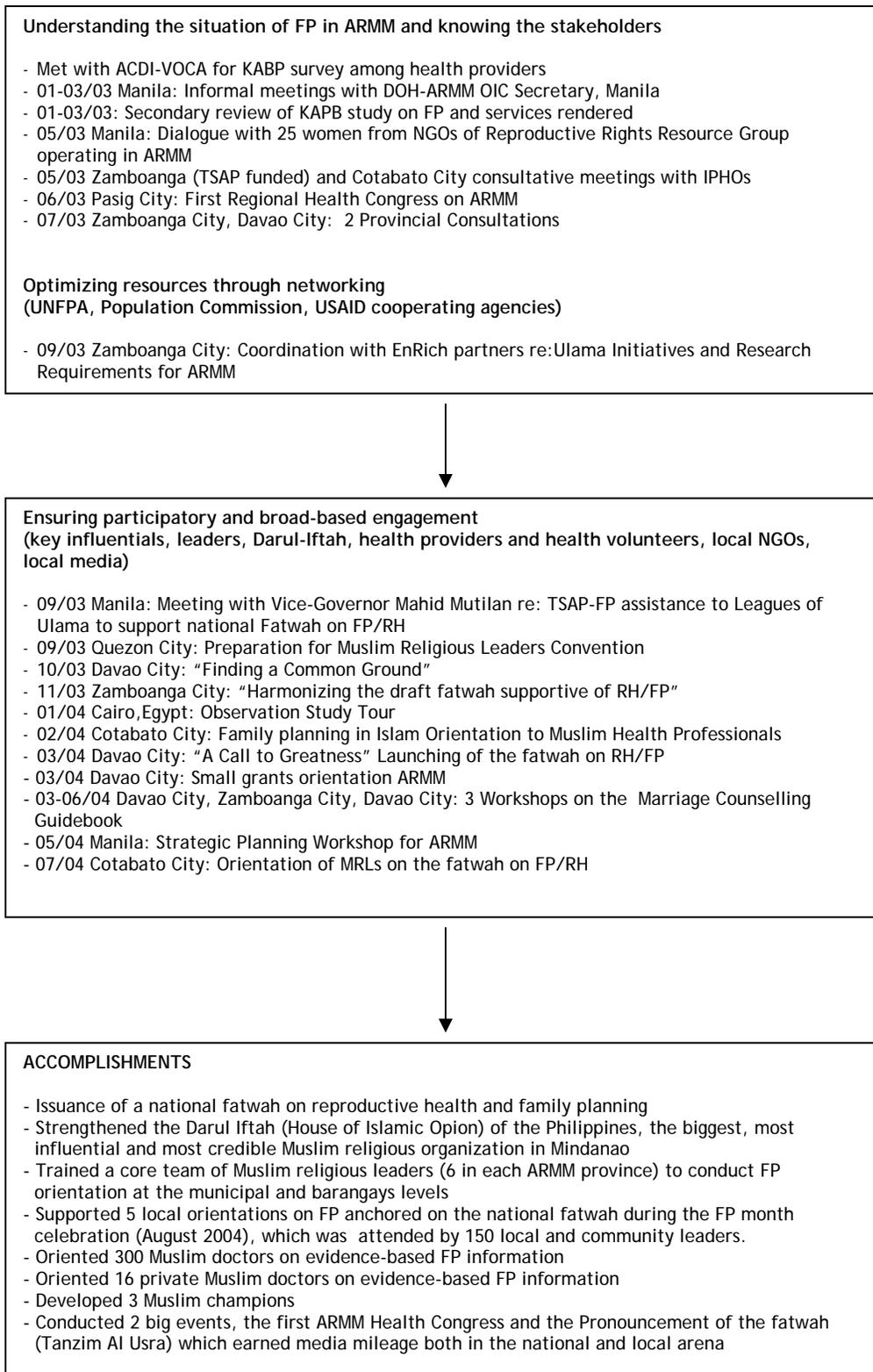
issuance of this religious edict, TSAP-FP designated its communications expert and Deputy Chief of Party (Dr. Cecile Lantican), as the staff responsible for the MRLs because she has had earlier experience (as UNFPA Advocacy Advisor) in collaborating with them.

The strategies and processes of TSAP-FP's engagement of the MRLs in the past 19 months centered around two main activities—the drafting which includes the launch of the national fatwah for RH/FP's and its dissemination in target communities. Refer to Table 5 in the Appendix for the summary of the specific activities of MRLs and TSAP-FP.

The drafting and launch of the national fatwah for RP/FP. Several activities were done in the preparation of the national fatwah. The flow chart (see Figure 4) shows that before the drafting of the national fatwah, it was essential to understand the situation of FP in the ARMM and to identify the various stakeholders that would support the preparation of the religious edict.

In the preparation of the national fatwah, TSAP-FP collaborated with the UNFPA, the Population Commission, and other USAID cooperating agencies. After the approval of TSAP-FP's work plan for ARMM on March 11, 2003, TSAP-FP staff essentially planned for the baseline survey and met with the ACDI-VOCA for the KABP survey among health providers and public health care facilities in the region.

Figure 4. The strategies and processes utilized by TSAP-FP in engaging the MRLs and the Darul Iftah in FP advocacy.



TSAP-FP Deputy CoP established initial contact with the DOH-ARMM in January 2003 through Dr. Tato Usman, the region's medical specialist and acting FP coordinator, whom she met in another RH meeting in Cebu. Dr. Usman informed Dr. Lampa Pandi, OIC Secretary of DOH-ARMM about the interest of TSAP-FP to collaborate with the region. This initial contact led to two informal meetings on the first and second quarters of 2003. It was agreed that consultative meetings would be held in Zamboanga and Cotabato for the possibility of organizing a congress on health issues concerning the ARMM in June 2003.

In April 2003, TSAP-FP hired the services of a field coordinator and consultant (Ms. Eva Kimpo-Tan, a Christian social scientist from Cotabato City who has had long years of association with the Muslims in the region as a researcher and former professor of a local Catholic university that accepts Muslim and Christian students) to facilitate the consultative meetings in May 2003 between the DOH-ARMM OIC, TSAP-FP and the directors of the Integrated Provincial Health Officers (IPHOs) in the cities of Zamboanga and Cotabato. These meetings focused on the need to involve various stakeholders (including funding agencies) and potential TSAP-FP partners in the proposed health congress in June 2003. This activity was envisioned to explore avenues of collaboration and complementation on advocacy initiatives in order to obtain a more complete perspective of the FP situation and issues that needed immediate attention. The following outcomes were expected from the health congress: (a) the results of the baseline data on family planning and reproductive health initiatives undertaken in ARMM in the past three years; (b) an inter-agency agenda on FP and RH for ARMM in the next three years to guide project implementers; and (c) a mechanism or process for collaboration and complementation of efforts among government agencies and NGOs on family planning and other health concerns in general.

Prior to the health congress, a dialogue took place on May 28, 2003 in Manila between 25 women from NGOs that are affiliated with the ARMM's Reproductive

Rights Resource Group (RRRG), and TSAP-FP. The discussion focused on the FP initiatives of women NGOs and on possible areas of collaboration in the ARMM.

The regional RH/FP consultation otherwise known as the “First ARMM Regional Health Congress” was held at the Linden Suites in Pasig City on June 17-18, 2003. The experience shared in the congress generated sufficient evidence from the research of TSAP-FP regarding the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and practices as well as FP services that were useful for the communication/advocacy planning and decision-making of the project implementers. A clear picture of the FP situation in the ARMM emerged: there was an increasing population growth in the region as the contraceptive prevalence rate remained the lowest in the country. The region exhibited the highest poverty incidence level, the lowest literacy rates and the highest mortality rates. The peace and order problems caused by secessionist groups, terrorism and banditry further compounded the foregoing problems. The workshop led to the formulation of a three-year reproductive health agenda for the ARMM, thus setting a clear direction for the ARMM.

Two provincial-level consultations soon followed (one in Zamboanga City on July 17-18, 2003 at the Orchid Garden Hotel and one in Davao City on July 24-25, 2003 at Marco Polo Hotel). Participants in the Zamboanga consultation came mostly from non-government organizations in Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Jolo. Some representatives came from the Integrated Provincial Health Offices. The Davao City consultation meeting was attended by representatives from NGOs and partners of USAID-EnRICH program, the Provincial and City Health Offices. Action plans for each province outlining specific RH and FP issues that the partners wanted to pursue were the results of the two consultation meetings. It was at this point that direct assistance from TSAP-FP began.

After the foregoing activities, TSAP-FP staff pursued the drafting of the national fatwah on RH/FP in collaboration with UNFPA and PopCom. In 2000-2001, these two agencies have conducted consultation and training activities with MRLs on RH/FP

including study tours in Muslim countries. A training module on RH/FP in the context of Islam was earlier developed from this engagement.

Building on the gains of what the UNFPA and PopCom have started, TSAP-FP explored avenues for more active MRL participation because of the recognition that they are the sole authority who can issue a religious edict or decree (fatwah). In the pursuit of a national fatwah, broad engagement of the Muslim population was considered. TSAP-FP operates in the ARMM while UNFPA and the multi-donor program are in Regions 9, 10, 11, and 12 where PopCom is heavily involved in mobilizing religious leaders.

A multi-agency technical working group (TWG) was established comprising of representatives from TSAP-FP, PopCom, USAID, and UNFPA. To gather input in drafting the national fatwah and to galvanize support for its official pronouncement by MRL groups from various provinces of ARMM, the TWG decided that a dialogue with the MRLs should be convened.

On August 26-27, 2003 TSAP-FP staff met with the Darul Iftah in Cotabato City to discuss the crafting of the national fatwah document, the signatories, the format and content. It was agreed that the preparation team of the Darul Iftah would be headed by the Vice Chair of the Darul Iftah Sheik Abdulwahab Moh Pak and the other MRLs would assist him. He would present the draft of the national fatwah during the “Finding a Common Ground” workshop which was scheduled in October 2003.

On September 5, 2003, TSAP-FP staff attended the quarterly meeting of the EnRICH partners in Zamboanga City and learned about the group’s intentions and progress in designing provincial fatwahs that are supportive of FP. In the same meeting, TSAP-FP Deputy CoP explicitly expressed that the project would pursue a national fatwah which would be the framework for other provincial fatwahs. It was emphasized that a national fatwah would serve the purpose of unifying all the provinces and all the Muslim religious leaders’ position about family planning. TSAP-FP then

offered technical assistance to the other USAID cooperating agencies in crafting their communication plan and in harmonizing their IEC-related efforts.

