
TAG4: LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN MINDANAO

Annual Report FY2010
October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010
(Cooperative Agreement No. AID 492-A-00-09-00031-00)

Submitted by



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Acronyms

ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BMFI	Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc.
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
GPMF	Galling Pook Foundation Inc.
LCP	League of Cities of the Philippines
LGA	Local Government Academy
LMP	League of Municipalities of the Philippines
LoGoTRI-PhilNet	Local Governance Training and Research Institutes
LRI	Local Resource Institution
MDC	Mayors Development Center
MinBC	Mindanao Business Council
MinCODE	Mindano Coalition of Development NGO Networks
MinDA	Mindanao Development Authority
NGOs	Non-Government Organization
RFA	Rapid Field Appraisal
TAG	Transparent Accountable Governance
TWC	Technical Working Committee
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

I. Introduction

This report covers the accomplishments of The Transparent Accountable Governance (TAG4): Local Governance in Mindanao Project from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010.

TAG is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under Cooperative Agreement No. AID 492-A-00-09-00031-00 and implemented by The Asia Foundation (the Foundation). TAG4 runs from 01 October 2009 to 30 September 2012. The project specifically aims to: 1) strengthen local government institutional linkages and capacity for policy reform through data generation, information sharing, and policy dialogue; and 2) improve the quality of local governance for sustained peace and development in Mindanao.

To accomplish these objectives, the Foundation works with local governments, civil society, national government agencies, and other local governance stakeholders. The collaboration focuses on improving governance, making local environments more conducive to restoring peace and order, and addressing poverty.

The approach of the project is through technical assistance, education and training, advocacy efforts, sharing of good practices, information dissemination, and policy discussions involving multiple stakeholders.

Activities during the life of the project include:

- A Rapid Field Appraisal to assess results of decentralization in Philippine local governments;
- Policy fora to discuss issues affecting local governments and to disseminate exemplary practices in local governance;
- Organizational strengthening of the secretariats of the Leagues of Local Governments (LCP and LMP);
- Support to the Galing Pook Foundation, Inc. to strengthen their administrative capacity and to undertake a separate awards program for local governments in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.
- Direct technical assistance to Mindanao local governments to improve their capacity and the quality of local services;
- Local government budget monitoring by civil society in Mindanao;
- Setting up the peer-based accreditation process for local resource training institutions providing trainings to local governments;
- Books distribution to Mindanao-based educational institutions through The Asia Foundation's Book for Asia program.

In implementing the various project activities, the Foundation engages the expertise of non-government organizations as well as individual experts familiar with local governance issues in Mindanao. Working with them ensures the immediate start-up of activities, the generation

of counterpart resources to ensure success, and a high rate of sustainability for project activities.

The Foundation adopts a *demand-driven* and *assisted self-reliance* approach in providing technical assistance to local governments. The project only works with local governments interested in the reform process – those that have political leaders who support the program and demonstrate a commitment to partner with, and involve civil society groups in undertaking the reforms. They should also be willing to involve other stakeholders in the reforms and to provide counterpart contributions for project-related activities.

The technical assistance provided to local governments enrolled in the project revolves around the themes of fiscal responsibility, transparency and accountability, and service delivery.

II. Project Accomplishments

Objective 1: To strengthen local governments' institutional linkages and capacity for policy reform through data generation, information sharing, and policy dialogue.

Activity 1.1: Conduct of Rapid Field Appraisal (RFA) to assess results of decentralization in Philippine local governments.

Specific Objective/s.

1. To measure and assess the impact of decentralization and devolution across the nation, not only in local governments but also in the country in general. Areas of focus are poverty reduction, contribution to economic growth, progress in the countryside, and quality of public services.
2. To learn from the experiences of donor programs to guide future local governance programming, as well as discern benchmarks and processes for assistance in local governments.
3. To use the findings from the study as a tool for initiating policy recommendations and dialogue around important local governance and decentralization issues, and for clarifying policy debates needed by key actors, including the leagues of local governments, to facilitate immediate action.
4. To help identify the substance of specific activities under the three broad project categories of transparency and accountability, fiscal responsibility, and service delivery improvements that could be provided to the participating local governments.

Activities and Outputs for FY 2010.

- A review of related studies on Philippine decentralization was conducted which provided the TAG project with the myriad of issues related to decentralization. Knowledge of these issues guided the project in the design of the RFA
- The TAG project hosted a consultative workshop with government agencies, leagues of local governments, non-government organizations, academe, the private sector, and

development partners on February 17, 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to decide on the issues that covered by the RFA and for the stakeholders to agree on the parameters of the assessment. A two-day design workshop was then conducted to develop the standard set of data to be gathered, covering the following general areas: local governance and administration, local economic development and agriculture, health and social services, and environment management.

- The RFA field work was done from February 22, 2010 until end of May 2010. A total of 177 local governments were taken as sample, broken down as follows: 45 provinces, and 132 municipalities /cities. From each local government, regional consultants interviewed 15-25 people from government and non-government organizations. A synthesis workshop was held on May 6-7, 2010 to come up with key findings and key recommendations across the country—taking note of the trends and patterns on local governance practices. Suggestions to improve the content of individual reports were also discussed.
- A national presentation of the results of the RFA was held on August 12, 2010 in Makati. The event was attended by representatives of various national government agencies, congressmen, local government leagues, development partners, academe, and civil society organizations. Copies of the synopsis of findings were also disseminated.
- Copy editing and lay-outing of RFA reports was started first week of September 2010, and will be finished published by second week of November 2010.

Sub-activities	Timeframe	Status
<i>1.1: Conduct of Rapid Field Appraisal to measure the impact of decentralization to Philippine local governments</i>	Jan –Sept 2010	Ongoing
1.1.1 Hiring of field consultants	Jan. 2010	Completed
1.1.2: Consultations to design the scope of the study	Jan. 2010	Completed
1.1.2: Field data gathering	Feb-Mar 2010	Completed
1.1.3: Data Analysis and consolidation	April- May 2010	Completed
1.1.4: Regional Report Writing	May-mid June 2010	Completed
1.1.5: Synthesis Report Writing	June-mid July 2010	Completed
1.1.6: National presentation of results	August 2010	Completed
1.1.7: Publication of report	August-Sept 2010	Delayed, new publication date is January 2010.

Implementation Challenges:

- Regional consultants faced difficulty interviewing local elected officials as most of them were already busy campaigning long before the start of the official campaign period for the local positions.
- Local governments sometimes did not respond to requests for interview and did not provide the requested data.

- There was difficulty in obtaining records from local governments, especially financial reports. Financial reports are not immediately shared without prior approval from the locally elected officials.
- Records and file management was a challenge in half of the local governments interviewed. Consultants needed to visit the local governments twice because records could not be immediately located. This affected the analysis and report writing of the consultants, and consequently the timely submission of their reports.

Activity 1.2: Policy fora and dissemination of exemplary practices in local governance.

Specific Objective/s.

1. To improve the institutional linkage between national government agencies and local government units.
2. To capture, recognize and promote good local governance practices in ARMM through an awards program that will inspire the exemplary performance among local governments in the region.

Activities and Outputs for FY 2010.

For fiscal year 2010, the following were the key accomplishments of this project component:

Policy Fora

Initial discussions were held with representatives from the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) and the League of Cities of the Philippines to discuss holding a quarterly policy forum, which will be in coordination with the local leagues and the Philippine Consortium for Good Local Governance (PCGLG). The forum intends to discuss a thematic issue that has policy implications, and requires a certain degree of policy discussion with key officials and national government agencies that may facilitate immediate resolution and action. Another meeting with ULAP and PCGLG is slated in the last week of October 2010 to agree on the issues to be discussed and to set the date of the forum.

ARMM Awards and Replication of Good Governance Practices in ARMM.

- The Finance and Project Officer of Galing Pook Foundation Inc (GPFI). attended the Grant Management Seminar conducted by The Asia Foundation on February 17-18, 2010. The Grant Management Seminar familiarized partners of The Asia Foundation with the Foundation's financial policies and reporting requirements, as well as the processes related to project implementation. A succeeding training - on QuickBooks Accounting software - was conducted by The Asia Foundation specifically for GPF Finance staff on March 9, 2010. At the suggestion of The Asia Foundation, GPFI's Chief Financial Officer also attended the training on Financial Management of USAID/CDC Awards, On September 23-24, conducted by Center for Public Management. The training, held for two days in Manila aimed at providing information to non-government organizations and contractors with information on USAID Financial and Auditing Rules.

