

Panagtapok

A Public Forum on the Perspectives of Community-Driven Development (CDD) in the Province of Cebu

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**Pagtapok: A Public Forum
on the Perspectives of
Community-Driven Development (CDD)
in the Province of Cebu**

05 August 2024
Sto Niño Roman Catholic Parish Church
Santa Fe, Cebu

05 August 2024 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Sto. Niño Parish Social Hall, Sta. Fe, Cebu, Philippines

Prepared by Alyssa G. Soler



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"Banners of the UP CIDS Local Regional Studies Network and the presentation screen for the public forum held on August 5, 2024, at Sto. Niño Roman Catholic Parish Church, Sta. Fe, Cebu."

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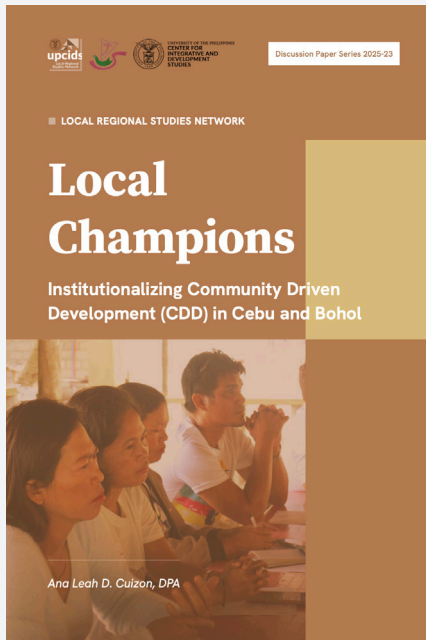
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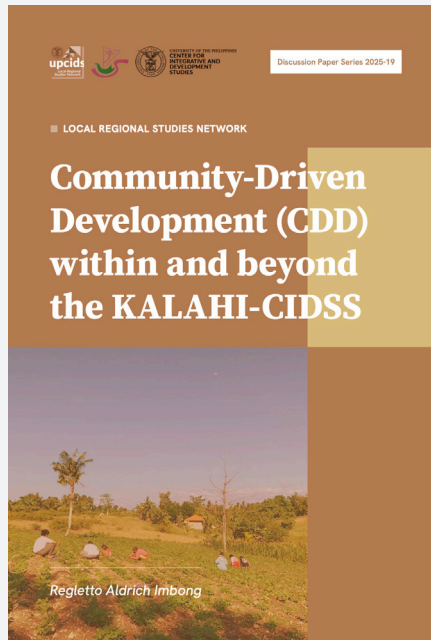
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About the Proceedings

These proceedings capture the insights and discussions from the public forum hosted by the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies Program on Local Regional Studies Network Cebu (UP CIDS LRSN Cebu), titled "Panagtapok: A Public Forum on the Perspectives on Community-Driven Development (CDD) in the Province of Cebu", on August 5, 2024, at the Sto. Niño Parish Social Hall in Sta. Fe, Cebu.

This half-day event brought together members of the Civil Society Organization (CSO), project officers, consultants, and community volunteers of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS) program from the municipalities of Sta. Fe, Bantayan, and Madridejos to share insights on the impacts, challenges, and successes of CDD initiatives in the province.

Public Forum Organizers

UP CIDS LRSN Cebu

1. Ana Leah D. Cuizon
2. Regletto Aldrich D. Imbong
3. Dan Ian Niño Jaducana
4. Mari Elise Gwyneth R. Lim
5. Alyssa G. Soler
6. Jan Michael Armecin
7. Lyv Emanuelle Susaya

These proceedings were prepared by Alyssa G. Soler.¹

¹ Alyssa Soler (agsoler@up.edu.ph) is a paper writer at the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) Local Regional Studies Network (LRSN) UP Cebu.

Rationale of the Public Forum

CDD is a globally recognized approach for implementing development initiatives that place decision-making power as well as financial and technical resources directly into the hands of communities. This modality has been operationalized in over 100 countries, demonstrating its adaptability and effectiveness in addressing various development challenges, including poverty reduction, social service delivery, post-disaster recovery, and infrastructure development.