After the Zamboanga City meeting, TSAP-FP staff and representatives from the USAID, UNFPA, PopCom and DOH-ARMM met with ARMM Vice-Governor Mahad Mutilan at Edsa Shangrila on September 15, 2003. This meeting was arranged by Dr. Lampa Pandi, the DOH-ARMM Secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain the vice-governor's support for the crafting of a national fatwah for FP. The vice-governor stressed the need to conduct a dialogue with Muslim religious leaders to determine their knowledge and issues about FP and the acceptance of FP in the context of Islam.

On September 25, 2003, the PopCom hosted a meeting with TSAP-FP and UNFPA in Quezon City. In this meeting, TSAP shared its plan for a convention involving MRLs from the ARMM and Metro Manila to obtain an endorsement of the proposed national fatwah for RH/FP from these well-respected Muslims by February 2004.

The dialogue with the MRLs was held at the Grand Regal Hotel in Davao City on October 20, 2003 with the theme entitled "Finding a common ground." Approximately 80 participants from the different regions of Mindanao and from the multi-agency technical working group attended this activity. TSAP-FP sponsored MRLs from the ARMM, while UNFPA sponsored those participants from Regions 9, 10, 11, and 12. The draft of the national fatwah was subsequently presented and discussed by the vice chair of the Darul Iftah, Sheik Abdulwahab Moh Pak. It contained the common understanding of the MRLs and their support for RH and FP. A group of MRL writers further improved the draft of the religious document. The revised version was reviewed in another meeting in November 2003 in Zamboanga City.

Further refinement of the national fatwah was done in another workshop entitled "Harmonizing the Draft National Fatwah Supportive of RH/FP" which was

held at the Orchid Garden Hotel in Manila on November 4-5, 2003. It was agreed that the national fatwah would be translated into Arabic. Thus the religious edict was subsequently sent to Egypt for translation from English to Arabic by an Egyptian translator. The English and Arabic versions of the national fatwah was signed by the muftis of the Darul Iftah on November 20, 2003. Because there was no official endorsement from the Grand Mufti in Cairo, Egypt, the document was held in abeyance until the latter's official pronouncement was made.

On January 11-16, 2004, a small group of Muslim religious leaders (9 from the Darul Iftah of Central Mindanao) and the AED Deputy CoP went on a TSAP-FP/USAID sponsored study-observation tour to Cairo, Egypt the center of Islamic teaching and several reproductive health programs. The objective of the tour was to provide its participants with a deeper appreciation and understanding of reproductive health in the context of Islamic teaching. The study tour included visit to the Cairo offices of USAID, UNFPA and the International Islamic Center for Population at the Al-Azhar University, a world renowned Islamic school.

The TFG Policy Project in Egypt facilitated the foregoing visit. It arranged the study group's meeting with high-level religious authorities in the country and the visit to main religious institutions. It also enabled the group to receive an orientation about the Egyptian reproductive health program from policy and service delivery points particularly about the role of religious leaders and the religious institutions in this endeavor.

One of the highlights of the tour was an audience with the Deputy Grand Sheik Dr. Mohamad Imbabi and Grand Mufti H.E. Dr. Ali Gomaa. The meeting with the Grand Mufti was most significant because the national fatwah for RH/FP which was e-mailed to him one week earlier, was discussed. The Grand Mufti gave few comments on the edict's grammar and corrected some detail about age of marriage and age at first pregnancy of women. After these comments, the Grand Mufti officially signed the national fatwah's endorsement and public pronouncement.

Upon the return of the study group, the national fatwah was reviewed for consistency by the Ustadz Ahmad Mala, the President of SOFDEPI who has had extensive Arabic education. As part of their re-entry strategy in the community, the observation-study group also conducted an FP orientation among Muslim health professionals in the context of Islam in Cotabato City on February 8, 2004. The ARMM FP situationer was presented as well as the national fatwah on RH/FP. Ustadz Abdulwahak Pak, the Vice Grand Mufti, made a summary of the national fatwah and explained each provision.

The national fatwah on RH/FP was officially launched on March 10, 2004 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City. Entitled “Tanzim al Ushr, A Call to Greatness,” the launch was a significant and big multi-media event. It challenged all Muslims in the country to aspire for a better quality of life through family planning. It was attended by 130 participants to include MRLs, FP champions, government and non-government well-known leaders, and representatives from international agencies.

Two months after the launch particularly on May 6-7, 2004, a two-day strategy formulation workshop was held at Diamond Hotel in Manila to develop a framework for the ARMM’s strategic activities. TSAP-FP technical staff, USAID CTO and consultants for ARMM participated in this workshop.

TSAP-FP has also identified FP champions in the course of their advocacy and social mobilization work in the ARMM. FP champions are leaders whose sphere of influence cuts across sectors and they maybe involved in national networks. Some champions are MRLs who have previously worked in the UNFPA project and NGO leaders. Some of them have attended the training on FP champions public relations workshop on October 15-16, 2003 in Tagaytay City and the training on FP advocacy in Bohol on March 29 to April 3, 2004. The purpose of the Bohol training was to pre-test TSAP-FP advocacy manual which will be used by the partner organizations in implementing their FP advocacy in their communities.

The application and dissemination of the national fatwah for RH/FP.

After the launch of the national fatwah, the next concern of the MRLs was how to advocate this religious edict in Muslim communities and to other MRLs and potential FP advocates. Thus the Society of Family Development and Education of the Philippines (SOFDEPI), a SEC-registered NGO for Central Mindanao's Darul Iftah, conducted an orientation for MRLs under the auspices of TSAP-FP in Cotabato City on July 7-9, 2004. The SOFDEPI was organized by the Darul Iftah because as a religious institution, it has no legal personality to accept funds and engage in secular activities.

The SOFDEPI staff and MRLs who went through TSAP-FP orientation and capability-building seminars also received training on proposal writing to enable them to avail of funds from the Small Grants Program. The activities listed in the proposal were mostly orientation about the national fatwah on RH/FP for various groups—the local *imam* (prayer leaders in the Mosque), adolescents in Madrasah, ulama and muftis. Radio programs about the national fatwah and the distribution of the published religious edict were the other activities cited in the SOFDEPI proposals.

Other groups involved in FP advocacy in Mindanao were also invited to participate in the training on project proposal writing. Two other proposals recently received support from the foregoing TSAP-FP's Small Grants Program. One proposal is from Western Mindanao State University Development Foundation Inc. Its project aims to develop a core of Muslim youth peer advocates for responsible teen sexuality and family planning in the context of Islam. It intends to conduct a youth camp among 40 Muslim youth peer advocates.

The proposal from the Tarbilang Foundation of Tawi-Tawi on the other hand, aims to increase the social acceptance of family planning in Tawi-Tawi through informal meetings, academic discussions, community assemblies, orientation meetings about the national fatwah for RH/FP and through the involvement of 12 Muslim religious leaders

in disseminating the national fatwah during Friday prayers. A fourth proposal is reportedly being revised.

After the launch of the national fatwah, TSAP-FP and its partners in ARMM drafted a guidebook on Family Planning Pre-marriage/Marriage Counseling (Khutbatunnikkah). This document is going to be utilized by MRLs to counsel couples of reproductive age who are about to get married. Because most MRLs, particularly the *imam* or *asatiz*, officiate Muslim weddings, this resource book is a valuable tool to enable them to provide useful messages about FP and responsible parenthood.

Three workshops were organized in the preparation of the guidebook. A core group of MRLs from different ARMM provinces (Lanao del Norte, Basilan, Jolo and Cotabato) participated in these workshops and wrote the different chapters of the guidebook.

Facilitating factors of the partnership between TSAP-FP and MRLs

The factors perceived to have hastened the partnership between TSAP-FP and the MRLs were drawn from the views of the MRLs of Central Mindanao and SOFDEPI and from the new FP advocates particularly those who joined the July 7-9, 2004 orientation workshop about the national fatwah and FP advocacy, in Cotabato City.

The MRLs shared their past experiences about their partnership with TSAP-FP while the new FP advocates gave their views about what they expected would facilitate their collaborative venture with TSAP-FP.

Perceived facilitating factors among MRLs in ARMM. The inclusion of the Darul Iftah in the development of the national fatwah on RH/FP was perceived by the MRLs as a major facilitating factor in the partnership with TSAP-FP because it is the recognized authority in all matters pertaining to Islam.

Nandito sa amin (Darul Iftah of Central Mindanao) yung mga signatories, nandito lahat yung mga prime movers, malaki ang credibility sa mga tao. Hindi nila pwede na..(kwestiyonin).

(All the signatories are from here (Darul Iftah of Central Mindanao). All the primemovers who are highly credible to the people...They can not question them.)

It was articulated that politicians are not highly regarded by many Muslims. Because the MRLs of the Darul Iftah are not politicians, Muslims in the region are more likely to believe their pronouncements. The religious edict on RH/FP that the MRLs have prepared is reportedly acceptable to all Muslims because its FP messages are within the teachings of Islam. A MRL said : *We never wrote anything new in this fatwah. All of these are in the Qur'an. just written in the form of the fatwah.* The Muslims will “automatically” follow the national fatwah’s teachings. Even Muslim husbands are expected to support their wives in planning their families. A MRL explained:

Kasi in the first place kami (Darul Iftah of Central Mindanao) na yung maraming followers, so meron na kaming mga tao, marami nang sumusunod; halos majority, 80 to 90 per cent ng population sa Muslim sumusunod. Pagka-pumasok na (fatwah), automatic na ang followers.

(In the first place we (Darul Iftah of Central Mindanao) are the ones with many followers, we have many members; the majority, 80 to 90 per cent of the Muslim population automatically follow (the fatwah).

Because the Grand Mufti from Egypt endorsed the national fatwah on RH/FP this religious edict is perceived to have greater weight particularly in the loose structure of the Islamic religion. The international recognition of this religious edict implies that Muslims from other parts of the world can utilize it .

The contribution of modern medicine is acknowledged in the national fatwah particularly human biology (e.g., age at first pregnancy) and FP technologies for birth spacing . Its inclusion was perceived to have an added value to the religious edict. A male MRL stated:

Basically kasi ang AED... i-educate talaga ang mga tao, may scientific basis. Yung namang sa Islam, through the Qur'an. So ngayon may project si Dr. Gonzales (TSAP-FP OB-Gyn staff) tiningnan yung science pati yung Qur'an, wala namang contradiction.