- The mechanics, management guidelines, and procedures for the ARMM awards and the design and content of the ARMM awards page in the Galing Pook website (www.galingpook.org), were already finalized.
- Preliminary data gathering for fourteen local governments in ARMM with potential entries for the awards program was conducted by the Galing Pook Foundation staff.
- Meetings with key government offices such as: DILG-National, ARMM Regional Government, Local Government Academy (LGA), and DILG-ARMM were conducted to enlist the support of these agencies. In particular, DILG-LGA committed to provide P100,000 cash prize to each of the five entries that will be selected.
- The Steering and Screening Committees for the Awards program were formed. The members of the Steering Committee are as follows: ARMM Governor Ansuruddin Adiong; ARMM Executive Secretary Naguib Sinarimbao; DILG-ARMM Secretary Harun Alrashid Lucman, Jr.; LGA Executive Director Marivel Sacendoncillo; USAID's Project Management Specialist Ria Orca; The Asia Foundation's Director for Local Governance Bing Bonoan; CIDA-Funded LGSP-LED Project Director Marion Villanueva; and GPFI Executive Director Eddie Dorotan. The members of the Screening Committee are as follows: Atty. Adel Nasser Tamano, Fr. Jun Mercado, Ms. Amina Rasul, Ms. Yasmin Busran-Lao, and Mr. Jose Deles. These Committees held their respective first organizational meeting on July 13, 2010. The committees recommended potential LGUs for the award program, and increased the number of awards from five to six categories or thematic areas: Peace and Security; Social Services Delivery and Social Cohesion; Sustainable Local Economic Development; Citizens Participation; Administration and Fiscal Management, and Cultural Heritage and Identity.
- The Awards Program for ARMM was launched on July 7, 2010 in Tagaytay City, during the NEO (Newly Elected Officials) Orientation for ARMM Local Chief Executives.
- To lend its support to the program, the DILG-ARMM directed all its Provincial Directors to disseminate the guidelines and entry forms to all local governments in ARMM. GPF was also given a free air time in Action Mindanao ARG radio program to discuss the awards program.
- As of September 30, 2010, there are 30 recommended potential programs, and a total of eight entries were already received. The deadline for submission of entries was extended by GPFI to October 31, 2010 to give more time for other local governments to submit their entries.

Sub-activities	Timeframe	Status
<i>1.2. Policy fora and dissemination of exemplary practices in local governance</i>	Dec. 2009-Sept. 2012	Ongoing
1.2.1. Quarterly fora (2)	June and Aug. 2010	Delayed
1.2.2. Bi-annual Leaders' Forum (1)	Sept. 2010	Delayed
1.2.3. Search and screen exemplary local governance practices in ARMM	July-Oct 2010	Ongoing
1.2.3.1. Capacity building on financial management for Galing Pook Foundation	Sep. 2010-March 2011	Ongoing
1.2.3.2. Consolidate and organize key officials in the ARMM government and LGUs, and	June 2010	Ongoing

Sub-activities	Timeframe	Status
local and foreign development agencies operating and with stakes in ARMM		
1.2.3.3. Produce manual of operations for Promoting Innovation and Excellence in Governance in ARMM	July 2010	Completed
1.2.3.4. Call for applications	July-Sept 2010	Ongoing. Submission deadline extended up to end of October 2010.
1.2.3.5. Organize the Screening Committee	June-July 2010	Completed. Final list of Screening Committee members completed in August 2010

Implementation Challenges.

- The identification of policy issues to be discussed in the policy forum remains a challenge because of the diversity of priorities and challenges of local government leagues.
- The opportunity of partnering with the PCGLG to host the policy forum is in itself a challenge because of the nature of its membership – local leagues, NGOs, and academe. A multifarious appreciation of issues is expected to provide wide latitude and generate diverse ideas during the forum.
- Finding local governments in ARMM that would qualify for Galing Pook Awards without lowering the award program's standards. Lowering the standards or significantly changing the process could affect or destroy the program's overall credibility.
- Newly elected officials may not be motivated to submit entries to the award program especially if the project or innovation was initiated by the former Mayors or elected officials.
- The cash incentive may not be enough to entice local officials to submit entries. Galing Pook may be compelled to obtain other funds to provide additional incentives that will enable local governments sustain their innovative practices.
- The postponement and failure of elections in some ARMM municipalities and other 2010 election-related activities led to delays in implementing the project.
- The usual process of the regular GPFI awards specifically on the search and screen stage is not applicable in the local governments in ARMM. This is the reason why a more proactive search and screening was conducted by GPFI field personnel who are now more aware of the unique dynamics among the local governments and personnel in ARMM-- providing distinct challenge to the administration of ARMM awards.
- The unstable peace and order situation in ARMM subjected planned timelines and activities to changes and postponement and led to the dropping of an LGU (Tugaya, Lanao Sur) from the list with potential programs.

*Activity 1.3: Strengthening the LCP and LMP Secretariats.*Specific Objective/s.

1. To harness the role of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) as premier venues for discussions of issues affecting local governments.

Activities and Outputs for FY 2010.

- A series of meetings were conducted during the early part of the fiscal year, with the executive directors and senior staff of both LCP and LMP. The leagues' staff raised their needs related to organizational development and capacity for policy advocacy. The needs revolved around the insufficiency of staff, and obsolescence of financial systems, inappropriateness of organizational structures, staff's lack of competence in policy review, analysis, and proposal formulation. Both leagues expressed interest in the technical assistance from TAG and agreed to execute Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) that spelled out the commitment of the project and what the project should expect from the part of the leagues.
- The LCP and LMP have signed separate agreements with The Asia Foundation signifying their willingness to undergo organizational development interventions to strengthen the leagues' secretariat. Mayor Manuel Escalante, LMP Secretary General, signed the agreement for the LMP and Dr. Steven Rood signed in behalf of the Foundation. Mayor Alfonso S. Casurra, National Executive Vice President of the League of Cities of the Philippines signed the agreement in behalf of LCP while Dr. Rood signed for the Foundation. The executive directors of both leagues also signed as witnesses to the agreements.
- Organizational assessments were conducted for both leagues by an Organizational Development (OD) expert engaged by the Foundation. The OD expert reviewed documents such as by-laws, organizational structures, position descriptions, and CVs of staff. The OD expert conducted separate interviews with league staff and the officers to get their assessment of the capacity of the secretariat, their views on how to make the leagues more responsive to the needs of the members, as well as the necessary trainings to improve staff capacities and make them more effective in their work.
- The results of the organizational assessment for the LCP were presented to the LCP National Executive Board on June 16, 2010, attended by 20 Mayors. During the presentation, Mayor Ben Hur Abalos, the outgoing LCP President, and Mayor Mel Sarmiento, the outgoing Secretary General, expressed their appreciation of the assessment and committed to review the report and take actions on the recommendations.
- On August 20, 2010, the TAG project presented the organizational assessment report on the LCP Secretariat to the newly installed LCP Secretary General Mayor Hernani Braganza, Officer in Charge Bebet Gozun, and incoming Executive Director Pamela Oppus. The newly elected LCP committed to look into the findings and recommendations of the study. They expressed their gratitude for the conduct of the study and looks forward to the capacity building trainings for the LCP Secretariat that will include a Job

Analysis Workshop, Computerized Financial Management System, and Basic Customer Service Skills (BCSS) Training, among others.

- For the LMP, the results of the assessment have not been presented to the National Directorate but a copy of the draft report was already shared with the Executive Director. The final report is expected to be presented to the new LMP officials in November 2010.
- Taking on the recommendation to build the capacity of the LCP and LMP Secretariats, a training on Basic Customer Service Skills will be conducted on November 11-12, 2010. Other trainings through technical assistance are already in the pipeline to further enhance their capacity.
- The highlights of the assessment for LCP are as follows:

Findings	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ The Secretariat's existing organizational structure limits access to higher authorities; ☞ No clear policy on how rewards such as the productivity bonus can be more equitably distributed; ☞ The current salary level of the Secretariat staff is too low and not competitive considering the volume and variety of programs the Secretariat implements; ☞ The current performance evaluation system is tedious and does not reflect necessary competencies for each position; ☞ The Secretariat has no institutional memory of learnings and lessons gained through the years; ☞ There is no system that allows personnel who attend training and other development activities to share their learnings with other personnel; ☞ The existing financial management system is transparent, and it is easy to obtain financial information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ Develop a more responsive structure, functional chart, and position description, and update the qualification standards of all positions; ☞ Develop an Incentives and Rewards System that is anchored on Performance; ☞ Develop a competency based Performance Review and Assessment System; ☞ Upgrade the existing salary structure to make it more competitive; ☞ Conduct trainings on Basic Customer Service Skills as an initial step towards service excellence; ☞ Develop an annual training plan to include training for both administrative and technical personnel

Sub-activities	Time Frame	Status
<i>1.3. Strengthening the capacities of league secretariats</i>	Dec. 2009-Sept. 2010	On going. Implementation of trainings has been delayed
1.3.1. Discussions with the Leagues officers and secretariat to determine the scope of the assistance.	Dec. 2009	Completed
1.3.2. Hiring of organizational development experts	Jan. 2010	Completed
1.3.3. Conduct of organizational diagnosis and assessment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with the leagues' officers 	April-July 2010	Completed

Sub-activities	Time Frame	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations with secretariats staff • Consultations with leagues' partners 		
1.3.4. Presentation of findings to leagues' officers	June & Aug 2010	Completed for LCP; Draft findings provided to LMP Executive Director
1.3.5. Workshops to draft policies, and design appropriate processes and structure for the secretariat.	July-Aug 2010	Ongoing
1.3.6. Trainings, coaching and mentoring the secretariat staff	July-Sept 2010	To start in November 2010
1.3.7. Presentation of recommended policies, processes and structure to the leagues officers	June & Aug 2010	Completed for LCP; Draft recommendations provided to LMP Executive Director, but due for presentation to new LMP officers in November
1.3.8. Adoption of the recommendations by the officers	Aug 2010	Recommendations partially adopted by LCP (i.e. salary structure, capacity building trainings); mostly to be completed

Implementation Challenges.

- Activities with LCP mostly proceeded according to plan, but some delays in the conduct of meetings with the leagues' staff were encountered because they had to attend to other commitments and representations. These delays happened mostly with LMP since it took some time before interviews were actually conducted.
- The consultant encountered problems in gathering detailed information from the LMP secretariat. It was apparent that some staff was not open to providing their opinions and other information about LMP.
- The medical condition of the consultant also partly delayed the submission of final report on the LMP Secretariat. Around the fourth quarter, she underwent a medical procedure; hence, the delay.