In the Philippines, the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) KALAHI-CIDSS program is recognized as a pioneering initiative in implementing CDD. The program's primary goal is to empower local communities by involving them in the design and execution of poverty reduction projects, as well as enhancing their participation in local governance (Asian Development Bank 2012). Since its inception in 2003, millions of subprojects have been implemented nationwide, encompassing a range of initiatives from infrastructure projects to livelihood programs. Alongside these tangible outputs, numerous success stories of CDD champions have been documented, showing the transformative impact of the approach on communities and individuals alike.

In Central Visayas, the community-driven development and sustainability program has achieved the successful implementation of 1,578 projects in Cebu, 1,337 in Bohol, 665 in Negros Oriental, and 147 in Siquijor from 2014 to the present (Saavedra 2024). With that, the "Panagtapok: A Public Forum on the Perspectives on Community-Driven Development (CDD) in the Province of Cebu" was conducted to document the successes and challenges of CDD through the KALAHI-CIDSS program in Cebu. To achieve such an aim, community volunteers, project implementers, and consultants of the KALAHI-CIDSS from Sta. Fe, Bantayan, and Madridejos were invited to participate in the said forum.

Based on the data provided by the DSWD Region VII, the municipality of Bantayan approved an ordinance institutionalizing CDD in February 2021,² while Sta. Fe followed suit by approving its resolution in December 2023.³ Madridejos, on the other hand, has not yet passed such an ordinance or resolution. Considering the ordinance and resolution in Bantayan and Sta. Fe, and the lack of one in Madridejos, the forum aimed to capture best practices and identify challenges in the institutionalization process of CDD in these municipalities.

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- 2 An Ordinance Institutionalizing Community-Driven Development (CDD) on the Conduct of Proper Evaluation/Assessment of the Identified or Completed Programs, Projects, and Activities Executed in Both Municipal and Barangay Level of Bantayan, Cebu in order to Ensure the Appropriate Utilization/Function and the Attainment of Program-Sustainability and Providing Funds for the Activities Thereof, Ordinance No. 04-2021, Municipality of Bantayan, Cebu, February 2021.
 - 3 Prioritization of Programs, Projects, and Activities for Funding Under the Aid to the Barangay Fund of the Municipality of Santa Fe, Cebu, Resolution No. 393-2023, Municipality of Santa Fe, December 2023.

Opening Remarks

Fr. Dave Villacerian⁴

Parish Priest, Santo Niño Roman Catholic Parish – Sta. Fe, Cebu

The public forum commenced with Ms. Mari Elise Gwyneth R. Lim, UP CIDS LRSN Cebu Paper Writer, formally opening the program as the forum moderator. Ms. Lim invited Fr. Dave Villacerian to deliver an opening message. Fr. Villacerian welcomed the discussants to the forum and expressed his joy in seeing attendees from Bantayan, Madridejos, and Sta. Fe. In his address, he emphasized that both the Church and the government share a common purpose: to serve the people. For him, when the lives of the people improve, it brings happiness not only to the government but also to the Church and, most importantly, to God.

Fr. Villaceran also highlighted that this forum exemplifies how the Church and government can work together to improve the lives of their fellow men. He expressed his gratitude that the Santo Niño Roman Catholic Parish was chosen as the venue for the panagtapok (forum) and acknowledged that such initiatives provide meaningful opportunities to study and explore new approaches to better serve the people.

In closing, Fr. Villaceran reiterated the shared goal of both the Church and government to uplift and improve the lives of others. He thanked everyone for attending and officially welcomed them to Santo Parish Social Hall, Sta. Fe, Cebu.

4 Fr. Villaceran is the parish priest of the Santo Niño Roman Catholic Parish in Sta. Fe, Cebu, who responded to LRSN's request for assistance in hosting the public forum. He facilitated the coordination with the Sto. Niño Parish BEC Multipurpose Cooperative to secure the use of the Parish Social Hall as the forum venue. Fr. Dave also helped arrange for the cooperative to provide snacks for the discussants and the organizing team.

Introduction of UP CIDS and the LRSN Project

Dr. Regletto Aldrich D. Imbong

*Co-Project Leader, UP Center for Integrative and Development
Studies Local Regional Studies Network Cebu*

WHAT IS UP CIDS?

Dr. Imbong began his remarks by introducing the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS). He highlighted that one of UP's primary roles is researching to identify policies that can improve people's lives. This, Dr. Imbong emphasized, is the core mission of UP CIDS—to provide informed and knowledge-based policies that will better serve the public.