(Basically the education provided by AED [in the national fatwah] has a scientific basis. In Islam, this is through the Qu'ran. Dr.Gonzales (TSAP-FP OB-Gyn staff) has examined the science and the Qu'ran and there is no contradiction between them.)

The administrative and technical support provided by TSAP-FP enabled the MRLs to participate in several capacity-building activities that strengthened their FP capabilities to advocate. They have also allowed them to convene important meetings that brought together Muslims from various ethnic groupings at the regional and national levels to discuss the health and other related problems in the ARMM. TSAP-FP has linked them to other groups in the country including the media. A female MRL gave her assessment of TSAP-FP:

Ang laki-laki ng role nila (*they have a large role*) (TSAP-FP), because without them, hindi ma-facilitate ng mabuti ang lahat ng mga ito (*all the people cannot be well mobilized*). This is the only NGO who has given training for the improvement and development of the people and that at the same time they give you back what you have spent for your airfare Rare na iyan ginagawa ngayon (*that is now rarely done*). May (*we have*) per diem, accommodations. So we are just so very, very lucky to have AED with us. And with AED, medyo nakilala na rin ako (*I am better known*). I met Ces Drilon (a TV personality and FP champion) already and Rina Jimenez-David (a newspaper columnist and FP champion).

TSAP-FP support was highly appreciated by the MRLs because it gave some of them the opportunity to visit Cairo, Egypt and to observe many centers of excellence as well as study the RH programs in Egypt.

The Deputy CoP and the field coordinator were cited as very competent, supportive and participatory in their approach. They regularly consulted the MRLs and worked closely with them on various components of the FP advocacy. The previous experience of the Deputy CoP with UNFPA in collaborating with the MRLs

has hastened the partnership. Those MRLs who have worked with her in the past readily extended their cooperation to TSAP-FP.

The support extended by several stakeholders including RH networks has facilitated the acceptance of FP among the MRLs. Known FP champions not only from among the religious sector have hastened the preparation and dissemination of the national fatwah in the ARMM.

Perceived potential facilitating factors among new FP advocates in ARMM. The informants from the group interviews have identified potential factors that will facilitate their partnership with TSAP-FP and the MRLs. They cited that the financial support from TSAP-FP will help them disseminate the national fatwah to their target communities. The new knowledge and skills that will be provided by the competent resource persons will help them in their advocacy.

The resource persons from SOFDEPI were perceived as competent and influential persons in their province who explained FP clearly and gave techniques in effective advocacy in the communities.

The national fatwah for RH/FP was perceived as a valuable religious edict that will facilitate their advocacy in their respective locale. The FP advocates are confident that this is the document that Muslims will follow because it is faithful to the teachings of Islam.

Hindering factors for the partnership between TSAP-FP and MRLs in ARMM

Most of the hindering factors identified by the MRLs and the new FP advocates focused on the implementation of the FP advocacy rather than on their collaboration with TSAP-FP. However, there were few comments about TSAP-FP that should be considered in the partnership.

Perceived hindering factors among MRLs in ARMM. Socio-cultural factors such as misconceptions/negative perceptions about FP and USAID and “fear of the unknown,” were among the hindering factors identified by MRL respondents. The MRLs cited that in the past year of their engagement in the FP advocacy, they noted that there were misconceptions about FP among many Muslims because FP is an unknown territory. It was perceived that birth spacing and use of modern contraceptives were against Islam. This was the reason why the MRLs developed the national fatwah and got the approval of Egypt’s Grand Mufti to emphasize that FP and contraceptives are not against the teachings of Islam. However, there are still some Muslims who claim that this religious edict contains erroneous information about Islam.

Some MRLs mentioned that there are Muslims who are uncomfortable that the FP advocacy is supported by USAID. It was articulated that their discomfort with the Americans is related to the notion that they are always blamed for terrorism. There was also an uneasy feeling because it was perceived that the Americans are out to decimate or control the small population of Muslims in Mindanao. It was articulated that the United States is influential in the Middle East and it could send support to Mindanao Muslims through the Arabian Gulf Fund from Saudi Arabia but there are now difficulties with this arrangement because of the notion that the funds might instead be used for terrorism. They, however, perceived that the TSAP-FP has an important role to play because it can be ascertained that the funds are channeled to a reliable organization like AED and the money will definitely go to a specific program, i.e., FP.

... may influence ang US sa Middle East, pwedeng through Arabian Gulf Fund from Saudi... nahhirapan na sila ngayon magpadala ng pera dahil may issues na baka sa terrorists mapunta. Ngayon kung dadaan sa AED, yung USAID makakasiguro na hindi talaga (para sa mga terrorista) dahil specific yung program.

(The US is influential in the Middle East, it can course (support for Muslims) through the Arabian Gulf Fund from Saudi...now they have difficulty because there are issues that the money might go to terrorists. Now if this is coursed through AED, the USAID can be sure that this will not go to terrorists because the program is very specific.)

To avoid future problems, it was suggested that the name of USAID in the Information, Education and Campaign (IEC) materials should not appear. If the acknowledgment of support is required, USAID's name could appear in small letters. A female MRL stated:

May mga suggestions sila (ibang Muslim), halimbawa kung magbigay ng mga pamphlets, kung pwede huwag na ilagay ang word na USAID. Susuporta sila pero wag lang yung lantaran na ilalagay: sponsored by USAID. Kung kailangang ilagay, maliit na print na lang.

(Other Muslims have some suggestions, for example, if (TSAP-FP) would give out flyers, the word USAID need not appear on them. They can provide support but it should not be obviously stated: sponsored by USAID. If it has to be acknowledged, it can be printed in small letters.)

Some MRLs thought that after the launch of the national fatwah on RH/FP, it should have been followed by a massive dissemination campaign in Muslim communities in the ARMM. A female MRL articulated this concern.

Ang plano kasi naman sabay nung launching nang fatwah, sunod-sunod na sana orientation of MRLs and Muslims in the communities, kaysa magkaroon ng kuro-kuro yung community sa fatwah, mabuti na yung nasa radio, sabay na sila

(Our plan is that together with the fatwah's launch, the orientation of the MRLs and Muslims in the communities will also take place. The community can hear about the fatwah over the radio as it is being launched so that the Muslim community will not have all kinds of opinions about it.)

The foregoing did not take place because their proposal to TSAP-FP's Small Grants Program was not yet approved at the time of the launch in March 2004. They regret the missed opportunity of this delay. A male MRL suggested that the TSAP-FP *should intensify support, by intensify we mean fast track the approval of the proposal.*

It was articulated that TSAP-FP policy of not providing lodging support for training in the same locale (they were referring to the July 7-9, 2004 training workshop in Cotabato City) where participants reside was not suited to the situation of Cotabato

FP advocates. They said that it is not safe for FP advocates/workshop participants to go home in the evening because many of them live in other municipalities. The peace and order situation in the province is unsafe for them to commute at night. There are also no vehicles plying to other municipalities after five thirty in the afternoon.

Participation in the training also meant loss of earning for participants with precarious sources of income. Because of the absence of allowance or per diem during the training and the security problem in the area, the SOFDEPI trainers were uncertain about how many among those they invited would eventually come to the training seminar (21 out of the expected 35 participants eventually joined the training; of this number, 3 were from Cotabato City and 18 hailed from other Cotabato municipalities). The three-day workshop started at 8:30 in the morning and ended at four o'clock everyday. It was observed that the out-of-city participants were in a hurry to leave to catch the last trip of the public transportation to enable them to arrive at their respective homes before nighttime. This was perceived to be inimical for team building among FP advocates.

Perceived potential hindering factors among new FP advocates. Lack of LGU support especially at the barangay or village level and the preference of target communities to attend to their livelihood rather than the FP community fora were the anticipated factors that would hinder the acceptance of FP. Inadequate funds, inaccessible or small-sized venue for the community advocacy, and conflicting schedules of resource persons were the other expected difficulties in the implementation of the advocacy.

To gain the support of LGU officials, it was recommended that they will be included in planning and in the dissemination of the national fatwah. The new FP advocates said that they will carefully plan the dissemination in their community so that problems regarding venue, funds, and schedule of resource person can be adequately addressed.

Lessons learned among MRLs and new FP advocates in the partnership

The MRLs and the new FP advocates appreciated the new knowledge that they have gained about RH/FP especially its relevance to Islam such as birth spacing, the rights of the mother and child in Qur'an, responsibility of parents to provide a good future for their children, and responsibilities of family members.

They are also grateful that they have acquired leadership and communication skills because these are relevant in the role that they are going to play in the dissemination of the national fatwah in their communities. "Convincing people you personally don't know about birth spacing," "dealing with people in the media," "standing for what is right, and "the importance of spreading correct information," are among the comments made by new FP advocates.

Perceived challenges in FP advocacy work

The MRLs and the new FP advocates claimed that they considered the dissemination of the national fatwah on RH/FP to Muslim communities as the biggest challenge in their advocacy tasks.

How to correct people's misconceptions and make them accept the new information and how to have the courage and confidence to face different types of people, are going to be really challenging for MRLs.

The new FP advocates believed that the following challenges will test their commitment -- convincing neighbors and those who are opposed to FP to practice birth spacing, acquiring adequate knowledge on FP matters to enable them to share correct information in their areas, exhibiting patience especially when people could not comprehend why there is a need for FP, handling the responsibilities of a FP advocate and staying firm and strong despite difficulties that they will encounter.

A medical doctor/MRL cited two challenges – how to make ligation reversible so that Islam will no longer prohibit it and how to respond to the possible revocation of the new fatwah if future scientific findings would prove that FP is hazardous to health.

Sustainability

The informants articulated that it would not be easy to do their advocacy without TSAP-FP's support. A MRL reflected:

Although may pera ngayon, limited din ang pera nila (Darul Iftah), hindi nga kasali ang family planning doon... kapag walang funding mula sa AED, magiging dependent na lang kami sa ibang (projects) kung saan pwedeng sumakay ang program ng AED (FP advocacy). Walang magagawang implementation na output talaga.

(Although they [Darul Iftah] have money now, it is also limited and family planning is not covered...when there is no more funding from AED, we will ride on other projects to continue the AED program. We would not be able to come up with real output.)

The MRLs gave some suggestions about how their advocacy could be sustained when funding would cease. They thought of soliciting support from other MRLs who are engaged in business activities and tapping the support of LGUs and other RH networks.