Objective 2: To improve the quality of local governance for sustained peace and development in Mindanao.

Activity 2.1: Technical assistance to Mindanao local governments.

Specific Objective/s.

1. To improve the quality of local governance conflict affected areas of in Mindanao.

Activities and Outputs for FY 2010.

- The profiling of local governments to be considered for the project was completed in April 2010, and covered six regions, 15 provinces, 16 cities, and 254 municipalities. The local government profile include name of local chief executive, term of office, income classification, presence of donor-assisted projects, presence of tertiary schools and civil society organizations, and the nature of conflict in the locality. The data helped determine local governments that were invited to the regional project orientations, in consultation with the provincial offices of the Department of Interior and Local Government. A total of sixty local governments were invited in the first two regional project orientations held in July for regions 9, 10, 11, 12 and CARAGA.
- Two planned regional project orientations were held. The first was in July 20-21 in Davao City for regions 9 and 12. Out of 36 local governments invited, 29 attended. The second orientation was held on July 22-23, 2010 in Cagayan de Oro City and 23 out of 24 local governments came. Participants to the orientation include: Mayor, Vice-Mayor/ Sanggunian Bayan Member, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, and Municipal Treasurer. Other participants are the Provincial Directors of DILG, and several local resource institutions—possible partners of the TAG project. Originally, in FY10 Workplan, the orientation for ARMM local governments will be held this fiscal year, while those from regions 9, 10, and 13 will be held in FY 2011. However, due to Ramadan and the hosting of various trainings for newly elected officials by DILG ARMM, the Foundation decided to switch the schedule of these two batches of local governments for TAG orientation. The number of local governments invited to the project orientation is in Annex A.
- The Screening Committee composed of representatives from USAID, LMP, Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MINCODE), and Mindanao Business Council (MinBC was convened on July 28, 2010. The Committee came up with the selection criteria and an enhanced version of the proposal format to respond to the criteria set. The criteria and proposal format were provided to local governments in order for them to revise their proposals according to the new format. Deadline for submission of revised proposal, including the submission of Letter of Intent and Sanggunian Bayan Resolution, was September 8, 2010.
- A total of 42 proposals were received which were evaluated by the Screening Committee. The proposals were rated and then ranked by the Committee. Thirty out of 42 submitted proposals were approved by the Committee. The list of local governments with their approved proposals is in Annex B.

- Following the screening process, local governments with approved proposal were notified by the TAG project, and were requested to form their respective Technical Working Group that will implement the project activities. The Foundation specifically requested that the formation of the TWG and the appointment of the TAG focal person be covered by an Executive Order.
- Based on the original time frame, implementation of the sub-activities was accomplished on target for non-ARMM local government units despite delays in the conduct of some sub-activities.

Sub-activities	Time Frame	Status
<i>Activity 2.1: Technical assistance to 60 Mindanao local governments</i>		
2.1.1. Mapping of TAG sites: 2002 to 2009 (TAG2 & TAG3)	Oct. 2009	Completed
2.1.2. Selection of Provinces for phase 4 of TAG project	Oct. 2009	Completed
2.2.3. Developing the menu for technical assistance, profiling of local government, local experts and consultants.	Nov. 2009-July 2010	Completed
2.2.4. Two Regional Project Orientations	July and Sept 2010	Completed. Two regional project orientations were held, all for non-ARMM LGUs.
2.2.5. Selection process for local governments	July-Sept 2010	Completed for non - ARMM local governments
2.2.5.1 Organizing the Screening Committee	July 2010	Completed.
2.2.5.2 Formulating the mechanics and criteria for selection	July 2010	Completed.
2.2.5.3 Deadline for submission of proposals	July and Sept 2010	Completed for non - ARMM LGUs.
2.2.5.4 Screening of proposals	July and Sept. 2010	Completed for non - ARMM LGUs
2.2.5.5 Awarding of approved proposals	July & Sept. 2010	Completed for non-ARMM LGUs.
2.2.6. Local governance reforms started in 15 local governments	Aug and Oct 2010	Delayed, estimated to start in November.

Activity 2.1.1: Special efforts in Maguindanao

In response to the distressed state of governance in Maguindanao Province after the dreadful election-related incident on Nov. 23, 2009, a special effort on Mending Maguindanao was timely with the appointment of Acting Governor, Nariman –Ina” Ambolodto in December 15, 2009. The Asia Foundation and the provincial government of Maguindanao agreed to

provide technical assistance on Organizational Diagnosis/Assessment and Financial Assessment and training after meetings done on December 21 and 31, 2009 in Cotabato and Manila.

- The TAG project deployed an Organizational Development expert to the province of Maguindanao on January 6 - 13, 2010, to do organizational needs assessment of the province. The OD Report was handed over to the Acting Governor on February 12, 2010. Unfortunately, a few days after, on February 24, 2010, a new Maguindanao Acting Governor Gani Biruar was installed by the executive department of ARMM.
- On June 9, 2010, the project team met with newly elected Governor Esmael G. Mangudadatu in Buluan, Maguindanao to brief him on the organizational assessment done by the TAG project for province of Maguindanao, and hand over the copy of the Report. The Governor expressed his appreciation to The Asia Foundation and committed to review the report. The Governor also underscored the need for technical assistance on reforming the province's fiscal management. With only five mayors as his allies, he admitted that it would not be a smooth sailing ride for his administration in the first year to two years. He is however counting on the full cooperation and active participation of regular employees in the delivery of basic services. He is also hopeful that the 31 other mayors will eventually support his programs and projects. Despite the grim realities of the massacre of 57 people including his wife and other relatives, he is determined to move forward with his vision of a peaceful and prosperous Maguindanao.

Implementation Challenges.

- Delays in the conduct of regional project orientations due to May 2010 national and local elections, and conflict of schedule with the trainings slated for newly-elected officials in June 2010.
- Delays in the compilation of revised project proposals and its corresponding requirements after the two regional orientations for non - ARMM local government units because of delays in submitting Sangguniang Bayan resolutions.
- Shortened term of office of Acting Governor Nariman Ambolodto (Dec 15, 2009 to February 21, 2010) curtailed implementation of some of the recommendations from the OD Report.
- Synchronizing the schedules for follow-up meeting with Governor Esmael Mangudadatu regarding his plans to implement the recommendations from the OD Report.

Activity 2.2: Local budget tracking.

Specific Objective/s.

1. To improve civil society organizations' access to local government fiscal information, especially the budget.
2. To increase the transparency and accountability of local governments in the preparation and utilization of their budgets.
3. To develop tools and technologies for local budget tracking.

4. To develop of models civil society – local government engagement in transparent and accountable fiscal management.

Activities and Outputs for FY 2010.

- A Letter of Agreement was signed between The Asia Foundation and Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc. (BMFI) on July 1, 2010 following a series of meetings to discuss BMFI's project proposal on Budget Tracking for Transparent Accountable Governance in Mindanao (BTTAG). The meeting focused on the processes and activities to be undertaken, proposed budget, implementation arrangement, and indicative list of cities and provinces to be covered by the project.
- On August 5-7, 2010, BMFI conducted an orientation on local budget tracking in Cagayan de Oro City for their partner-civil society organizations (CSOs) that will take on the task of tracking the budgets of their respective local governments. Speakers from the Department of the Interior and Local Government as well as the Department of Budget and Management contributed to the knowledge about local budgeting processes and requirements. The project is implemented in 17 cities, 1 municipality, and 3 provinces in Mindanao
- The Budget Tracking for Transparent Accountable Governance (BTTAG) was launched on September 1, 2010, which was attended by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Hon. Jesse Robredo. In the launch, Secretary Robredo stressed on the importance of 'stakeholdership' in effecting transparency and accountability in local government finance.
- At the ground level, the CSOs started their work by meeting with the local chief executives and department heads, gathering data, and monitoring budget preparation and budget authorization.
- The list of local governments participating in the project, with the corresponding civil society partners is in Annex C.

Implementation Challenges.

- BMFI waited for the results of the local elections before identifying possible local government partners, which affected the early start of the activity.
- Local budget tracking is a new area of work for some local CSOs, they need some guidance and advice to do the work.
- Some resistance from local governments is expected especially those with first term officials.
- The rate of progress in project implementation varies among the project sites. While some are on track, others faced a delay in implementation. For instance, the Maranao People Development Center in Marawi City, and the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Societies in Maguindanao Province paused to observe Ramadan; they also changed their respective project officers. Notre Dame of Tacurong City and Xavier Science Foundation of Pagadian City assessed if they will proceed with the implementation since their mayor communicated that the local government would defer their participation for various reasons (Tacurong City Mayor is on her first term and would like to settle first, Pagadian City would like to finish the computerization of their financial system before

participating in BTTAG); the CSOs, however, decided to go ahead in the implementation. Being a civil-society-led initiative, BTTAG through its CSO partners, may continue in the conduct of budget tracking in a particular local government even if the local government is not fully cooperating.

Activity 2.3: Peer-based assessment and accreditation system for local governance trainings.

Specific Objective/s.

1. To improve the quality of training programs for local governments.
2. To expand local governments' information and access to quality training programs.

Activities and Outputs for FY 2010.