THE MANDATE OF UP CIDS

Dr. Imbong further elaborated on the mandate of UP CIDS, which has four key objectives. The first is to encourage and support scholars and researchers in conducting studies across various UP units. He mentioned that UP Cebu is also expanding, with plans to establish a campus in Sta. Fe soon. The second mandate is ensuring that the research outputs are accessible to the public, including policy briefs, discussion papers, and other publications. These materials are freely available at the UP CIDS website, which allows people, especially government leaders, to access these resources for informed decision-making.

Dr. Imbong also pointed out the third mandate of UP CIDS, which is gathering fellows to further develop the university's research agenda. This includes collaborations with academic professionals from different units who are experts in policy research. Finally, he highlighted the importance of building linkages with various sectors and stakeholders to enhance the university's research capacity. For instance, in LRSN Cebu, the project collaborates with DSWD, particularly in the area of the CDD framework of the KALAHY-CIDSS program, which is the focus of the current research. Dr. Imbong emphasized the value of these linkages with government agencies, civil society organizations, and local communities, especially in advancing research efforts.

PROGRAMS UNDER UP CIDS

Dr. Imbong went on to discuss the structure of UP CIDS, which operates 16 programs across three major themes. These include the education and capacity-building cluster, the development cluster, the social-political and cultural studies cluster, and the new programs. The social-political studies cluster, in which the LRSN falls, focuses on the study of the socio-political landscape of the country, from the grassroots level to the national level. The LRSN program itself aims to provide a deeper understanding of local and regional relations, particularly in areas like culture, ecology, tourism, and politics.

Dr. Imbong further explained that the LRSN program, which had been temporarily closed in 2020, was revived this year. Since its revival, researchers under this program, particularly from UP Cebu, have been working to establish new linkages and partnerships to support their research.

Dr. Imbong also mentioned the plans to extend the outreach of LRSN Cebu, with additional forums scheduled in Bohol, Negros, and Siquijor, to gather more data and insights that could further inform policy development.

The Development Framework: Community-Driven Development (CDD)

Dr. Ana Leah D. Cuizon

*Project Leader, UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies
Local Regional Studies Network Cebu*

THE CONCEPT OF CDD

Dr. Cuizon proceeded to discuss the concept of CDD and explained its central role in empowering communities to take charge of their development processes. She pointed out that although KALAH-CIDSS and CDD are often identified or confused with each other, LRSN Cebu specifically centers on CDD. She explained that the primary concern was to ensure that CDD does not fade once the KALAH-CIDSS program ends.

She explained that CDD focuses on two key aspects: community control over planning decisions and community control over resources. With this, decisions regarding which programs or projects to prioritize are made by the community itself, whether at the barangay, municipal, city, or provincial levels. She emphasized that the community must be made aware of the available resources and budget. From this, the community can identify and prioritize the most pressing problems to address, while acknowledging that it is impossible to solve all problems at once due to limited resources. The goal is for the community to collectively decide which problems are most urgent and deserving of immediate attention, based on the resources available.

Dr. Cuizon then shifted to explain the diverse range of objectives of CDD. She emphasized that CDD's objectives align well with the needs of developing countries, where community empowerment,

CDD IN PRACTICE

Dr. Cuizon explained the application of CDD in different communities, emphasizing CDD as an effective tool in areas with high poverty rates or those suffering from conflict, including war-torn regions, especially for Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and minority groups who are often the most vulnerable. CDD has proven to be a key approach in helping these communities to address the challenges they face, particularly in disaster-prone areas. Dr. Cuizon also cited numerous research studies that demonstrate the success of CDD in alleviating poverty, improving social cohesion, and promoting sustainable development in various communities.

She also pointed out that the key features of CDD, as she outlined, include direct fund transfers to local government units (LGUs) and community-driven prioritization of projects. The decisions on which projects to prioritize, manage, and monitor are made by the community itself, making them directly involved in every stage of the process.

She also highlighted the potential impact of research in advocating for the institutionalization of CDD practices. She suggested that, like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), CDD practices could be supported through local ordinances that will keep community participation in decision-making a central element in project implementation. The goal is for communities to continue to play a central role in decision-making, project prioritization, and resource allocation.