The new FP advocates will ask for support from members of the SOFDEPI particularly those who have their own private business. They also suggested to integrate the national fatwah on RH/FP into the Madrasah's curriculum. The inclusion of this religious edict will hopefully empower the female students and influence the young people as well as their families in delaying their age at marriage and childbearing.

Chapter Three

Major trends, implications and recommendations

This chapter provides the highlights, implications and recommendations derived from the qualitative study of three TSAP-FP partners.

Strategies and processes in the partnership with TSAP-FP

The foregoing narratives indicate that there are general patterns in TSAP strategies to engage its three partners in FP advocacy particularly the Katinig-NCR, Cebu City United Vendors' Association (CCUVA) in Central Visayas, and the Muslim religious leaders (MRLs) of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The common strategies that TSAP-FP utilized are as follows: (a) identification of FP champions in each association, (b) consultations with formal leaders of each partner's association to obtain their commitment to FP advocacy, (c) the involvement of other FP advocates within the organization, (d) technical and political support from other government and non-government organizations, as well as national and regional FP champions, (e) the provision of administrative support and technical assistance through its competent central, field staff and resource persons particularly for FP capability-building seminars/workshops, and (f) financial assistance from its Small Grants Program for each partner to pursue planned advocacy activities.

Because of different social contexts and structures of the partner organizations, however, variations in the processes utilized by TSAP-FP in the implementation were noted. Other strategies were added whenever these were relevant to the situation of a partner organization.

Although Katinig-NCR and the CCUVA belong to the same national federation, the *Kalipunan ng Maraming Tinig ng Manggagawang Impormal (Katinig)*, there appears to be a difference in the processes of engaging these two Katinig member organizations in FP advocacy.

For example, TSAP-FP dealt solely with Katinig-NCR through its president and FP champion and the core group that was designated by the organization to attend to FP advocacy and related activities. Through this structure, TSAP-FP collaborated with the organization in customizing its advocacy plans and in providing the relevant training for effective FP advocacy and social mobilization in the communities where Katinig-NCR member organizations are located. TSAP-FP and the core group with the assistance from member organizations, selected in and out-of-school young people who are mostly children of Katinig-NCR members as their advocates for FP and responsible teen sexuality (RTS). The youth group has turned into a federation that is seeking to obtain a legal personality. It has expressed commitment to assume a bigger role in RTS and FP advocacy. The Katinig-NCR core group also chose its adult leaders from selected zones in the metropolis as their FP advocates for target urban poor communities. With technical assistance from TSAP-FP, the Katinig-NCR core group and youth leaders prepared its own proposal for support from TSAP-FP's Small Grants Program. It is worthwhile to note that the organization manages this fund.

The CCUVA, on the other hand, collaborated closely with PopCom Region 7 officers and staff in the implementation of its FP advocacy plans and activities because TSAP-FP utilizes this government entity as its administrative and technical conduit not only for CCUVA but also for other members of the civil society and government agencies in Cebu. The CCUVA has male and female FP champions and its Executive Committee assumes the role as core group for FP. A youth group is in the process of getting organized and trained as FP and RTS advocates.

The CCUVA's leaders and members participated in capacity-building activities that TSAP-FP and PopCom 7 staff designed to develop their advocacy and social mobilization skills. Apart from the foregoing, they have also actively joined in the activities that TSAP-FP and PopCom 7 personnel convened involving other local partners that include urban poor communities, labor unions, health institutions, the business sector, the academe, non-government and women's organizations. With the

assistance of TSAP-FP and PopCom, they also prepared a project proposal which incorporated their FP advocacy plans for TSAP-FP's Small Grants Program. This proposal was subsequently approved and funded by TSAP-FP. This broad-based collaboration of TSAP-FP in Cebu has led to the launch of the Metro Cebu Community Advocacy Network (MetroCAN) for FP. This metro-wide approach may hasten the process of FP acceptance among the population with the highest unmet need in this part of Central Visayas.

Because of the presence of different Muslim ethnic groups and the complexity of the situation in the ARMM, TSAP-FP designed other strategies that are appropriate to this region. To hasten the process of engagement in this part of Mindanao, TSAP-FP central office designated its Deputy Chief of Party (a communications expert who has had experience as UNFPA Advocacy Advisor in collaborating with MRLs of the ARMM), to manage this project. TSAP-FP also engaged the services of a field coordinator and consultant who is a Christian social scientist from Cotabato City and who has had long years of association with the Muslims in the region as a researcher and former professor of a local Catholic university that accepts Muslim and Christian students.

Prior to the full engagement of the MRLs in the region, almost six months of preparatory activities took place in 2003. TSAP-FP collaborated with UNFPA, PopCom, and other USAID cooperating agencies to undertake several tasks. These included a KABP survey among health providers in the region and several consultation meetings with various stakeholders in Metro Manila and in some ARMM provinces. These covered informal meetings with the Department of Health-ARMM OIC Secretary in Manila, dialogue with women NGO leaders and consultations with IPHOs in the cities of Zamboanga and Cotabato, holding of the first regional congress on ARMM in Pasig City to explore collaboration and complementation of advocacy initiatives among stakeholders from DOH-ARMM and major NGOs engaged in RH/FP projects. In addition, provincial consultation meetings were held in Zamboanga City and in Davao City, to revisit and refine the three-year RH agenda with special focus on IEC and advocacy activities.

To ensure participatory and broad-based engagement, well-known regional FP champions, leaders, the Darul Iftah or House of Opinion of muftis or religious authorities that is based in Cotabato City, health providers, health volunteers, local NGOs and the media were mobilized in the next six months (September 2003 to February 2004) to participate in the development of the national fatwah on RH/FP. A meeting was held with the Vice-Governor at EDSA Shangrila Hotel regarding TSAP-FP's assistance to the leagues of ulama to support the development of a national fatwah. Preparations were made for the MRLs convention in Quezon City. To ascertain that the draft fatwah was supportive of RH/FP, a workshop was held in Zamboanga City. To further ensure that the national fatwah was in harmony with the teachings of Islam, TSAP-FP central office Deputy CoP accompanied a small group of nine MRLs in an observation-study tour in Cairo, Egypt to present the drafted document to the Grand Mufti. The national fatwah was subsequently endorsed and an official pronouncement was made regarding its acceptance by the Grand Mufti of Egypt. After the Cairo visit, an orientation about FP in Islam was conducted for Muslim health professionals in the early part of 2004.

The endorsement of the Grand Mufti from Egypt led to the publication and launch of the national fatwah for RH/FP at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City on March 10, 2004. This occasion was a major event because it was attended by MRLs and other stakeholders from ARMM as well by national Muslim and Christian leaders.

A workshop on proposal writing for TSAP-FP's Small Grants Program took place on the first quarter of 2004. Because the Darul Iftah is not a legal entity that can receive funds from TSAP-FP and other funding agencies, its NGO called SOFDEPI was formed and registered in the SEC. Financial support from TSAP-FP subsequently followed after the submission of the project proposal that detailed the planned FP advocacy in the next few months. After three workshops involving MRLs from other ARMM provinces, the marriage counseling guidebook that is based on the national fatwah for RH/FP was

drafted in June 2004. In July, an orientation of the MRLs in Cotabato City regarding the fatwah on RH/FP and FP advocacy was conducted by the SOFDEPI resource persons.

Facilitating factors in the partnership

The informants from the three partner organizations cited similar factors that hastened their collaboration with TSAP-FP in the past 19 months. These are (a) TSAP-FP's administrative and technical assistance through numerous training seminars and workshops to provide them with the capability to become effective FP advocates, (b) the support provided by other external agencies and influential persons, and (c) the commitment and cooperation from the leaders of each group or association.

The informants assessed that the financial support provided by TSAP-FP enabled their organizations to participate in several FP orientation and leadership training. These capacity-building activities have broadened their perspectives about the value of FP in the country. As a consequence of their FP engagement new networks of allies emerged. The funds obtained from the Small Grants Program are assessed as most useful in enabling their organizations to implement their FP advocacy plans in their respective target groups and communities. The competent advice and constant support from TSAP-FP's staff particularly from the Advocacy and Social Mobilization Specialists were highly appreciated. Their opinions and suggestions were often considered in the partnership. TSAP-FP's resource persons from Friendlycare, PopCom, PETA, PBSP, and other NGOs were assessed as knowledgeable and were able to convey their messages clearly to them. They are also respectful and patient in responding to their questions during the training seminars.

Tapping the support of some influential individuals and agencies within and outside the country facilitated the understanding and appreciation of FP and strengthened the partners' position to promote FP effectively. For example, consulting key officials in the ARMM government agencies, particularly the DOH and the Vice-Governor, facilitated support for the MRLs from the health and political systems in the

region. The endorsement of the national fatwah by the Grand Mufti of Egypt further legitimized the religious edict that was prepared by Darul Iftah muftis, among Muslims in the Philippines and in other parts of the world.

The interest and commitment of the leaders from each organization to pursue FP advocacy because of its help in people's lives was another facilitating factor that was identified. Having seen the relation between FP and development particularly poverty which is experienced by many of their constituencies, made the Katinig-NCR adult and youth leaders, the CCUVA and other MetroCAN partners more committed in pursuing their FP advocacy in their respective locale. Because they were actively involved in the writing of the national fatwah for RH/FP that is faithful to the teachings of Islam, the MRLs and their FP advocates are determined to make this known to all Muslims in the ARMM.

Hindering factors and how these were managed

The hindering factors mentioned by the three partners of TSAP-FP focused mainly on problems within each partner association and other external forces such as the Catholic Church, the local government units, and the people with low awareness and knowledge of FP. A few comments were made about their partnership with TSAP-FP.

The partners particularly from Katinig-NCR and CCUVA cited that some difficulties were related on how they would balance their time at home, their livelihood, and their advocacy work. Because of the precarious nature of their occupation, it is reportedly difficult to engage in volunteer work without jeopardizing their sources of income in the underground economy. They managed to resolve this difficulty by working out their schedule with their organization and by asking TSAP-FP to provide for subsidy on days when they are engaged in volunteerism and training.

Trying to find a common time for young people who hail from different parts of the metropolis and who have varying schedules was a main problem among the youth group. They resolved this difficulty by regularly updating their members about their availability and by choosing Ka Dedeng's home as their meeting place. The youth have also complained about meddling elders in the federation and they resolved this by simply ignoring these types of Katinig leaders. They also intend to separate from the main organization by registering their youth federation at the SEC.