- A Letter of Agreement was signed between The Asia Foundation and LoGoTRI-PhilNet on January 15, 2010, following the series meetings with Local Governance Training and Research Institutes (LoGoTRI-PhilNet)¹. The meetings also resulted in detailing the mechanics of the peer-based accreditation system which the project is supporting. In line with the Letter of Agreement, LoGoTriPhilNet will accredit the training programs of 25 local resource institute members of LoGoTRI-PhilNet of which 16 of these are from Mindanao. In addition, the Technical Working Committee or Accreditation Team was also formed composed of six members (2-NCR, 1-Luzon, 1-Visayas, 1-Mindanao and 1 from the National Secretariat).
- The accreditation program was formally launched on March 12, 2010 during the Capacity Development Expo 2010 hosted by DILG. The Expo served as venue for knowledge exchange and awareness-building on local government competency needs that enabled capacity development providers and donors converge their efforts to effectively respond to local development challenges in the Philippines.
- The Accreditation Manual which serves as a guideline in accrediting training programs of LRIs is currently being revised following the edits suggested by experts from The Asia Foundation.
- The accreditation process for LRIs has been started. The list of these institutions and their accredited training programs is in Annex D.

Sub-activities	Time Frame	Status
<i>Activity 2.3: Peer-based assessment and accreditation system for local governance trainings.</i>		
2.3.1. Meetings and consultations with LGA and LoGoTRI-PhilNet's Board of Directors	December 2009	Completed
2.3.2. Formation of Technical Working Committee (TWC) to design the: a) Mechanics for the accreditation system	December 2009	Completed

¹ A network of 70 institutions providing trainings to local governments. LoGoTRI-PhilNet was envisioned to act as a catalyst of change for local government units' institutional development through quality and relevant training programs. LGA as one of its pioneering members serves as the secretariat of the network.

Sub-activities	Time Frame	Status
b) Monitoring system for continuous observance of the LRIs on the standards set forth by the system		
2.3.3. TWC interviews and consultations with experts on the field and with selected members	Jan-Feb 2010	Completed
2.3.4. Presentation of the draft system to LoGoTRI-PhilNet's members in a general assembly for review and approval, and adoption of the Board of Directors	March 2010	Completed in May 2010.
2.3.5. Invitation to LRIs for pilot implementation	March 2010	Still ongoing very few LRIs have responded to the invitation
2.4.6: Conduct of accreditation on selected areas/region	July-Oct 2010	Delayed, estimated to be completed by Feb 2011.
2.4.7. Recognition of LRIs that have passed the accreditation, during the General Assembly	Nov 2010	Delayed, estimated to be completed by March 2011.
2.4.8. Roll-out implementation to other LRIs	Nov 2010	Delayed, estimated to be completed by April 2011.

Implementation Challenges

- Coming up with common schedules that will work both for the members of the accreditation team and the personnel of training institutions posed to be the greatest challenge in setting up the schedule for accreditation due to conflict of schedule and availability of accreditors.
- The original plan was to prioritize the accreditation of training institutions in Mindanao. Unfortunately, of the 16 target LRIs in Mindanao few have submitted a Letter of Intent for the accreditation of training programs and the rest are either from Luzon or Visayas. In order not to delay the implementation, LoGoTRI-PhilNet decided to waive the submission of LOIs for LRIs in Mindanao; instead they provided them with the self-survey forms which will be used by LoGoTRI-PhilNet to validate the status of the training program.
- The Accreditation of training programs of LRIs coincided with the Accreditation of Universities and Colleges for higher status by the following bodies:
 - Commission of Higher Education (CHED) of the government of the Philippines
 - The Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA)

- Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP)

Activity 2.4: Books for Asia (in Mindanao).

Specific Objective/s.

1. To increase the availability of reading materials in conflict affected areas of Mindanao.

Activities and Outputs

From October 2009 to September 2010, a total of 26,986 books were distributed to 573 public and private elementary and secondary schools and colleges in Mindanao. The distribution per region is as follows:

PERIOD: October 2009-September 2010		REGION						TOTAL
		IX	X	XI	XII	ARMM	CARAGA	
Elementary	Public	50	653	2,443	29	50	50	3,275
	Private			128		115		243
Secondary	Public	189	19	357		146		711
	Private		19	329		65	75	488
Colleges & Universities	Public	290	56	442	629	296		1,713
	Private		179	1,695	731	866	259	3,730
Non-Academic	Public	3,990	2,740	2,190	2,190	1,940	2,156	15,206
	Day Care	950	150	100		50		1,250
	Private	50		220		50	50	370
Total		5,519	3,816	7,904	3,579	3,578	2,590	26,986

III. Program Management

Staffing for the project is already in place. Working relations with various with government and non-government entities were established, such as the provincial offices of DILG, ARMM DILG, Balay Mindanaw Foundation, Inc, members of LoGoTriPhilNet, the League of Cities of the Philippines, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and other institutions and organizations working on local governance.

III. Annexes

Annex A: List of LGUs invited, participated, and screened for Technical Assistance

Date	Cluster	No. of LGUs invited	No. of LGUs attended	Number Of submitted proposals	Number of approved proposals
July 20-21, 2010	Cluster 1: Regions XI & XII:				
	• Davao Norte	5	4	4	1
	• Davao del Sur	6	4	3	3
	• Compostela Valley	6	6	3	2
	• Sultan Kudarat	6	5	3	1
	• South Cotabato	7	5	5	4
	• Sarangani	6	5	4	3
July 22-23, 2010	Cluster 2: Regions IX, X, XIII:				
	• Agusan del Sur	6	5	5	5
	• Surigao del Sur	6	6	4	4
	• Zamboanga del Sur	6	6	6	2
	• Bukidnon	6	6	5	5
5 regions, 10 provinces		60	52	42	30

Annex B: List of LGUs with Approved Proposals

Province	Municipality	Title of Proposal
Agusan del Sur	Sta Josefa	Information System & Automation of Revenue Generation & Fiscal Administration
Agusan del Sur	Bunawan	Effective and Efficient Local Revenue Generation/Resource Mobilization by Increasing the Real Property Tax Collection
Agusan del Sur	Trento	Proper Updating of Revenue Generation Plan
Agusan del Sur	San Francisco	Posting Financial Reports and Ordinances Online
Agusan del Sur	Bayugan	Technical Assistance on Revenue Generation
Bukidnon	Damulog	Tightening and Strengthening the Financial Management
Bukidnon	Libona	Revenue Generation to Generate Additional Resources to Finance Local Development Projects
Bukidnon	Maramag	PSEEAP-Resource Development and Management System
Bukidnon	Kibawe	Enhancing Local Revenue Generation through Strengthening the Municipal Economic Enterprise
Bukidnon	Lantapan	Personnel Competencies and Value Formation in Customer Service
ComVal	New Bataan	Establishment of Data Banking and Installation of Data Base System among Front Line Service Officers
ComVal	Montevista	Local Revenue Mobilization Project
Davao Norte	Kapalong	Integrated Revenue Collection Enforcement Program
Davao Sur	Malalag	Resource and Revenue Generation Project
Davao Sur	Sta.Cruz	Improve Service Delivery on Social Welfare Assistance, Health Services and Garbage Collection System
Davao Sur	Matanao	Improvement of Revenue Generation

Province	Municipality	Title of Proposal
Sarangani	Glan	Formulation of the Glan Tourism Master Plan
Sarangani	Maasim	Financial Records Management and Codification of Ordinances
Sarangani	Maitum	Revenue Generation
South Cotabato	Polomolok	Adoption and Implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System
South Cotabato	Banga	Revenue Generation and Financial Management
South Cotabato	Tupi	Enhancing Management of the Municipal Economic Enterprise
South Cotabato	Tampakan	GIS Training for Tax Mapping
Sultan Kudarat	SNA	Strengthening LGU Revenue Generation Capacity
Surigao del Sur	Cagwait	Capability Enhancement on Fiscal Responsibilities of LGU Cagwait through Effective Financial Management and Local Revenue Mobilization
Surigao del Sur	Carrascal	Formulation of a Comprehensive Municipal Revenue Code
Surigao del Sur	Bislig City	On Line Tracking System for Civil Permits Transactions
Surigao del Sur	Hinatuan	Local Revenue Generation
Zambo Sur	Tukuran	Modernized Local Revenue Collection System
Zambo Sur	Mahayag	TA on Local Resource Mobilization

Annex C. List of local governments participating in local budget tracking

LGU	CSO Partner
1. Dipolog City	Center for Social Concerns and Development, Inc. (CESCOD)
2. Pagadian City	Xavier Agriculture Extension Service – Xavier Science Foundation (XAES-XSF)
3. Gingoog City	Katilingbanong Pamahandi sa Mindanaw Foundation, Inc. (KPMFI)
4. El Salvador	Katilingbanong Pamahandi sa Mindanaw Foundation, Inc. (KPMFI)
5. Oroquieta City	Paglaum Community Development Foundation, Inc.
6. Malaybalay City	Agri-Aqua Development Coalition (AADC)
7. Iligan City	MSU IIT Multi-Purpose Cooperative
8. Panabo City	Institute of Primary Health Care (IPHC)
9. Digos City	Balay Dabaw Sur, Inc. (BDSI)
10. Davao City	Gawasong Pagbalay, Inc. (GPI)
11. General Santos City	Coalition of Social Development Organization – South Cotabato (CSDO-SC)
12. Tacurong City	Notre Dame of Tacurong – Community Extension Service (NDT-CES)
13. Cotabato City	Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society
14. Ozamiz City	Misamis Occidental Federation of Cooperatives (MOFECO)
15. Surigao City	Rural Enterprise Assistance Center Foundation (REACH)
16. Butuan City	Educational Discipline in Culture and Area-based Development Services, Inc. (EDCADS)
17. Marawi City	Maranao People Development Center (MARADECA)
18. Province of Sarangani	Sarangani Province Empowerment for Social Transformation Forum (SPECTRUM)
19. Province of Misamis Oriental	Katilingbanong Pamahandi sa Mindanaw Foundation, Inc. (KPMFI)
20. Province of Maguindanao	Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society

Annex D: List of Institutions Accredited by LoGoTriPhilNet

Local Resource Institute	Training Programs Accredited
Mindanao University of Science and Technology, Cagayan de Oro City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Course on Local Governance
Holy Name University, Tagbilaran, Bohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology of Participation – Level 1 • Public Service Excellence Program • Streamlining Business Permits and Licensing System • Barangay Justice Service Systems
Tanggol Kalikasan, Quezon City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Governance Training for Local Government Officials • Environmental Law Enforcement Training • Training on appropriate dispute Resolution Process

Annex E: Press releases

LGUs' transparency on financial transactions found lacking

BY ANGELA CELIS

While local governments are gradually opening up and providing space for transparency and public scrutiny, information shared to the public is generally confined to projects, activities, and accomplishments, a recent report on decentralization shows.