Dr. Cuizon then focused on the transparency CDD brings to local governance, explaining how communities can easily track the funding allocated for specific projects and know exactly how much is being spent, over how many years, and on what activities. She also noted that the decentralization of the budget through full devolution has increased the funding available at the LGU level. Unlike the past, where budgets were controlled centrally from Manila, local governments now receive larger shares of the national tax allotment, expanding their capacity to fund and manage community projects. According

to Dr. Cuizon, community members must actively engage in these processes and make sure that they have the knowledge and tools to participate effectively in local governance and financial oversight.

She also emphasized the importance of grievance redress mechanisms within CDD. She explained that CDD provides opportunities for community members to voice their concerns and have them addressed in a structured manner.

In terms of monitoring and evaluating CDD projects, Dr. Cuizon stated that the responsibility for project monitoring lies with the community, rather than the local government. The LGU's role is to provide technical support and capacity-building to ensure that community members have the skills to oversee the implementation of projects. This collaborative effort between the LGU and the community promotes shared responsibility and helps foster long-term sustainability and development.

WHY CDD?

Dr. Cuizon addressed the significance of CDD as a framework for promoting community participation, transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in community-based projects. She emphasized that CDD encourages people-centered development and cost-efficiency while reducing corruption by involving community members in decision-making.

Despite the recognized benefits of CDD, she pointed out the challenges in its implementation. One major issue is the reliance on volunteer participation, which often becomes unsustainable as it involves repeated engagement from the same individuals. Another challenge is the misalignment of leadership with CDD goals, where resistance from local leaders hinders the passage of ordinances vital for institutionalizing CDD. Sustainability also remains a concern, especially in disaster rehabilitation, where a lack of funding and ordinances often leaves communities vulnerable. Furthermore, Dr. Cuizon noted that many LGUs rely heavily on directives from higher government levels instead of initiating locally financed and managed projects, which, in turn, slows down the progress of community-driven initiatives.

Dr. Cuizon also appreciated the mapping efforts of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to identify vulnerable populations in

fragile communities, which she described as critical in ensuring effective local responses. She highlighted that such practices are aligned with CDD principles, as they rely on local knowledge and solutions to address challenges like climate change and emerging problems.

As the presentation concluded, Dr. Cuizon reflected on the significant support provided by DSWD in repurposing and rehabilitating resources post-Haiyan. She emphasized the importance of continued participation from local governments and communities and encouraged them to share their best practices.

The Discussants

Before the plenary session began, Ms. Lim invited the discussants to introduce themselves and share their experiences with KALAH-CIDSS.

Mr. Rudy Batolbatol⁵

Sir Rudy expressed his gratitude for UP's engagement in Sta. Fe. He also expressed his support for the institutionalization of KALAH-CIDSS and his willingness to assist in research efforts to ensure its institutionalization, similar to the 4Ps program. He also inquired about the municipal ordinance of Sta. Fe, when it was passed, and whether it had been supported by both previous and current administrations.

Dr. Cuizon, in response, acknowledged Rudy's question and noted that Sta. Fe had one of the earliest municipal resolutions related to KALAH-CIDSS in Cebu. However, upon verification, she and the team learned that it was not yet an ordinance but rather a resolution signed on November 23, 2023, with a clause outlining the creation of criteria. (For further details, refer to Resolution No. 393-2023, attached as Annex B).

Ms. Enriqueta Bacolod⁶

President, Hagdan, Kinatarkan, and Langob Workers Association (HAKILAWA)

Ms. Enriqueta Bacolod from Barangay Hagdan, Kinatarkan Island, shared her involvement as president of the Hagdan, Kinatarkan, and Langob Workers Association (HAKILAWA). She recounted the projects they received through

5 Sir Rudy is a retired municipal government employee from Sta. Fe and former focal person for the Yolanda response.

6 Ms. Enriqueta Bacolod is a community volunteer of KALAH-CIDSS and the president of Hagdan, Kinatarkan, and Langob Workers Association (HAKILAWA), a CSO composed of a hundred mat weavers who produce banigs (sleeping mats) that are often ordered in bulk.

KALAH-CIDSS, including roads and a covered court. She highlighted their community's continued need for road development, as some areas remain difficult to access, unlike Langub and Kinatarcan, which now have completed highways.

Sir Rudy supplemented her statement, recalling the covered court project in Kinatarcan. He explained that the structure was not adequately supported with a foundation during Phase 1, causing it to collapse during Typhoon Yolanda. He referred to the unfinished structure as a "monument of failure," which means the missed potential of what could have been a significant community resource.