Misconceptions about some FP and modern methods were initially a problem among leaders who have had erroneous information from friends and relatives. The clear explanations of TSAP-FP technical personnel and resource persons during seminars has reportedly minimized or eliminated the misconceptions concerning FP. The new FP community advocates anticipated that there will be many people in their locale with misconceptions about FP. They said that the training received from TSAP-FP will enable them to explain FP to non-believers.

The Catholic Church's stance about FP was perceived as a hindrance because people, including politicians, who adhere to this position have created barriers to their advocacy. In future FP community fora in the NCR and in Cebu, the partners expected that there will be opposition from the Catholic Church. The youth said that they would attempt to hold informal dialogues with some sympathetic nuns and priests while some CCUVA leaders would promote NFP rather than confront the Catholic hierarchy.

It was perceived that local government executives do not understand and appreciate FP that is why FP commodities and public health services are lacking in public facilities. To resolve this issue, the informants claimed that this sector must be involved in the planning and execution of the FP advocacy.

The other hindering aspects of the partnership is pointed at the delayed support from the Small Grants Program. Some MRLs for example, perceived that after the launch of the national fatwah, the advocacy at the community level should have been

pursued right away. It was a missed opportunity because the interest in the national fatwah right after the launch was very high and it was perceived as the best time for the MRLs to go around the communities to conduct the advocacy. The time lag between the launch and the community advocacy appears to be too long and there is a need to start drumming up interest in the religious edict through the media.

TSAP-FP's policy of not providing lodging for participants who live in the same locale where the seminar is taking place was raised as a problem by some MRLs (this was related to the July 2004 training workshop in Cotabato City). Because of the peace and order situation in Cotabato, they said that it was not safe for the FP community advocates who live in other Cotabato communities to go home at night. In addition, there are no available vehicles after 5:30 in the afternoon. Since most of them (18 out of the 21 participants who eventually attended the workshop in July 2004) reside in other Cotabato municipalities, travel to these areas was not deemed safe. Because of the unstableness of the participants' livelihood, the policy of not providing them with per diem or subsidy to make up for income loss during their participation in the training, was also found unfavorable to the FP advocacy program. Because of the foregoing AED/USAID policies, only 21 out of 35 expected FP community leaders were able to join the training program. The MRLs of the SOFDEPI were worried that these policies would affect future training activities for community advocates.

It was also articulated that because the USAID is supporting TSAP-FP, some people in the ARMM are reportedly suspicious of the intention of the FP advocacy. It was suggested that perhaps the name of the USAID should not appear in IEC materials or at best (if required), it should come in fine print.

Lessons

The major lessons obtained from the partnership focused on the effects of the training workshops on the leaders and their organizations.

The clear explanation in the training workshops and orientation meeting given by TSAP-FP and its resource persons about FP and poverty as well as with other related aspects of development, have enlightened the leaders about the need to practice FP especially among their organizations' members. Their participation in the capacity-building activities that TSAP-FP organized has improved their skills and capabilities as well as self-confidence in advocating FP to other people. Their association with TSAP-FP has also expanded their networks which now include health-related agencies from the private and public sectors.

The partnership with TSAP-FP in national fatwah-writing has unified the MRLs, strengthened the Darul Iftah, and expanded their linkage with other Muslim stakeholders and concerned groups not only at the regional and national levels but also worldwide.

Challenges

The perceived main challenges confronting the partners in the next few months are as follows: (a) how to effectively apply FP knowledge in advocacy work in their target communities and constituencies; (b) how to reach out to LGUs and to obtain their support for FP; (c) how to raise more resources to expand their advocacy work in their respective locale and to sustain their associations; (d) how to ensure that FP commodities are available at the health facilities for the couples; (e) how to mobilize men and get them to practice FP; (f) how to sustain the interest and commitment of their organization's members; and (g) how to balance time at home, work, and their FP advocacy since the latter is largely voluntary.

The partners' claimed that they would try their best to address the challenges that are confronting them. They said that they would be able to meet the challenges because their orientation training on FP and other skills-building seminars were perceived as useful in building their capacity to effectively advocate for the acceptance of FP in their target groups. They said that they were going to tap other sources of funds such as the government's GAD allocation and donation made by private benefactors to enable them to expand their network and other related activities. Linking up with the local government and other sectors will help ensure that FP commodities and services are going to be available at the health facilities. It was expressed for example by CCUVA leaders that the commodities should really be made available and accessible to the poor to facilitate the acceptance of FP and to support their advocacy. They said that it would be useless to build interest in FP if commodities and services are unavailable at the health facilities.

Because of the nature of the leaders and members' work in the informal sector, there is some difficulty in maintaining a balance between their work and their family responsibilities with their FP advocacy tasks. Careful planning of their schedule and allocating financial support on advocacy days may help address this difficulty. The allocation of financial assistance during the period that they are doing advocacy tasks will help make up for the income loss which is crucial for the survival of the FP advocates' families.

The participation of male FP champions and advocates was perceived as an important strategy to be able to engage more men in FP advocacy and in the acceptance of FP. The national fatwah on RH/FP was perceived as an important edict that could enlighten Muslim men about FP and the role that they will play in helping their wives and children have a better quality of life. Having male champions, new male-led homeowners' associations and leaders of pedicab associations, were perceived as a useful strategy to engage more men in FP advocacy and acceptance.

Prospects for sustainability

The leaders from the three TSAP-FP partners have expressed that it would be difficult to sustain their activities once financial assistance ceases in August 2005. However, suggestions were made on how their advocacy tasks could be sustained. The common suggestions are as follows: (a) tap the LGUs' Gender and Development (GAD) budget and lobby for more support from them for FP services and commodities; (b) seek assistance from other funding agencies including the private business sector; and (c) contribute from their own resources or engage in fund-raising activities. Other suggestions are as follows. The Katinig Youth Federation intends to register its organization at the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SOFDEPI of the MRLs plan to integrate the teachings of the national fatwah for RH/FP in the Madaris to ensure that this religious edict is institutionalized and will have long-term effects on the acceptance and practice of FP among young people.

Implications and recommendations

The research outcomes have shown that in the past 19 months, TSAP-FP designed and implemented culturally-appropriate partnership strategies and processes that have developed committed FP advocates among population groups with high unmet need for FP in three strategic areas in the country—the National Capital Region (Metro Manila), Metro Cebu, and the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The creation of new indigenous networks of advocates that are determined to push forward the FP advocacy agenda in these locations are the offshoot of TSAP's active engagement with its partners.

The new groups include Katinig-NCR's male-led homeowners' associations in Muntinlupa City that are highly committed to men's involvement in FP, and the dynamic Katinig-NCR Youth Federation that intends to advocate for responsible teen sexuality through the performing arts. Another youth group is in the process of getting organized in Cebu City and it is likely going to follow the track of the Katinig-NCR

youth. The MetroCAN of Cebu is a network of women's organizations and several groups in the informal sector and its objectives are to obtain support for FP from local government units and to ensure that FP is going to be accepted and practiced by a majority of Cebuanos. The MRLs, on the other hand, have created the NGO called the Society of Family Development and Education of the Philippines (SOFDEPI) to enable MRLs and other Muslim leaders to engage in secular activities particularly in the dissemination of the national fatwah for RH/FP in various Muslim communities and in the Madrasah or religious schools in the ARMM. The SOFDEPI may conduct capability-building seminars to provide Madrasah teachers with skills to develop learning modules and teachers' guides which would integrate the national fatwah for RH/FP into the school's curriculum. (The integration of gender and domestic violence in the medical and nursing curricula in the Philippines as well as the different elements of reproductive health in the midwifery program in Indonesia may serve as examples for the SOFDEPI.) There is no doubt that the foregoing structures are going to be TSAP-FP's new conduits that will effect long-term changes in the acceptance and practice of FP among marginalized populations in the three regions.

To sustain the enthusiasm and commitment of these new networks, there is a need for TSAP-FP to provide them with additional technical and logistical support perhaps even beyond its project life (TSAP-FP is supposed to end in August 2005). If these groups were to attain their goals and objectives, they must strengthen their advocacy and management skills, their ability to link up with local government units and other stakeholders, their skills in project-proposal writing to enable them to apply for support not only from TSAP-FP but also from other funding agencies, their capacity to document their experiences and develop indicators for monitoring and for continual internal assessment, and to push forward policies and programs on FP in their respective local government units. They must also develop mechanisms of how they can provide support to their FP volunteers with precarious livelihood sources. At this early stage of these new groups' development, the role of TSAP-FP as mentor and trainer is vital to enable these new structures to design and systematically implement their advocacy and social mobilization plans in their respective areas.

While the new groups are being developed, there is also a need to closely examine the organizational set up of the partner organizations. Although the Katinig-NCR and the CCUVA belong to the same federation, for example, the former is much more loose in its organizational structure and logistical support. It has no formal secretariat, no membership dues and is unable to regularly gather its members to a general assembly because of resource and organizational constraints. Much of its FP advocacy work revolves around one FP champion, i.e., Ka Dedeng. Her home currently serves as the office and meeting place of the adult and youth leaders of the federation. Despite these limitations, the Katinig-NCR is an influential and well-known organization in the informal sector. It is also in the process of developing new adult FP champions from among the community leaders/FP advocates. Thus, there is a need to assist the leaders of Katinig-NCR to examine its current and long-term structure and plans for sustainability not only for FP but also for their other advocacy endeavors. The development of Katinig-NCR is important because it is located in the country's largest metropolis that has a huge impoverished population with high unmet need for FP.

Although it is better organized than Katinig-NCR, there is still a need to examine closely the CCUVA's organizational arrangement for FP because of its pivotal role in the implementation of the MetroCAN's objectives. In the course of the field study, the researchers were impressed by the dynamic leadership of its president, Mary Buanghug, in FP advocacy. Although the CCUVA has other FP champions, it was observed that Mary was always on the frontline of the various FP activities. Her health has reportedly suffered from her numerous responsibilities in her organization (at the time of the study, Mary had a goiter surgery.) The other male and female leaders appeared to be less visible. Given the new role of CCUVA in the MetroCAN, it is important that other FP champions assume greater responsibilities in the FP leadership. Thus there is a need for the CCUVA's leadership to delegate other tasks to other key players in the FP advocacy. To further enhance the FP champions' confidence and skills in facing the media and in facilitating public forums or group activities, there is a need for them to receive more training in effective communication.