The report titled, "Synopsis of Findings: Eleventh Rapid Field Appraisal (RFA) of Decentralization in the Philippines," aims to describe the progress, initiatives, and innovations of local governments 18 years after the implementation of the Local Government Code (LGC). The LGC intends to substantially transfer powers from central to local governments.

The RFA's findings showed that in terms of transparency, only a few local governments provide information on financial reports and transactions. It also said that the inadequate information shared to the public limited the opportunities for public scrutiny and citizen feedback.

"Local legislation, transparency, and participation define local government's culture of doing things' with respect to administration," the study said.

The RFA is a product of the Transparent Accountable Governance (TAG) Project of The Asia Foundation (TAF) and is supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). It covered 117 local governments all over the country and focused on the progress of decentralization.

In terms of citizen participation, the report shows that the quality of participation continues to be determined by the presence of civil society groups that are willing and able to engage with local government.

"In areas where there is the presence of matured and organized Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), there is a significant civil society, NGO involvement in the governance processes including demands for transparency and accountability," it said.

"However, in smaller and remote municipalities, there tend to be fewer organizations. The participation of people's organizations as members of the civil society sector is limited to their respective sectoral concerns," it also said.

The RFA study suggests that the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) create a Memorandum Circular that would encourage local governments to disseminate accurate information on its budget and expenditures.

It also suggests that donors and grant-giving institutions adopt "transparency in budget appropriation and expenditures" as criterion for grants and aid for local governments.

"Rather than limiting transparency to the project itself, local governments would be encouraged to strengthen their general disclosure system," it said.

"Organized Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) should take advantage of the counter corruption thrust of the Aquino administration, and the opportunities of the Local Government Code to mainstream the principles of transparency and accountability as part of its core advocacy, and to proactively engage with local governments to advance this agenda in all aspects of local governance," it also suggested.

In areas where the NGOs' presence and meaningful engagement is limited, the report suggests that academic institutions should serve as alternative sites of demands for transparency and participation.

"It should also actively exercise their research and extension functions in promoting and disseminating the use of local government performance measurements, such as score cards and perception surveys, as basis for local government decision making," it said.

RFA was first developed as a monitoring tool by USAID funded Local Development Assistance Program (LDAP) to check the progress of decentralization. Ten RFAs were conducted in 1992-2000 to capture the trends of decentralization in the Philippines. The data used for the 11th RFA was gathered from February-May 2010 by regional consultants, who "undertook a rapid, qualitative investigation based on interviews with local government officials, national government agency personnel, and respondents from the private sector and non-government organizations.

<http://www.malaya.com.ph/08162010/busi3.html>

DILG exec says CSOs have vital role in ensuring government transparency

By Bong D. Fabe/Correspondent

Business Mirror, Thursday, 19 August 2010

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – To ensure accountability and transparency in all local government units (LGUs), civil-society organizations (CSOs) must get involved in governance, the regional director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government in Northern Mindanao (DILG-10) said.

–The wish of the secretary [Jesse Robredo], in line with the vision of the President, is transparency and accountability in governance [TAG]. But this cannot be done by us [in government] alone. This can be done with the involvement of ...civil society organizations,” said DILG-10 regional director Loreto Bhagwani.

CSOs are stakeholders who play a very big role in ensuring that President Noynoy Aquino delivers his campaign promise of ensuring change in government, Bhagwani told participants to the recent –Budget Tracking for Transparent, Accountable Governance in Mindanao [BTTAG] Project Orientation and CSO Training Workshop” held at the International Center for Peace (IC Peace) in Mindanao of the Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc. (BMFI).

–NGOs [nongovernment organizations], POs [people’s organizations], and other groups together with the corresponding [government] agencies in the process must work together for a better society that caters to the needs of the community pursuant to Section 16 of the Local Government Code (LGC) which is the Delivery of Basic Services,” he said.

Bhagwani said that while it is incumbent upon those who rule to deliver basic services to the governed, the –bigger bulk of the responsibility is with the civil society, with the community where these things are happening.”

He said that according to the LGC, at least 25 percent of the members of various local government councils must come from the CSOs (NGOs, POs) and –this must now be reflected in the actual presence of these people, not just in figures.”

According to Bhagwani, the BTTAG training workshop will help CSOs learn how to track down the budgetary allocation and spending of local governments.

He said this is very important because according to the law, no local government must spend money without the authority from the Sanggunian.

–But some people spend without authority. Now is the time for them to be held accountable for all this spending,” he said.

The BTTAG training-workshop, according to Cynthia Abanil, provincial planning and development officer of Misamis Oriental, –brings in the participation of CSOs in governance. This is a long journey and we are taking a small step with this workshop toward our goal even if we don’t see significant changes during our lifetime.”

–The link between planning and budgeting to expenditure management and back again to planning should really be operationalized. The pressure should come from the civil society,” she said.

Abanil, who represented Gov. Oscar Moreno of Misamis Oriental in the training-workshop, said that it is the dream of every Filipino for its leaders in government to be examples of good governance.

–Good governance will not happen even though those governing are doing their job if those who are governed are not doing their job as well. CSOs play a very important role in good governance,” she said.

Bhagwani said that budget tracking is ~~one~~ of the very pronounced platforms of the new administration, which is also very well supported by the DILG.

He said that laws instituting transparency in all government transactions have long been passed, but it is unfortunate that only a few local government chief executives and officers implement them and only few from the civil society care for their implementation.

–It’s in the [Local Government] Code that the income and expenses of local governments must be posted in a conspicuous part of the city, provincial and municipal halls. It is there but it’s not being done. It is not being complied with,” he said.

According to RA 9485 (Anti-Red Tape Law), all LGUs, as part of its transparency program, ~~must~~ establish, must publish in very conspicuous places in the respective LGU a system where a transacting public can do and go without need of a fixer.”

Bhagwani, however, said that this particular law is 97 percent complied with in LGUs in Northern Mindanao.

He said that during their meeting in Manila on July 16, Robredo ~~old~~ us to ensure that LGUs and government agencies partner with NGAs [nongovernment agencies] and NGOs to strengthen transparency, accountability and stakeholdership.”

Paul Richard A. Paraguya, BTTAG project manager, said the project, which is being done in partnership with BMFI, The Asia Foundation and USAID, is ~~not~~ a budget watch.”

–We are not here to watch the LGUs. We are here for a journey – to improve transparency and accountability and institute policy advocacy,” he said.

http://businessmirror.com.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=255:dilg-exec-says-csos-have-vital-role-in-ensuring-government-transparency-&catid=45:regions&Itemid=71

DILG joins NGOs towards achieving transparent, accountable governance

DAVAO City, Sept. 4, 2010—Local and Interior Government Secretary Jesse Robredo has joined at least 20 civil society organizations (CSOs) in Mindanao, together with officials of The Asia Foundation (TAF) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in taking the ambitious, bold and historic first step towards a more transparent and accountable governance in the region.

“Let us always remember why we are doing this. We are doing this because we are not interested in transparency for transparency’s sake; we are not interested in accountability for the sake of accountability. We are interested because transparency and accountability will deliver better outcomes for the people we are serving,” Robredo said in his keynote address during the launching of the Budget Tracking for Transparent Accountable Governance (BTTAG) in Mindanao Project at the Grand Regal Hotel here last Wednesday. Robredo said that the DILG is fully supporting the project “because this is in line with what we would like to do in so far as DILG is concerned.”

The BTTAG Project, according to Project Manager Paul Richard Paraguya of the Balay Mindanaw Foundation, Inc. (BMFI) is “a journey towards enhancing local budgeting.” The Project “is not a budget watch. We are not here to watch the local governments. We are here for a journey—to improve transparency and accountability and institute policy advocacy,” he stressed.

According to Paraguya, the BTTAG Project is an answer to the mandate enshrined in the Constitution and Local Government Code for non-government organizations to get involved in local government in the pursuit of local autonomy. LGUs-CSOs partnership

The BTTAG Project is the initiative of the Mindanao Coalition of Development NGOs (MinCODE) in partnership with The Asia Foundation and local government units (LGUs) and fully supported by the USAID, said MinCODE Chairperson Andrea Maria Patricia “Pat” Mangrobang-Sarenas.