Ms. Maritchell Santillan⁷

Ms. Maritchell Santillan also shared her journey of volunteering, which began after her experience as a homeowner's association volunteer. According to her, it was difficult at first to sustain volunteer efforts, particularly during meetings where reimbursement for expenses was delayed. Many volunteers struggled to persevere, but Ms. Maritchell took it upon herself to encourage her peers to remain committed despite the hardships.

She admitted that when one of her fellow volunteers had to step back due to her mother's health issues, she stepped up to take on the responsibility. She even suggested holding elections to ensure proper leadership and accountability in addressing the barangay's issues. According to Ms. Maritchell, her participation in KALAH-CIDSS training sessions has provided her with important knowledge and skills, which further motivated her to serve. She also highlighted the strong support they received from their barangay leaders, particularly their barangay captain, who readily provided transportation whenever volunteers needed to travel for project-related activities.

7 Miss Maritchell Santillan is a community volunteer of KALAH-CIDSS from Kabac, Bantayan.

Mr. Rudolfo Dejabelle⁸

Sir Rudolfo, another discussant from Bantayan, shared his experience as a former barangay captain when his community received its first grant from KALAHI-CIDSS. He recounted how the barangay council had been divided over project priorities—some advocating for concreting roads, while others preferred installing streetlights. To address this, Sir Rudolfo called for a meeting with representatives from all 16 puroks (sub-villages) to collectively decide on the matter. Once a decision was made to prioritize road concreting, the barangay mobilized its residents to work on the project. He explained how he encouraged both men and women in the community to contribute by working five paid days a week, with one additional unpaid day voluntarily donated to help extend the project's resources. He stressed the importance of accountability, reminding workers to avoid wasting resources, as he had personally contributed to the project.

8 Mr. Rudolfo Dejabelle is a former Kapitan (Barangay Captain) from Bantayan.

Exploring Participants' Views on Community-Driven Development (CDD)

Perceptions, Sentiments, and Observed Changes

Mr. Dan Ian Niño Jaducana

*Research Fellow, UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies
Local Regional Studies Network Cebu*

Following the discussants' brief sharing, Mr. Jaducana took the floor to facilitate the plenary session. The session was structured around three key discussion areas:

1. Participants' Perception of CDD
2. Participants' Sentiments on CDD
3. The Changes Observed in CDD Projects

To gather responses from the sixteen (16) discussants, Mr. Jaducana instructed them to raise their hands if they answered positively to each question. They were also encouraged to share and elaborate on their experiences related to the questions.

PARTICIPANTS' PERCEPTION OF CDD

QUESTIONS	AGREE	DISAGREE/NO RESPONSE
<i>Kahibalo ka ba bahin sa CDD?</i> (Are you familiar with Community-Driven Development (CDD)?)	13	3
<i>Kahibalo ka ba bahin sa programa nga Kalahi-CIDSS?</i> (Are you aware of the Kalahi-CIDSS program?)	14	2
<i>Para nimo, importante ba ang mga proyekto sa CDD alang sa kalamboan sa komunidad?</i> (Do you believe that CDD projects are important for community development?)	15	1
<i>Nakadawat ba ka og igong impormasyon bahin sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa inyong lugar?</i> (Have you received sufficient information about CDD projects in your area?)	5	11
<i>Para nimo, epektibo ba ang pamaagi sa CDD sa pagsulbad sa mga panginahanglan sa komunidad?</i> (Do you think the CDD approach is effective in addressing the needs of the community?)	7	9

- **Q1.** *Kahibalo ka ba bahin sa CDD?* (Are you familiar with Community-Driven Development (CDD)?)
- **Q2.** *Kahibalo ka ba bahin sa programa nga Kalahi-CIDSS?* (Are you aware of the Kalahi-CIDSS program?)
- **Q3.** *Para nimo, importante ba ang mga proyekto sa CDD alang sa kalamboan sa komunidad?* (Do you believe that CDD projects are important for community development?)

After gathering the responses to the first three questions, Mr. Jaducana opened the floor for participants to share their thoughts and insights.

Sir Rudy, in response, emphasized that a bottom-up approach is far more effective than a top-down model, as it ensures that the needs of the local

community are prioritized. For him, decisions made at higher levels of government often overlook the unique needs of the people at the grassroots level.