The partnership with the MRLs of the Darul Iftah in Central Mindanao should be continually fostered. There is a need to organize more activities that will attract the interest and support of the MRLs from other ARMM provinces. Apart from involving them in the dissemination of the national fatwah and the marriage counseling guidebook, they may be invited to join in capability-building activities within and outside the region. Some MRLs outside Central Mindanao maybe tapped to participate in study- tour groups to Egypt to enable them to observe and learn from the experiences of reproductive health and family planning programs in prestigious institutions of this Islamic center.

Aside from organizational development, there is a need for TSAP-FP to examine some of its current administrative arrangements in the provision of technical support to its partners, particularly their policies of disallowing lodging and per diem or subsidy during local training workshops. Instead of applying a blanket policy, TSAP-FP should take into consideration the social, political and economic contexts of their partners from the informal sector and faith-based groups.

To understand the strategies and processes of engagement by the community FP advocates and the new networks in the coming months, it is recommended that careful documentation of their efforts are done until the end of the project life in August 2005 . TSAP-FP may provide a format for the written report and a system of drawing out the experiences of the partners regularly.

The misconceptions about USAID's support for the ARMM in FP are difficult to address given current problems of terrorism in Southeast Asia and the war in Iraq. Perhaps the suggestion to exclude the USAID as a project sponsor or to print the agency's name in small letters on the flyers and other IEC materials may be considered.

Because the opposition of the Roman Catholic Church against modern FP is a common threat or hindering factor among Katinig-NCR and CCUVA leaders, TSAP-FP

should develop strategies and mechanisms to enable volunteers to manage this difficulty in their community fora. Perhaps TSAP-FP could link the volunteers to other pro-modern FP networks so that they would have support groups that would help them confront or manage influential religious leaders in their respective locale.

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Appendix

TABLES

Table 1. A summary of the meetings and capacity-building activities of Katinig-NCR and TSAP-FP from January 2003 to June 2004

Activity	Participant	Date	Venue	Facilitator/ Convener	Topic/ Agenda
1. First meeting between TSAP-FP and Katinig-NCR leaders	Katinig-NCR pres., pres. & sec. of SANAMAI, pres. of PEMALAKA, Pres. of LRT- Monumento Vendors Association, core group leader, KISLAP Malabon	January 16, 2003	SANAMAI Office, Intramuros, Manila	TSAP-FP	To explore possible areas of collaboration; agreed to tap organizations in depressed areas, form core group, hold planning workshop
2. Planning workshop	12 core group leaders	March 10, 2003	PBSP Training Center, Intramuros Manila	TSAP-FP	FP & poverty, issues; the TSAP-FP Project; action plans
3. Follow up meeting of planning workshop plans	Core group members	March 21, 2003	Bacolod Chicken Inasal, Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City	TSAP-FP	Role clarification of core group members partnership agreement with TSAP-FP, priority plans activities
4. FP Orientation and Interpersonal Skills Training	31 Katinig-NCR FP leaders	April 28-30, 2003	Henry's Barn, Calamba, Laguna	FP Trainor of Friendly Care, TSAP-FP	Basic FP concept and methods, communication skills, human anatomy, RH, & sexuality, FP benefits qualities of community FP motivators
5. Youth peer facilitators and leadership training	44 urban poor youth from Katinig-NCR member organizations, Friendly Care Youth Volunteers, Smokey Mountain Parish, Sagip Pasig Movement(SPM) community youth,& PLCPD Payatas youth	May 12-14, 2003	Don Filemon Rodriguez Development Center, Tagaytay City	PETA, TSAP-FP, Friendly Care	Responsible teen sexuality, sexuality experiences & problems of the youth, & possible solutions to problems, leadership concept, practice, & skills
6. Youth summer camp	Katinig-NCR youth, Friendly Care Youth Volunteers, Smokey Mountain Parish, SPM community youth, PLCPD Payatas youth	May 28-30, 2003	MOMARCO Tanay, Rizal	TSAP-FP , PETA	Responsible teen sexuality
7. Core group meeting	Core Group members	June 3, 2003	Chicken Bacolod, QMC, Quezon City	Katinig-NCR, TSAP-FP, Friendly Care Foundation FP Coordinator	Implementation plans, role clarification, mobilization of local orgs. and target communities
8. FP Orientation	6 KISLAP (Katinig-NCR member org.) leaders and 19 members	June 21, 2003	Concepcion, Malabon Barangay Health Center	TSAP-FP , Friendly Care	FP concept and methods

(Continuation)

Activity	Participant	Date	Venue	Facilitator/ Convenor	Topic/ Agenda
9. Forum on FP	45 leaders & members of Samahan ng mga Manininda sa Caloocan (Vendors Association of Caloocan)	July 19, 2003	A Caloocan City barangay	TSAP-FP, CHO	IFP concept and methods & related issues
10. Youth network development workshop	35 Katinig-NCR youth	August 2003	Gems Hotel Antipolo City	TSAP-FP	Responsible teen sexuality, networking strategies, team building, drafting of vision, mission, & values of Katinig-NCR Youth Federation
11. Training on FP Advocacy and Community Mobilization	35 leaders of Katinig-NCR leaders (from BANGKETTA, KISLAP, Kasama sa lansangan, Kagabay & Kislap)	August 18 – 21, 2003	Tagaytay International Convention Center, Tagaytay City	TSAP-FP	Principles & practice of advocacy, Advocacy action plans as framework for future engagement in communities
12. Workshop on project proposal writing & TSAP Small Grants Program	Katinig-NCR leaders and core group members, youth group	September 17, 2003	Merced Bakeshop, EDSA, Quezon City	TSAP-FP & Katinig-NCR	TSAP-FP Small Grants Program, advocacy plan, development of proposal for the Small Grants Program
13. Barangay (Community) Leaders Forum on FP and RH ("Bahaginan at Barangayan: Usapang RH/FP")	Around 200 barangay leaders from 12 target Katinig-NCR barangays, PBSP & SPM urban poor communities	September 25, 2003	Ramon Magsaysay Center Hall, Manila	TSAP-FP, Women's Health Care Foundation (WHCF), PopCom-NCR	Violence against women (VAW), sexuality and rights, STI, men's involvement FP-RH situation analysis, population & poverty, barangay RH/FP issues & concerns, sharing of local leaders initiatives in RH/FP
14. Repertory theater guidance workshop	30 members of Katinig-NCR's youth group	October 16-19, 2003	Makiling Highlands, Los Banos, Laguna	TSAP-FP, PETA	Basic acting Singing, dancing, designing, story development. responsible teen sexuality, youth key issues,
15. Advocacy training for FP acceptance in the informal sector & urban poor	37 community leaders from various parts of Metro Manila representing different local peoples' organizations, Katinig-NCR, SPM, WHCF	March 15-19, 2004	Forest Hills Village, Subic Freeport, Olongapo City	TSAP-FP, Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health & Welfare (PNGOC)	Advocacy messages and its processes, population & dev., FP & RH issues, social mobilization, monitoring & evaluation, Plans to form Metro Manila Community Advocates Network

(Continuation)

Activity	Participant	Date	Venue	Facilitator/ Convenor	Topic/ Agenda
16. Forum on Population and FP	100 leaders of 16 urban poor orgs.(10 Quezon City Informal sector associations, advocates and partners of PATAMABA, WHCF, SPM, MAKATAO, NCR BHW federation)	March 23, 2004	Imperial Palace Suites, Quezon City	TSAP-FP, PopCom	Informal sector & urban poor's FP knowledge, attitude, and practice, FP initial gains, opportunities, & challenges for advocacy in NCR, partnership in community advocacy, Partners' key advocacy activities for NCR
17. Katinig-NCR community educators' FP training	35 leaders & members from four Katinig-NCR zones—Malabon, Caloocan City, Quezon City, & Muntinlupa City	June 29-July 3, 2004	Coyeesan Hotel, Baguio City	TSAP-FP, PopCom	FP concepts & methods, FP, population & poverty, human sexuality, informal education, action plans for community forums and activities

Table 2. Activities Katinig-NCR leaders participated with other TSAP-FP partners

Activity	Date	Venue	Participant	Topic
1. FP champions public relations planning workshop	October 15-16, 2003	Don Filemon Rodriguez Training Center Tagaytay City	FP Champions- Darul Iftah, CCUVA, Katinig-NCR, Friendly Care, PLDCP, NCCP, WHCF, FPOP	Presentation of Ad campaign and PR support, group workshop & presentation, crisis management, group PR planning, monitoring and quick response mechanism
2. PR & media training for FP champions	December 2-4, 2003	Don Filemon Rodriguez Training Center, Tagaytay City	CCUVA, Katinig-NCR, NeoFPRHAN, PEMALAKA, WHCF,BHW FED	
3. Media Training for NGOs and selling FP to your Community : An Advocacy & SocMob Workshop	April 8-9, 2003	ABS-CBN Training Center, Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City	CCUVA, Katinig-NCR, SPM, TUCP, National Federation of BHW, PLCPD, NeoFPRHAN	The advocacy process and the role of advocates for social acceptance of FP, TSAP-FP Framework for Social Mobilization, National FP Situation. FP Methods and Safety, Role Playing & critique

Table 3. Proposed Katinig-NCR zonal activities from January to December 2004

Proposed Activity	Zone	Schedule
1. Organizational meetings/ planning		January, March, May July, Sept., Oct., Nov.
2. General Assembly KATINIG-NCR- NCR		October
3. Linking with barangay officials, CHOs, PPOs		January & February
4. Community Forum on RH/FP and Gender		
4.1 PEMALAKA	CALOOCAN	February
	Barangay 3	March
	Barangay 8	April
	Barangay 25	July
a) Kapihan sa Barangay	Barangay 25	August
	Barangay 3	September
	Barangay 8	October
4.2 KISLAP	MALABON	
	Barangay Conception, Baritan & Catmon	
a) PODA/TODA leaders		February
b) PODA/TODA members		March
c) PODA/TODA members		April
d) Couples Forum		June
e) Kapihan sa Barangay		July
f) Kapihan sa Barangay		August
g) Usapang Lalaki		September
h) Couples Forum		October
4.3 BANGKETTA	MUNTINLUPA	
a) Bangketta leaders		February
b) Bangketta members	Barangay Bayanan	March
c) Bangketta members	Barangay Alabang	April
d) Kapihan sa Barangay	Barangay Bayanan	July
e) Block Presidents		August
f) Kapihan sa Barangay	Barangay Alabang	September
g) Block Presidents		October
4.4 KASAMA sa LANSANGAN	QUEZON CITY	
	West Fairview	February
	Commonwealth	March
	West Fairview	April
a) Kapihan sa Barangay		July
	Commonwealth	August
	West Fairview	September
5. FP Community Mobilization Events: Shindig		August
6. Organization of Satisfied FP acceptors/FP users in Alabang & Bayanan, Muntinlupa		March