“This project BTTAG will give opportunities for us, CSOs, to work in closer partnership with our respective LGUs to build transparency and accountability in fiscal management of local government resources” Sarenas said.

In his keynote speech during the BTTAG Project launching here, Robredo underscored the importance of “stakeholdership,” as he noted that leadership is a shared responsibility.

He narrated that during his incumbency as mayor of Naga City, his administration was able to effect a strong partnership with the CSOs and private sector with the establishment of the Naga City People’s Council.

“If we have to impose the obligation on the constituency, it is necessary that they should know why we are imposing these obligations on them. If we need to raise taxes, the people

have the right to be informed how we were using public money and the only way to inform them is to open the books of City Hall. Aside from getting pogi points because the city government has become transparent, the other important element is that we were able to get stakeholder participation on difficult things that we need to do in the city,” he said

Dr. Maria Rendon, acting chief of the USAID-Philippines’ Office of Economic Development and Governance, underscored the need to strengthen CSOs’ involvement in local governance finances because “after all, tax administration, expenditure management, investment priorities, public financial management, budget preparation and budget execution all affect development, governance and public welfare.”

“The local budget reflects the bottom line priorities of a local government. It determines the number of school buildings to be constructed, infrastructure priorities, the quality of health services and many other aspects of public service. Designing, allocating and executing local government budgets, therefore, require a sound and robust check and balance system that greatly involves the citizens,” she stressed.

Steven A. Rood, regional adviser on local governance and concurrent country representative of The Asia Foundation, also stressed the importance of establishing a strong partnership between LGUs and CSOs especially because “almost two decades after its enactment in 1991, the Local Government Code has yet to fulfill its promise of building self-reliant communities that contribute to national development — because many local government units lack the needed mechanisms to effect transparency and accountability.”

Citizen participation needed:

Last August 12, The Asia Foundation and USAID unveiled the results of a Rapid Field Appraisal on Decentralization [and] “one of the key findings of this assessment is the need to strengthen citizen participation and social accountability in such areas as planning and the budgeting process at the local level,” Rendon said.

Rood added that the result of the Rapid Field Appraisal on Decentralization showed LGUs efforts are working hard to improve revenue and services and their gradual opening up to public scrutiny are being negated by the lack of adequate information share with the public, which in turn, limited public scrutiny and citizen feedback.

Whatever information shared with the public, he said, were confined to projects, activities and accomplishments “with few local governments providing information on financial reports and transactions.”

For LGUs, especially local chief executives, Rood urged them to ask the following questions on themselves: (a) are we strategically planning and budgeting for our localities? (b) are we responding to the needs of the people? (c) are we improving their quality of life?

“Local government funds are public funds, and expanding them should never be the monopoly of the local governments,” he stressed.

Rood was taking a cue from Robredo, who in a separate occasion, had earlier underscored that the final test of leadership in the government is whether the ordinary Filipino has felt its impact and ensuring that government programs and projects are working for and benefiting them.

Last July 28 during the “Leadership Development for Social Change: Building A Community of Practice” conference at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) in Makati City, Robredo said that one of his top priorities as DILG secretary is to tap the active involvement and participation of NGOs and the private sector in local governments in order to effect responsive development projects at the local level.

—“We should continuously harness the role that the people and the different sectors can play in governance,” he stressed.

Partnership. That is the key to a transparent and accountable governance. But like all other partnership, nothing is perfect. But this should not hinder LGUs and the private sector/CSOs from working together for the good of the people.

—“There is neither perfect government nor perfect partnership, but we all need to work together for this major, major endeavor,” Rood said. (Bong D. Fabe)

<http://www.cbcnews.com/?q=node/12955>

MONITORING MAGUINDANAO: From Ampatuan to Mangudadatu: starting from zero

Written by: Mindanews , Mindanews
Thursday, 21 October 2010

BULUAN, Maguindanao — He would have delivered his State of the Province Address (SOPA) in early August. In fact, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan (provincial legislature) had been waiting for him to spell out his legislative agenda.

But the governor was often in Manila, a complaint that continues to this day. Governor Esmael Mangudadatu said he goes to Manila for the hearings on the Nov. 23 massacre because I am the main complainant. I have to be in Manila).

He said he also goes to Manila to follow up on some concerns with the Department of Budget and that he spends two to three days for a trip to Manila or returns on the same day.

He said he can't be expected to be in office all the time or up to midnight. You can't please everybody, he said in Pilipino.

Hindi ako si Superman (I am not Superman), he added. But Mangudadatu had another reason for rescheduling his SOPA. Ill do that after 100 days because there should be something to show for by then.

As it turned out, Mangudadatu, a first-time governor, became the only governor in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao to have delivered a hundred days after report. When he delivered his SOPA on Oct. 10, he had nine dump trucks lined up on the left side of the municipal grounds, filled with oil palm seedlings and a bit nearer the stage, the centerpiece of his administrations first 100 days: the P15-million mobile hospital.

On Aug. 20, the governor told MindaNews that they purchased P10 million worth of oil palm seedlings from Makilala in North Cotabato, for distribution in Maguindanao, to address the livelihood aspect that they promised their constituents.

He said oil palm was a viable crop in his province and would bring huge incomes for the farmers, citing his own familys experience. The Mangudadatus own vast tracts of land planted to oil palm. On my own, I have a seven-year-old 370-hectare plantation that earns millions of pesos, he said. He said he earns P8,000 to P12,000 per hectare per harvest twice a month. A resident with an e-mail address of warlordanti@yahoo.com, who read about Mangudadatus claimed accomplishments said of the oil palm seedlings: they just displayed that but they will plant that in their lands so only they will benefit.

Asked to comment on the readers comment, Mangudadatu said, why should I do that? We have a plantation. In his SOPA, Mangudadatu said P10 million was spent on the purchase of 40,000 oil palm seedlings and 120,000 rubber tree seedlings for distribution to the provinces

36 towns. Whether or not the beneficiaries will be from the 36 towns or the five Mangudadatu-controlled towns only, or his own plantation, as critics expect would happen, no one can say for sure, for now. The mechanisms for transparency and even for basic governance are only starting to be set up. For the Mangudadatu-Mastura team, it's like starting from zero.

But Bobby Benito, executive director of the Bangsamoro Center for Justice and Peace (BCJP) said he is hopeful the leadership of Toto Mangudadatu and Dustin Mastura will make a difference and bring Maguindanaons a participative and transparent governance.

In fact, Transparent Accountable and Participative Governance is no. 2 of his eight-point agenda where CSOs are strengthened through local special bodies, Benito said, adding a performance billboard and Civil Society Organization (CSO) Desk are also being established. For the first time in Maguindanao, Budget Tracking by an NGO is now allowed, where local CSO partners will monitor budget preparation, budget authorization, budget review, budget execution and budget accountability, Benito said, adding this is a project of the Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society (CBCS) in partnership with Balay Mindanaw, The Asia Foundation and USAID. The project is expected to start soon.

CBCS convenor Guiamel Alim cites as improvements of the Mangudadatu administration, the NGO participation in the provincial special bodies, openness to consultations and the mobile hospital.

In his SOPA, Mangudadatu said that in response to calls for transparency, the province has entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Patikai Developer, to set up the provinces official website.

He did not, however, say when the website would be available. We will also update our Socio-Economic Profile. We will also issue a Provincial Publication/Newsletter so we can monitor the progress of our province. We will also set up Performance Billboards to let the people know about our programs.

He said the province conducted a CSO Orientation and Workshop on September 24 to 25 at the Palm Pavilion in Barangay Calean, Tacurong City, to ensure partnerships in provincial programs and representation as well in governance.

Among those Mangudadatu set up through Executive Orders are bodies that he said were not activated during the time of the past administration, referring to the Ampatuans: the Provincial Development Council (EO 001); Provincial Peace and Order Council (EO2); EO 3 or the Maguindanao Task Force Reconciliation and Unification to deal with rido (family or clan feuds); Provincial Disaster (Response) Coordinating Council (EO 4); Local School Board (EO 6); Local Health Board (EO 7); Provincial Tax Code Committee (EO 8).

The Provincial Reconciliation and Unification Council was launched July 20 in Parang, Maguindanao to settle community conflicts and ridos. A joint meeting of the Provincial

Development Council and Provincial Peace and Order Council was held on August 5 at Genalins Forest Resort and Catering Services in Tacurong City.

On August 10, Mangudadatu reactivated the Provincial Disaster Response Coordinating Council through EO 4 at the BBGM Restaurant in Buluan. On August 15, Mangudadatu met with the heads and staff of the different departments through a consultative meeting on August 15 also at the BBGM Restaurant.

On August 17 and 18, the province conducted a Local Governance Performance Management System at the Genalin Forest Garden Resort in Tacurong City. Mangudadatu activated the Local School Board on September 7 at the BBGM Restaurant in Buluan. The board will serve as an advisory committee to the Sanggunian on education matters.

The next day, it was the turn of the Local Health Board at the same venue. The Genalin Resort, named after his slain wife, and BBGM conference venues are, incidentally, owned by the Mangudadatu family.

In August, when Mangudadatu was asked about criticisms that the province had been holding conferences in their resort in Tacurong City, he told MindaNews, wala naman pwedeng pag-meetingan dito (Buluan) (There is no other meeting place here).

He said Tacurong City (in Sultan Kudarat province), is just near. We can meet here but it will be too crowded. And if we meet here, we can't really meet properly because look at how many hundreds of people come here, he said in Pilipino.