Ms. Maritchell also emphasized the significance of implementing CDD in communities, noting that locals are best positioned to identify and prioritize the most pressing issues in their respective areas. Ms. Rose Ann Villarino⁹ echoed this sentiment and emphasized how CDD enhances participatory governance within the Local Government Committee (LGC), which operates under the barangay development council. According to her, the implementation of CDD has strengthened community involvement by allowing the residents to participate in every stage of the process, from planning to monitoring projects.

- **Q4.** *Nakadawat ba ka og igong impormasyon bahin sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa inyong lugar?* (Have you received sufficient information about CDD projects in your area?)
- **Q5.** *Para nimo, epektibo ba ang pamaagi sa CDD sa pagsulbad sa mga panginahanglan sa komunidad?* (Do you think the CDD approach is effective in addressing the needs of the community?)

Ms. Marlene D. Anciano¹⁰ elaborated by sharing her perspective on the projects implemented through the CDD approach. While she acknowledged the positive outcomes, particularly the improved roads in their community, she expressed her belief that more focus should have been placed on addressing health-related needs.

She highlighted the challenges faced by residents of Bantayan Island in accessing medical services. In cases of severe illness, patients often must be transported to the city, which is even more difficult for families with limited resources. She also emphasized the compounded struggle during bad weather

9 Miss Rose Ann Villarino is also one of the forum participants and a Project Development Officer from the Bantayasn LGU.

10 Ms. Marlene D. Anciano is a representative of the Rural Health Unit from the LGU of Sta. Fe.

or typhoons, when travel becomes nearly impossible. For her, prioritizing health initiatives within the CDD projects would have been a more impactful approach to addressing the urgent needs of their community.

Meanwhile, Ms. Rose shared her doubts about the sustainability of livelihood projects under CDD, noting that while the community is highly involved in project implementation, some aspects, like the livelihood initiatives, face challenges in terms of design and execution. Despite the community's involvement in creating designs, there were issues with the suitability of the plans, especially when it came to the fish cage project in Bantayan.

Dr. Cuizon probes deeper into the livelihood issue, asking about the community-designed projects, to which Ms. Rose explained that local fishermen submitted designs based on consultations with KALAHÍ and the municipality. However, the design was not followed precisely, causing challenges in project sustainability.

Ms. Gal Minona¹¹ joined the discussion, explaining that although the community had submitted a locally proven design, KALAHÍ engineers insisted on using a design from another area that was ill-suited for Bantayan's waters. Hence, the project faced a lot of issues despite the community's local knowledge. For instance, after building 12 fish cages, one broke down before even being stocked with fish, and two others failed shortly after. The LGU had to step in with emergency funds for rehabilitation.

Ms. Gal further highlighted the issues she observed within KALAHÍ-CIDSS, stating that the focus was often on completing documentation rather than ensuring the success of actual projects. She noted that one assigned engineer even went away without official leave (AWOL). While the community later initiated a fish cage project independently, it still failed due to the lack of supervision and quality checks. What should have lasted three years ended prematurely after just one cycle. She emphasized that one key reason for project failures is the urgency imposed by KALAHÍ-CIDSS due to strict timelines, likely set by the Commission on Audit (COA).

11 Ms. Gal Minona, known as "Ms. Gal", is the Executive Assistant II from the Bantayan LGU.

When asked by Dr. Cuizon about grievance mechanisms, specifically regarding the exclusion or limited consideration of community designs, Ms. Gal explained that while the community's input should ideally be prioritized, the control over funds meant they could only contribute labor. Since the community was not involved in procuring materials, there was no assurance of quality.

Ms. Gal also shared that Bantayan now has its own LGU-funded CDD program. According to her, the mayor recognized that KALAH-CIDSS was not fully suited to Bantayan's needs, as it required excessive paperwork and rigid timelines rather than focusing on practical, community-driven development.

Hearing these concerns, Sir Rudy suggested including those who have second thoughts about CDD in the discussion, to explain its importance and convince them of its value. He suggested that for proper documentation and record purposes, the insights from those involved should be included to build trust and convince others to believe in the process.