(Continuation)

Proposed Activity	Zone	Schedule
7. YOUTH ACTIVITIES		
KISLAP- YOUTH	MALABON	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment & Orientation (20 youth leaders) • RTS Forum for 75 youth • RTS Caravan (recorda) • Organizational Meeting • FP Orientation (20 leaders PODA/TODA) • Recruitment & Orientation of New members 	21 brgys of Malabon 3 barangays	January
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FP Orientation for PEDICAB drivers 		February
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teen Parents Forum on RH/FP • Planning for Teen Center • FP Orientation for PEDICAB drivers 		March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Educators Training • Establishment of Teen Center • Usapang Lalaki 		April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Couples Forum on RH/FP 		May
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTS Youth Fair • Gender Awareness Seminar 		June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Forum on RH/FP • Organizational Meeting 		July
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kapihan sa Barangay 		August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership Assessment 		September
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with TODA 		October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with TODA 		November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Assembly 		
PEMALAKA - YOUTH	CALOOCAN	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTS Seminar • Recruitment & Orientation of new members (batch 1) • BINGO PEMALAKA (IGP) • Recycling (IGP) • Linkage Building with LGU re Teen Center • Organizational Meeting • RH/FP Seminar • Community Forum on RH/FP • Organizational Meeting 	Barangay 3 & 28 Barangay 3 & 18	January
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTS Seminar • Recruitment & Orientation of new members (batch 2) • PEMALAKA YOUTH (ASD) • Community Forum on RH/FP 	Barangay 8 Barangay 25	February
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment & Orientation of new members (batch 3) • Setting up Teen Center 	Barangay 3	March

(Continuation)

Proposed Activity	Zone	Schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Teen Center • Community Forum on RH/FP (batch 2) • PEMALAKA Leaders Forum • Peer Educators Training • PEMALAKA Leaders Forum • Gender Awareness Seminar • Community Women Leader's Gender Sensitivity Training • Organizational Meeting • Community Forum on RH/FP batch 3 • PEMALAKA Leaders Forum • General Assembly • Community Forum on RH/FP (batch 4) 	<p>Caloocan</p> <p>Barangay 3</p> <p>Barangay 28</p> <p>Barangay 8</p>	<p>April</p> <p>May</p> <p>June</p> <p>July</p> <p>August</p> <p>November</p>
<p>KAGABAY – YOUTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment & orientation of new members • RTS Seminar • RH/FP Seminar • K! Info Express • K! Bingo socials • Organizational Meeting • OPLAN KALULUWA • Re-opening of TAMBAYAN Center 	<p>TONDO</p> <p>Barangay 275, Binondo</p>	<p>January</p> <p>February</p> <p>March</p>
<p>INTRA-PORT YOUTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment & Orientation of new members • RTS Seminar • FP Seminar • Organizational Meeting • HIV/AIDS, STD Education in Workplace • Medical Mission & Christmas Giving • Bingo Socials (IGP) 		<p>January</p> <p>February</p> <p>March</p>
<p>BANGKETTA - YOUTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with organizational & LGUs • RH/FP Orientation • RH/FP Orientation • Organizing a youth organization • Identify & recruit FP satisfied acceptor • Organizational Meeting • Reactivate Mother's Club & Mainstream FP in their agenda • Organize youth for RTS • Organize SA/SU Club • Gender Awareness Seminar 	<p>MUNTINLUPA</p> <p>Bangketta 10 & 25 Bayanan 10 & 11</p> <p>Bangketta & Bayanan</p> <p>Bangketta & Bayanan</p>	<p>January</p> <p>February</p> <p>April</p> <p>June</p>
<p>KATINIG-NCR FEDERATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational Meetings • Mid-year Assessment • General Assembly 		

Table 4. FP advocacy involvement of CCUVA

Activity	Participants	Date	Venue	R. Person/ Facilitator/ Convenor	Topics
1. Meeting with different NGOs, POs and GOs for the FP Advocacy Project	Associated Labor Unions (ALU)-TUCP, Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP), Family Planning Organization Incorporated (FPOI), Bidlisiw Foundation, Nagpakabana Foundation, Cebu Youth Center, Inc(CYC), Friendly Care, Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), Kaabag sa Sugbu, Cebu Womens' Coalition, RH Circle, RH Advocates for Productive Workers and Industrial Development (RHAPWID), Cebu City United Vendors Association (CCUVA), Cebu Federation of Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) , Occupational Health Nurses Association of the Philippines (OHNAP), DOH, POPCOM and DOLE	February 10-13, 2003		TSAP-FP	Touch base with and assess the receptiveness of NGOs, labor and informal sectors, women's groups, etc on FP and to identify current activities of NGOs, etc which are consistent with TSAP-FP. Solicit interest of local groups to participate in FP advocacy and explore potential areas of collaboration.
2. CCUVA Planning Workshop	35 pax from CCUVA, CCUVA member organizations, Community-based Organizations, LGUs and Brgy Ermita	March 27, 2003	Holiday Plaza Hotel Cebu City	TSAP-FP, PopCoM	About TSAP-FP, FP in the workplace, Issues & concerns, Input: FP & Poverty, Action Planning, Situation of the Informal Sector in Cebu and CCUVA
3. CCUVA Execom Meeting	6 EXECOM members	March 28, 2003	PopCom Reg. 7 Office Cebu City	TSAP-FP, PopCom	Review of Proposed Activities (March 27 planning workshop), Prioritization of activities, Role Clarification of CCUVA Leaders & Schedules
4. Local Leaders Forum on Population, FP & Poverty	35 barangay officials from 8 priority barangays of Cebu City and Mandaue City, 5 staff from Brgy Ermita Econ. Enterprise Dept & 5 CCUVA leaders of its local affiliates	May 27, 2003	Holiday Plaza Hotel Cebu City	TSAP-FP, PopCom CHO	Population, FP and Poverty Situation: Linkages and Interrelationships, FP and Good Governance

(Continuation)

Activity	Participants	Date	Venue	R. Person/ Facilitator/ Convenor	Topics
5. FP/IPC Skills Training for Urban Poor/Informal Sector Leaders in Metro Cebu	35 pax from CCUVA and affiliated organizations (CDSVA, MVG, ZVA, SIVA, WBVA etc.)	May 28-30, 2003	Metro Park Hotel Cebu City	TSAP-FP (FDS, RSG), PopCom, DOH, local NGO, PBSP Coordinator for Visayas' RH Program in Olongapo	FP Concept, modern methods, sexuality, fertility awareness, human anatomy, and responsible parenthood, communication skills & counseling, Communicating FP in the Community
6. Forum on FP	72 barangay residents and 4 brgy councilors	June 28, 2003	Brgy Mantuyong, Mandaue City	PopCom	FP Basic Information
7. Celebration of the Family Planning Day	1,000 pax from LGUs, BHWs Association, IPOs, NGOs, labor unions, private commercial sectors	August 1, 2003	Cebu City Hall & Carbon Market	TSAP-FP, PopCom, Local Chief Executive of Cebu City, Lapu-lapu City and Mandaue, CCUVA, DOH, Youth Zone	Testimonies of couples who are satisfied FP Acceptors, FP Issues and the Informal Sector, highlighted with a motor caravan, IEC distribution
8. Training on FP Advocacy and Community Mobilization for CCUVA Leaders	CCUVA leaders and leaders of affiliated organizations (15 males, 20 females)	September 16-19, 2003	Montebello Vista Hotel, Cebu City	TSAP-FP, PopCom, Atty Feliciano Alinson-Office of Councilor Gerardo Carillo, City Planning & Development Office, DBM, University of San Carlos-Office of Pop Studies	List and Prioritize FP-related issues, Advocacy Goals & Objectives, Community Mobilization, Role of Advocates, Local Policy making, Local Planning and Budget Cycle, Advocacy Planning, Technique of Persuasion
9. Meeting with different FP Advocacy partners	CCUVA, POPNET, Rotary Club District 3860, RHAPWID, Cebu Women Coalition, BHW Federation and PBSP Olango	October 22-24, 2003		TSAP-FP, PopCom, DOH	To provide technical assistance to the participants in finalizing its project proposals and FP advocacy activities
10. Organize the CCUVA Youth	Children of the CCUVA members	Last quarter of 2003			

(Continuation)

Activity	Participants	Date	Venue	R. Person/ Facilitator/ Convenor	Topics
11. Partnership Building Workshop	26 pax representing 13 local NGOs in Metro Cebu – RPO7, SWU- College of Medicine, YAN, UP Cebu, ALU-TUCP, University of San Carlos-SOAR, Rotary Club and Mandaue East, PBSP, CCUVA, YAC, BHW Federation of Cebu	January 30-31, 2004	Holiday Plaza Hotel Cebu City	TSAP-FP, PopCom	
12. Meeting on FP and Poverty Issues of the Urban Poor	22 leaders from 13 urban poor community organizations in Metro Cebu	January 31, 2004	Holiday Plaza Hotel Cebu City	TSAP-FP, CCUVA	FP and Poverty related issues,
13. Policy Conference on Population, RH & FP		April 19, 2004	SM, Trade Hall Cebu City	TSAP-FP, PopCom, PLCPD	
14. Media Training for Cebu Champions		April 21-22, 2004	Heritage Hotel Manila	TSAP-FP, PopCom	
15. Organized MetroCAN		May 2004			
16. Orientation on Family Planning	62 men & women leaders of community associations in 10 brgys in Cebu City- (Brgy. Luz, Labangon, Apas, Mambaling, Ermita, Sapangdaku, Basak Pardo, Mambaling, Basak San Nicolas, Kamagayan & Sambag I	May 18-20, 2004	Tambuli Beach Resort, Lapu-Lapu City	TSAP-FP, PopCom	Population, RH/FP and Poverty Interrelationships; The FP Program & 10 elements of RH; Concepts of FP, Fertility Awareness and Responsible Sexuality; FP Methods; Action Planning
17. Network Development Workshop	62 men & women leaders of community associations in 10 barangays	May 20-22, 2004	Tambuli Beach Resort, Lapu-Lapu City	TSAP-FP, PopCom	Identification of barriers/problems in Implementing FP program, Formulating Mission, Vision & Core value, Objectives and Strategies for Metro Cebu CAN,
18. CCUVA Trainers Training on Family Planning	40 leaders of urban poor community associations in Metro Cebu	May 25-29, 2004	El Salvador Resort, Danao City	TSAP-FP, PopCom	Interrelationships of Population Development and poverty, RH elements, fertility concepts, modern FP methods, principles and practices of Adult learning, facilitation and teaching skills