But there is a conference venue in Buluan, BBGM Restaurant, MindaNews later learned from *Ulat sa Bayan*, a publication on the summary of his 100-day accomplishments. BBGM is also owned by the Mangudadatus. Its my mothers, the governor told MindaNews by telephone on Oct. 16.

RA 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees provides that public officials shall not dispense or extend undue favors on account of their office to their relatives whether by consanguinity or affinity. Mangudadatu said BBGM restaurant is the only venue for meetings in Buluan. Wala nang iba (Theres nothing else).

He said his mother's restaurant has been there for long and if he can't hold meetings in the restaurant or the resort because these are owned by the Mangudadatus, where will we hold our meetings? All we want to do is to serve the public, the governor said.

(Carolyn O. Arguillas/MindaNews for the Philippine Public Transparency Reporting Project. MindaNews is one of four partners that together comprise the PPTRP. This series is a joint PPTRP/MindaNews initiative)

<http://www.mindanaotimes.net/?p=14262>

<http://bobbybenito.blogspot.com/2010/10/monitoring-maguindanao-from-ampatuan-to.html>

PIA Press Release

2010/09/01

Budget tracking project launched in Davao

by RG Alama

Davao City (1 September) -- The Budget Tracking towards Transparent and Accountable Governance (BITAG) will be launched today in Davao City with Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo expected to grace the affair.

The local budget tracking project is made under the Transparent Accountable Governance program of the Asia Foundation with the support of the United States Agency for International Development and the Mindanao Coalition of Development NGO Networks (MinCODE) and Balay Mindanaw Foundation as implementing partners.

Sec. Robredo during the launching will stress the importance of 'stakeholdership' in effecting transparency and accountability in local government finance with the aim of delivering the maximum basic services to its constituents.

The BITAG project is in line with President Aquino's vision of good governance which is transparency and accountability. However this aspect cannot be done by the Government alone but with the involvement of others in the civil society organization.

According to project manager Paul Richard Paraguya of the BMFI, the BITAG project is not a budget watch but rather an effort to improve transparency and accountability and institute policy advocacy.

Aside from Sec. Robredo the Davao launching will be attended by Dr. Maria Rendon, acting chief of the Office of Economic Development and Governance, USAID Philippines; Dr. Steven Rood, TAF country representative, Andrea Patricia Mangrobang-Sarenas, Chairperson of MinCODE and Sarangani Governor Miguel Dominguez. (PIA XI

<http://www.pia.gov.ph/?m=12&sec=reader&rp=1&fi=p100901.htm&no=3&date=9/1/2010>

Posted on 06:50 PM, October 22, 2010

**Program launched to help institutional capacity building in ARMM
BUTUAN CITY -- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
and The Asia Foundation have launched a program aimed at helping the Autonomous
Region of Muslim Mindanao improve its institutional capacity.**

The program, implemented under the Transparent Accountable Governance Program, will provide technical assistance through the region to enable local government units to deliver basic services to their constituents.

Assistance will be in the form of trainings that will help the region and its local government units increase their revenues and manage their expenditures better, enhance frontline services and improve administrative processes. The region, constantly identified among the poorest in the country, is also beset with peace and order problems, contributing to its slow economic development.

In the 2009 Local Governance Performance Management System, the region, which includes the provinces of Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, was described as weak in resource allocation, revenue generation, customer services and peace and security.

The collaboration of the program's stakeholders hopes to improve governance in the region before the next elections, or in 2013. Presently, 20 barangays in the Islamic City of Marawi alone are identified as hotspots in the upcoming barangay elections.

The military has recommended that members of the Philippine National Police manage Monday's SK elections since teachers in hotspot areas have refused to take on poll responsibilities. -- **Louise G. Dumas**

<http://www.bworldonline.com/main/content.php?id=19967>

PIA Press Release**2010/07/16****USAID, The Asia Foundation launch assistance program for Mindanao LGUs**

Cagayan de Oro City (16 July) -- With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The Asia Foundation will help local governments in Mindanao improve fiscal performance, service delivery, transparency and accountability. The Foundation will conduct a series of regional orientations in Mindanao to announce the availability of technical assistance for local governance improvement, which will be implemented under the fourth phase of the USAID-supported Transparent Accountable Governance (TAG) Program.

Many local governments in Mindanao are challenged by limited resources and inadequate governance capacity, which impede the delivery of even the most basic services to citizens. In some areas of the region, instability hinders economic development. The TAG Program will assist local governments in increasing revenues and managing expenditures, enhancing frontline services, and improving administrative processes to enable them to better serve citizens.

The Foundation will conduct three regional orientations to provide information on program enrolment, the competitive selection process, and the expected results of TAG assistance. The first orientation will be held on July 20 and 21 in Davao City for municipalities in Regions 11 and 12.

The second orientation, in Cagayan de Oro City on July 22 and 23, will cover Regions 9, 10, and CARAGA. A separate orientation for ARMM municipalities will follow in September (dates to be announced).

Provincial directors of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and representatives of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines will participate as TAG partners.

"We welcome Mindanao mayors to the orientation sessions on our local governance assistance program. The U.S. Government proudly supports local governance and decentralization that brings development closer to the citizens," said Roger Carlson, Acting Mission Director of USAID.

Dr. Steven Rood, Philippine Country Representative of The Asia Foundation said, "The Foundation is pleased to be able to reach out to local governments throughout Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. We are at the very beginning of a new administration, both at the national and the local levels, so this effort is perfectly timed to maximize the benefits which can be produced in the upcoming term of office of local officials." (Asia Foundation)

<http://www.pia.gov.ph/?m=12&fi=p100716.htm&no=53>

USAID, The Asia Foundation launch assistance program for ARMM towns

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), The Asia Foundation will help municipalities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) improve fiscal performance, public service delivery, transparency, and accountability. The Foundation will conduct a regional orientation for ARMM to announce the availability of technical assistance for local governance improvement, which will be implemented under the USAID-supported Transparent Accountable Governance (TAG) Program.

The ARMM region is challenged by inadequate governance capacity, which impedes the delivery of even the most basic services to citizens. Problems on security also contribute to economic underdevelopment and poverty. Three of the five ARMM provinces – Tawi –Tawi, Maguindanao, and Lanao del Sur – were cited as among the poorest provinces in the Philippines in the latest poverty statistics of the National Statistical Coordination Board. The TAG Program will assist ARMM municipalities in overcoming these challenges by increasing revenues and managing expenditures, enhancing frontline services, and improving administrative processes to enable local governments to better serve their citizens. “The U.S. Government proudly supports strong local governments that engage their citizens in developing their communities,” said Gloria D. Steele, Mission Director of USAID.

The Foundation will conduct a regional orientation for ARMM on October 6-7, 2010 at the Crown Regency Residence in Cebu City. The orientation will provide information on how to enroll in the program, the competitive selection process, and the expected results of TAG assistance. Secretary Haroun Al-Rashid Lucman, Jr. of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in ARMM, and other DILG-ARMM officials are among the participating TAG partners.

DILG-ARMM Secretary Lucman emphasized that the DILG-ARMM is working with USAID and other donors in strengthening local governance in the region. Lucman acknowledged the value of U.S. assistance, noting, “TAG4 is another partnership program with USAID and The Asia Foundation that supports our aspiration for a better quality of life in the region.”

DILG-ARMM Assistant Secretary Sharifa Pearlsia A. Dans is positive that the partnership will produce results, noting, “This assistance is timely and appropriate considering that ARMM is beset with weak local governance. The 2009 Local Governance Performance Management System revealed that ARMM local governments show weak performance in governance and development administration particularly in the areas of resource allocation, revenue generation, customer services, support to local economic development, support to education and social welfare promotion, and peace and security. The technical assistance support of USAID and The Asia Foundation will help strengthen local governments by improving their fiscal responsibility, transparency and accountability, and service delivery. The activity will surely open up possibilities for continuing partnership and cooperation among USAID, The Asia Foundation and ARMM local governments.” Dr. Steven Rood, Country Representative of The Asia Foundation, and its Regional Advisor for Local

Governance, is looking forward to working with municipalities in ARMM. –By starting early in the 2010-2013 terms of office of local officials, we are able to maximize achievements before local governments face elections again. In this way, citizens will be able to see what effects there have been of good governance before making a choice again among candidates in 2013.”

<http://www.businessweekmindanao.com/2010/10/usaidtheasiafoundationlaunchassistanceprogramforarmmtowns.html>

More LGUs getting to be self-reliant

By: Marit Stinus-Remonde

27 July 2010

The Local Government Code delegated powers, functions and responsibilities from the national government to the towns, cities and provinces. Making the best out of the devolution has mostly been a journey of trial and error, but slowly and surely, the local government units (LGU) are learning, from their own experiences, from sharing with one another, and through various projects.

One of the LGUs' partners in this journey is The Asia Foundation. In 1999, the foundation started its TAG project—TAG for Transparent Accountable Governance. Initially the project focused on specific national government agencies such as the Supreme Court and the Bureau of Customs. It then moved to Mindanao's conflict affected areas. Today, the foundation is implementing TAG 4. This program offers "a menu of technical assistance" which revolves around the themes service delivery, fiscal responsibility, and transparency and accountability. The Asia Foundation offers technical assistance "only"—but the previous phases of the TAG project have helped LGUs improve collections and efficiency, and cut costs.