Dr. Hector Baruc¹² suggested broadening the scope of the questions posed during the forum. He emphasized that the questions need to be expanded beyond the small group currently providing input. To address the real concerns, the questionnaire should dive deeper into the core issues while covering a wider range of sectors and statuses. For him, while KALAH has seen some positive results, the focus should be on the negative aspects, as these will offer important lessons. He drew from his own experiences with foreign-funded projects, stating that it is crucial to look beyond the idealized results and identify the pitfalls where the true lessons lie. This, he believes, is the key to continuous improvement. He also encouraged the organizing team to embrace negative feedback, as it can serve as a foundation for better implementation in the future, not just for KALAH, but for all similar projects.

Building on Ms. Gal, Sir Rudy, and Dr. Baruc's inputs, Dr. Cuizon acknowledged that while the principles of CDD are strong, there are issues with KALAH's implementation, especially under the DSWD's time-sensitive approach. She

12 Hector Baruc, PhD is a consultant of KALAH-CIDSS from Bantayan LGU.

explained that the rush to meet deadlines, which is common in government projects due to budget constraints, often leads to sacrificing quality. She stressed that the focus should not just be on completing the project but on making sure that the CDD principles of community participation, transparency, accountability, and inclusion are fully manifested and institutionalized at the community level.

Ms. Lourdes Rosales¹³ also shared her knowledge of KALAHÍ-CIDSS’s projects in their area. She mentioned that the projects mainly involve roads and street lighting, and further noted that the community typically only becomes aware of the projects once they are completed and a ribbon-cutting ceremony is held. This is the extent of her direct knowledge of the program, which focuses primarily on infrastructure projects like roads and street lights in her area.

PARTICIPANTS’ SENTIMENTS ON CDD

QUESTIONS	AGREE	DISAGREE/NO RESPONSE
<i>Positibo ba ang imong paglantaw sa umaabot nga epekto sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa inyong komunidad?</i> (Are you optimistic about the future impact of CDD projects in your community?)	13	3
<i>Para nimo, giila ba ang imong opinyon sa pagplano sa mga proyekto sa CDD?</i> Do you feel that your opinions are taken into account in the planning of CDD projects?)	7	9
<i>Positibo ba ka sa pag-apil sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa inyong komunidad?</i> (Are you generally positive about the involvement of CDD projects in your community?)	15	1

- **Q1.** *Positibo ba ang imong paglantaw sa umaabot nga epekto sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa inyong komunidad?* (Are you optimistic about the future impact of CDD projects in your community?)

13 Ms. Lourdes Rosales is a community volunteer from Madridejos.

- **Q2.** *Para nimo, giila ba ang imong opinyon sa pagplano sa mga proyekto sa CDD?* (Do you feel that your opinions are taken into account in the planning of CDD projects?)

Ms. Rose responded that as part of the implementing team, they cannot actively participate in the community's decision-making process. Their role is to relay and provide feedback to the LGU after the community has made its decisions.

Dr. Cuizon then asked about the turnout during barangay assemblies. Ms. Rose clarified that one representative per household is required to meet the quorum. However, in some barangays, weekday assemblies pose attendance challenges. To address this, meetings are sometimes held by purok, where each purok sends a representative to relay their collective inputs during the general assembly.

When asked about attendance in purok meetings, Ms. Rose shared that some barangays enforce penalties for those who fail to attend, such as withholding the signing of barangay clearance documents.

Dr. Cuizon then raised a question about a potential penalty for those who failed to attend meetings. She asked if this kind of rule was common in their practices. In response, Sir Rudy confirmed that such a policy existed. He explained that when someone requested a barangay clearance, they were required to present a purok clearance first. This meant that if a person had been consistently absent from meetings, they would be questioned about their attendance before being issued a clearance.

Dr. Cuizon further inquired how this issue could be resolved, especially for those who needed certifications but had a record of frequent absences. Sir Rudy responded that individuals would need to sign an agreement that they would no longer be absent in the future.

- **Q3.** *Positibo ba ka sa pag-apil sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa inyong komunidad?* (Are you generally positive about the involvement of CDD projects in your community?)

(No further elaboration from the discussants was provided in response to this question.)