(Continuation)

Activity	Participants	Date	Venue	R. Person/ Facilitator/ Convenor	Topics
19. TSAP-FP Partners Conference	OIC Merlyn Rodriguez & Metro Cebu CAN Chair)	June 15-17, 2004	Mariott Hotel Cebu City	TSAP-FP, PopCom	
20. Advocacy Skills Training – Metro Cebu CAN	40 pax from TSAP partners working with the informal/urban poor sector and other community-based groups in Metro Cebu	June 21-25, 2004	Daan Bantayan Island, Cebu	TSAP-FP, Visayas Reproductive Health Initiative, Region 7-based advocacy trainers	Advocacy process for FP issues, Interrelationships of population, FP, RH issues & concerns
21. CCUVA Guesting in POPCOM 7 sponsored radio program titled "Population, Hearts and Minds"	CCUVA Leaders	Every Tuesday,	DYLA Station		Highlighted the importance of FP among the urban poor and the informal sector and urged ordinary folks to access FP information and referral from the leaders

Table 5. Summary of meetings, advocacy and social mobilization activities involving MRLs in ARMM

Activity/ Participants	Date	Venue	R. Person, Facilitator, Convenor	Topics/Agenda/Purpose
1. Meetings with DOH-ARMM OIC Secretary on areas of cooperation done	January-March 2003 (exact date unspecified)	Manila (unspecified venue)	TSAP-FP, DOH-ARMM OIC Secretary	Result of the meeting was the conceptualization of holding small meetings in Zamboanga and Cotabato City by DOH ARMM with the provincial health officers and head of district hospitals on the preparations of the First ARMM Health Congress and the preparation of the concept paper and program for the event for USAID approval.
2. Dialogue with an NGO network with members operating in ARMM (25 representatives from the Western Mindanao State University's Women's Research and Resource Center, Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, Asian Muslim Action Network Phils, Women's Health Care Foundation, MUCARD, MSU's Gender and Development Studies Center, Ulama League of the Phils, 3RG staff, Women's Crisis Center, WMSU's College of Nursing)	May 28, 2003	City Garden Suites Manila	TSAP-FP	Discussion was focused on what these NGOs are doing in FP and possible areas of collaboration with TSAP in specific provinces where they are more active.
3. Secondary Review of relevant research findings on Knowledge, attitude, beliefs and practices done	Within April-June 2003		TSAP-FP	Secondary Review of relevant research findings on Knowledge, attitude, beliefs and practices done
4. First Regional ARMM Congress "Relevance and Sustainability of Reproductive Health and Family Planning Programs and Organizations in ARMM" (50 pax 1st day, 85 pax 2nd day- LGUs,NGOs, National Agencies working on health)	June 17-18, 2003	Linden Suites, Pasig City	TSAP-FP	The event was aimed, in general, to explore avenues of collaboration and complementation on advocacy initiatives among stakeholders- primarily DOH ARMM and the major NGOs implementing RH/FP projects in ARMM

(Continuation)

Activity/ Participants	Date	Venue	R. Person, Facilitator, Convenor	Topics/Agenda/Purpose
<p>5. Two Provincial Consultations</p> <p>Davao – 20 pax NGOs, partners of USAID-EnRICH program, PHO & CHO</p> <p>Zamboanga – 18 pax NGOs from Tawi-tawi, Basilan, Jolo, PHOs.</p>	<p>July 24-25, 2003</p> <p>July 17-18, 2003</p>	<p>Davao City- Marco Polo Hotel</p> <p>Zamboanga – Orchid Garden</p>	<p>DOH ARMM, TSAP-FP</p> <p>POPCOM</p>	<p>These consultations aimed at revisiting and refining the 3-year reproductive health agenda of the province with focus on the IEC/Advocacy activities</p>
<p>6. FP Champions public relations planning workshop (FP champions, Darul Iftah, CCUVA, KATINIG-NCR, FriendlyCare, PLCPD, NCCP,WHCF, FPOP)</p>	<p>October 15-16 2003</p>	<p>Don Filemon Rodriguez Center, Tagaytay City</p>	<p>(Unspecified)</p>	<p>To present ad campaign and PR support and impart concepts on crisis management, group PR planning, monitoring and quick response mechanism.</p>
<p>7. FP Champions Public Relations Planning Workshop (Darul Iftah, CCUVA, Katining, FriendlyCare, PLCPD, NCCP, WHCF, FPOP)</p>	<p>October 15-16, 2003</p>	<p>Don Filemon Rodriguez Training Center, Tagaytay City</p>		<p>Training FP champions in press relations</p>
<p>8. Finding a Common Ground “A Dialogue Among Muslim Religious Leaders in support of RH/FP (approximately 80 pax attended the dialogue some are invited by the members of the multi-agency technical working group, TSAP-FP invited religious leaders from Basilan, Tawi-tawi, Lanao Sur and from the Darul Iftah)</p>	<p>October 20, 2003</p>	<p>Grand Regal Hotel Davao City</p>	<p>TSAP-FP, POPCOM, USAID</p>	<p>TSAP-FP has joined POPCOM and UNFPA in tapping the MRLs in their FP campaign. The MRLs involvement was towards the formulation of a national FATWAH.</p>
<p>9. Dialogue- “Harmonizing the Draft FATWAH supportive of RH/FP”</p>	<p>November 4-5, 2003</p>	<p>Garden Orchid Hotel Zamboanga City</p>	<p>TSAP-FP, POPCOM, DOH-ARMM, POPCOM-UNFPA</p>	<p>A follow through activity of the MRLs Dialogue for the drafting of the FATWAH held in Davao. During the said dialogue, it was agreed that a core group of MRLs representing the different areas of Mindanao would be convened to polish the draft FATWAH.</p>
<p>10. Overseas Study Tour, Cairo Egypt</p>	<p>January 11-11 2004</p>	<p>Cairo, Egypt</p>	<p>UNFPA, USAID, Ministry of Health and Population, Orthodox Church, Al-Azhar University</p>	<p>To enable the participants to have a deeper appreciation and understanding of RH and FP in Islam, to gain insights and learnings from actual FP experiences of Egypt in the successful dissemination and operationalization of the fatwah, and to have an audience with the grand mufti of Egypt and get his endorsement of the fatwah from the Philippines.</p>

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Activity/ Participants	Date	Venue	R. Person, Facilitator, Convenor	Topics/Agenda/Purpose
11. Forum-Family Planning in Islam: The Role of Muslim health professionals (35 pax from SOFDEPI, UMHPP, AMWID	February 8, 2004	Ping's Restaurant De Mazenod Ave. Cotabato City	TSAP-FP	Presentation of the FATWAH, FP Facts and Figures: Focus on ARMM, Open Forum
12. Assembly of Muslim Religious Leaders "Tazim al Haml" subtitled "A call to Greatness" (130 pax composed of MRLs, NGOs in ARMM, POPCOM officials, TSAP-FP staff and USAID technical officers and media.	March 10, 2004	Davao City, Marco Polo Hotel	TSAP-FP, POPCOM, UNFPA, DOH ARMM	Issue and Disseminate a nationally recognized "FATWAH" which serve as one script of RH/FP messages that correspond the tenets of the Holy Qu'ran, generate support among individual Muslim religious leaders and organizations to translate the fatwah into doable activities suited to local needs
13. 13. Development of a guide on Family Planning Pre-Marriage/Marriage Counseling (A Concept Paper) 12 pax- MRLs/ Khatibun Zawaj	March 29-31, 2004	Apo View Hotel Davao City	TSAP-FP, Prof Sayedi, Shervin Kasim	Marriage: A Solid Foundation of the Family; Children's Rights and Parental responsibilities, Revisiting the National fatwah, Developing a guide for use of MRLs (Expected topic/content & format)
14. Small Grants Orientation on ARMM (Darul Iftah, QUDWA, WMSU- Women's Research & Resource Center, IPHO- Lanao Sur, ENRICH Sulu Project) Tarbilang Foundation, Inc., MUCARD, DOH- ARMM, SOFDEPI, PHO- Basilan, Save the Children, LGU Datu Paglas, AWID, BMWFPDI	January 23-24, 2004	Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City		Orientation of partners for small grants proposal writing
15. Trainers Training on FP Advocacy (31 representatives from 22 major organizations from TSAP-project sites [SOFDEPI])	March 29 to April 3, 2004	Bohol Plaza, Daus, Bohol		To train MRLs and other FP advocates on FP advocacy using the TSAP-FP advocacy manual.

(Continuation)

Activity/ Participants	Date	Venue	R. Person, Facilitator, Convenor	Topics/Agenda/Purpose
16. Strategic Planning Workshop for ARMM (TSAP-FP Technical staff, USAID CTO, Consultants for ARMM)	May 6-7 2004	Diamond Hotel, Manila	Eva Tan, Esmael Ebrahim, Moctar Matuan, Prof. Abdulrafih Sayedy, Dr. Tato Usman	To come up with the framework and strategic activities for ARMM
17. Guidebook on Marriage and Family 2nd workshop (MRLs from ARMM and consultants)	May 19-20 2004	Orchid Garden Hotel, Zamboanga City		To review the guidebook on Marriage and Family in Islam
18. Guidebook on Marriage and Family in Islam 3rd workshop IRLs from ARMM and consultants)	June 21-23 2004	Apo View Hotel, Davao City	Prof. Abdulrafih Sayedy Eva Tan	Finalizing the guidebook on Marriage and Family in Islam
19. Orientation to the Fatwa h on RH/FP (20 plus MRLs from Cotabato City and nearby provinces)	July 7-9 2004	Estosan Hotel, Cotabato City	SOFDEPI Esmael Ebrahim	To orient the MRLs from the community about the fatwah on FP.

Katinig-NCR







CCUVA & MetroCAN





MRLs

Cotabato City