The TAG project is currently conducting orientations for the municipalities and cities that were pre-selected to be given the opportunity to enroll in the technical assistance project. They are municipalities and a few cities in Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Sur, Zamboanga del Sur, Bukidnon, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Compostela Valley, Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato, Sara-ngani and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

During the orientation, the invited LGUs make a self-assessment of their situation, identify strengths and weaknesses, and formulate a project proposal. The output of the two first workshops serves as input for the third. The output of this third and last workshop is a proposal for technical assistance to address a clearly defined, very specific need. The LGU will have to submit a council resolution supporting the proposal and it (the LGU) must spell out its counterpart contribution.

The process is competitive and the LGUs must exert effort to submit excellent proposals. While five or six LGUs had been pre-selected per province to attend the orientation, only maximum of four proposals per province will be approved. The Asia Foundation will start visiting the LGUs whose proposals were favorably considered by early October, and all projects must be implemented within a time frame of maximum twelve months (the last batch—the ARMM region—will have its orientation in September yet with a later date of implementation of the technical assistance).

The foundation will sponsor the experts, consultants or resource persons. There may also be thematic seminars for more than one LGU depending on the nature of the approved proposals. The Asia Foundation will take care of meals and accommodation, while the LGUs shoulder the transportation of their representatives.

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) is an important partner in the program. Pedrito Alacaba, the provincial director of the Interior department Surigao del Sur, explained to me that the Interior department has developed tools such as the Local Governance Performance Management System and the System on Competency Assessment for Local Governments for the LGUs to identify their weaknesses and strengths. These electronic tools enable the LGUs to know exactly where they must improve in order to maximize resources and strengthen service delivery. The results generated by these tools were used by the LGUs in the workshops during the TAG orientation.

I was able to observe the orientation held in Cagayan de Oro City for a little over 20 LGUs from Regions IX, X and XIII, and observed the eagerness of the participants. This wasn't an ordinary workshop where results would merely end up in the activity sponsor's report. There was more at stake here: technical assistance for specific needs of the participating LGUs'. A number of the LGUs were represented by their mayors, an obvious advantage inasmuch as a letter of intent coming from the mayor is one of the prerequisites for a proposal to be considered by The Asia Foundation. The LGUs had to submit a proposal at the end of the last workshop, with other requirements to follow not later than mid-August.

With the devolution of powers, functions and responsibilities from the central government to the local levels, the automatic allotment of a substantial share from the national revenues and availability of financial and technical assistance from a host of agencies, even the most far flung and small local government unit has the authority and means to become a more liveable place. Step by step, we are getting there.

<http://www.manilatimes.net/index.php/opinion/22401-more-lgus-getting-to-be-self-reliant>

Annex F: Activity Log for the year

**THE ASIA FOUNDATION
TAG 4: LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN MINDANAO**

**BREAKDOWN OF PARTICIPANTS PER ACTIVITY
October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010**

Date	Event (Training/ Workshop/ Conference/ Large Meeting)	Grantee/Consultant	Venue	Profile of Participants (E.g. government. CSO, business)	Number of Participants			
					Male	Female	Muslim	Christian
January 6-8	Conduct of Organizational Analysis for the Province of Maguindanao: Interview with Acting Governor and Department Heads	TAF	Provincial Hall, Shariff Aguak, Province of Maguindanao	Acting Governor, EA, various Department Heads, SP secretary	6	5	7	4
January 9- 13, 2010	Conduct of Organizational Analysis: Consultation with Department Heads of Maguindanao Province	TAF	TAG Project Office, Cotabato City	Provincial Treasurer, Budget Officer, Assessor, Accounting, Provincial Engineer, Representatives from Budget, HRMO, OPGS, PEO offices	8	9	9	8
February 2, 2010	LoGoTRIPhilNet Board of Directors Meeting	LoGoTRIPhilNet	LGA Conference Room, Ortigas, Pasig City	Board of Directors, National Secretariat and Cluster Secretariat	6	8	0	14
February 4- 5, 2010	Accreditation Team Meeting	LoGoTRIPhilNet	LGA Conference Room, Ortigas,	Members of the Accreditation Team and National	4	2	0	6

Date	Event (Training/ Workshop/ Conference/ Large Meeting)	Grantee/Consultant	Venue	Profile of Participants (E.g. government. CSO, business)	Number of Participants			
					Male	Female	Muslim	Christian
			Pasig City	Secretariat				
February 17, 2010	Consultation on the Rapid Field Appraisal of Decentralization	TAF	Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati City	Usec Panadero- DILG, Asec Taradji- DSWD, Usec Cruz- DTI, Representatives from development partners, oversight committees, academe, NGOs, NGAs, LGU leagues and consultants	36	17	4	49
February 18-19, 2010	Design Workshop on the Rapid Field Appraisal of Decentralization	TAF	Lourdes Suites, Makati City	RFA consultants and TAF staff	6	12	1	17
March 31, 2010	Project Orientation Meeting	TAF	Office of the League of Cities of the Philippines	Executive Director and staff of the LCP	5	3	0	8
April 7, 2010	Interview with various staff of the League Cities of the Philippines	TAF	Office of the League of Cities of the Philippines	Staff from different programs and admin of the LCP	6	2	0	8
April 21, 2010	Meeting with ARMM officials	GPMI	UFC cafe, Trinoma, North EDSA, Quezon City	ARMM Regional Governor, Executive Secretary, ARMM DILG Secretary and GPF ED and PO	5	0	3	2
April 27, 2010	2 nd Accreditation Team Meeting	LoGoTRIPhilNet	The Farm at Carpenter Hill, Koronadal City	BOD of LoGoTRI- Philnet, LGA and TAF representative	5	2	0	7
May 19, 2010	General Assembly of Local Governance	LoGoTRIPhilNet	Local Government	LoGoTRIPhilNet Board of Directors,	12	13	0	25

Date	Event (Training/ Workshop/ Conference/ Large Meeting)	Grantee/Consultant	Venue	Profile of Participants (E.g. government, CSO, business)	Number of Participants			
					Male	Female	Muslim	Christian
	Training and Research Institutes – Philippine Network members		Academy Training Center, Los Baños, Laguna	Members, representatives from donor agencies and TAF staff				
May 20-21, 2010	Training of Accreditors	LoGoTRIPhilNet	Local Government Academy Training Center, Los Baños, Laguna	LoGoTRI-PhilNet members, academe, LGA staff	13	6	0	19
June 9, 2010	Meeting with Governor Esmael G. Mangudadatu	TAF	Buluan Municipal Hall, Buluan, Maguindanao	Maguindanao Governor, 2 Mayors (Buluan and Datu Blah), MLGOO and TAF staff	4	2	4	2
June 10, 2010	Meeting with Team Energy – Asian Institute of Management	GPMI	Galing Pook Foundation Office, Quezon City	Members of the Team Energy-AIM and GPF staff	3	2	0	5
June 16, 2010	Presentation of Organizational Assessment Report on LCP Secretariat to outgoing LCP NEB	TAF	AIM Conference Center, Makati City	LCP National Executive Board, LCP Secretariat staff	22	9	0	31
July 7, 2010	Launching of Galing Pook Awards	GPMI	Days Hotel, Tagaytay City	Newly Elected Mayors, Vice Mayors, Kagawad of ARMM, DILG ARM officials, USAID, LGA staff	29	12	27	14
July 13, 2010	Meeting with Steering and Screening Committee	GPMI	AIM, Makati	Member of the screening and selection committee	5	3	3	5

Date	Event (Training/ Workshop/ Conference/ Large Meeting)	Grantee/Consultant	Venue	Profile of Participants (E.g. government. CSO, business)	Number of Participants			
					Male	Female	Muslim	Christian
	and Duty Holders			and GPF staff				
July 20-21, 2010	Regional Project Orientation on TAG - Batch 1	TAF	Grand Men Seng Hotel, Davao City	Mayors, Vice- Mayors, SB member, Treasurer, MPDC and staff	86	42	11	117
July 22-23, 2010	Regional Project Orientation on TAG - Batch 2	TAF	Hotel Koresco, Cagayan de Oro City	Mayors, Vice- Mayors, SB member, Treasurer, MPDC and staff	67	35	0	102
July 28, 2010	TAG Screening Committee Meeting	TAF	TAF office	Members of the screening committee and TAF staff	5	5	0	10
August 5-7, 2010	Orientation on Local Budget Tracking for CSOs	BMFI	BMFI, Cagayan de Oro City	CSO project coordinators, BMFI project management staff	7	13	2	18
August 12, 2010	Rapid Field Appraisal of Decentralization: National Presentation	TAF	Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati City	Development partners, representatives from NGAs, NGOs, Congress, Leagues, Mayor, Congressmen, Media	44	46	2	88
August 20, 2010	Presentation of Organizational Assessment Report on LCP Secretariat to new LCP officials	TAF	LCP office, Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City	LCP Secretary General, LCP Secretariat staff, TAF consultant, TAF staff	2	7	0	9
September 1, 2010	Launching of the Budget Tracking for Transparent Accountable Governance Project	BMFI	Grand Regal Hotel, Davao City	Local officials, CSO partners, representatives from NGAs, Media	66	60	5	121

Date	Event (Training/ Workshop/ Conference/ Large Meeting)	Grantee/Consultant	Venue	Profile of Participants (E.g. government. CSO, business)	Number of Participants			
					Male	Female	Muslim	Christian
September 15, 2010	2 nd TAG Screening Committee Meeting	TAF	TAF office	Members of the screening committee and TAF staff	6	5	0	11
Total					458	320	78	700