THE CHANGES OBSERVED IN CDD PROJECTS

QUESTIONS	AGREE	DISAGREE/NO RESPONSE
<i>Nakakita ba ka og mga kalambuan sa mga pasilidad sa komunidad tungod sa mga proyekto sa CDD?</i> (Have you noticed improvements in community facilities due to CDD projects?)	15	1
<i>Para nimo, naka-ayo ba ang proyekto sa CDD sa kalidad sa kinabuhi sa imong komunidad?</i> (Do you believe that CDD projects have improved the quality of life in your community?)	5	11
<i>Naa bay makita nga kausaban sa lokal nga imprastruktura tungod sa mga proyekto sa CDD?</i> Have there been visible changes in local infrastructure because of CDD projects?)	14	2
<i>Para nimo, epektibo bang nasulbad sa mga proyekto sa CDD ang mga particular nga problema sa komunidad?</i> (Do you believe that CDD projects have effectively addressed specific problems in your community?)	7	9

- **Q1.** *Nakakita ba ka og mga kalambuan sa mga pasilidad sa komunidad tungod sa mga proyekto sa CDD?* (Have you noticed improvements in community facilities due to CDD projects?)

In response to the question, Ms. Gal shared her observations, noting that while the CDD approach was good in theory, the real challenges often lay in its implementation. She emphasized that CDD works well when it aligns with the community's wants and needs, but issues arise when funding comes from government sources. She explained that government projects having strict timelines sometimes compromise quality. For instance, some solar lights appeared functional at first but failed shortly after installation due to incorrect specifications and poor installation. She also observed similar problems with road projects funded by external sources, which initially looked great but deteriorated over time. According to Ms. Gal, the core issue was not the CDD principles, but the reliance on government funding and the lack of proper monitoring. She stressed the importance of community involvement

for any government project to succeed, as no project could work without the community's active participation.

Ms. Maritchell shared a different experience. From her observation, the KALAHI-CIDSS sub-projects in their area were well-sustained. She explained that while some streetlights initially stopped working, the barangay took responsibility for repairs and made sure that the projects remained functional. Solar lights were replaced, and the sea wall, which had suffered damage from high tide, was repaired. She noted that the community was actively involved in maintaining the projects, and this contributed to their sustainability.

Moreover, the representative from Madridejos responded positively, stating that the streetlights and roads in their area were in good condition, especially since the roads were all paved with cement.

Sir Rudy, however, expressed caution regarding comments from others, particularly because he wanted to avoid being misunderstood or seen as criticizing without cause. He acknowledged the forum's first round and hoped that in future fora, representatives from the LGU of Sta. Fe would be present to provide their testimonies.

Dr. Cuizon confirmed that the LGU of Sta. Fe had been invited to the forum, as well as other local government units, but the lack of action or presence from some LGU representatives was unclear. She assured that in the next round, they would ensure that the LGU perspective was included.

- **Q2.** *Para nimo, naka-ayo ba ang proyekto sa CDD sa kalidad sa kinabuhi sa imong komunidad?* (Do you believe that CDD projects have improved the quality of life in your community?)

Ms. Rose shared her thoughts on the impact of CDD projects, particularly in terms of quality of life. She acknowledged that while infrastructure improvements from these projects were noticeable, the overall impact remained limited due to budget constraints. She emphasized that CDD's core goal is to empower communities, and from her perspective, it has indeed contributed to that empowerment, even if the overall improvements were modest.

Dr. Baruc shifted the discussion on the quality of life as a concept. He pointed out that the question posed was too general. According to him, quality of life encompasses many dimensions beyond just participation and empowerment. He suggested that the question should be reformulated to focus on specific aspects of life that had been improved, rather than offering a broad and sweeping assessment. According to Dr. Baruc, a more precise approach would yield clearer insights, especially if the results were to be shared with the scientific community.

Dr. Imbong responded by explaining that the general nature of the questions was intentional. He clarified that the team aimed to gather basic answers through binary questions like "yes" or "no," but acknowledged that these did not capture the full depth of the respondents' experiences. He emphasized that the team was seeking further details and welcomed participants to share more specific insights during the open forum. This would allow for a deeper understanding of how the projects truly impacted the quality of life.

Sir Rudy expressed his agreement with Dr. Baruc's comment, noting that there was always room for improvement. He appreciated the effort behind the current questions and suggested that further refinement could enhance their effectiveness. He recommended adding more specific questions to provide additional depth and clarity to the responses.

- **Q3.** *Naa bay makita nga kausaban sa lokal nga imprastruktura tungod sa mga proyekto sa CDD?* (Have there been visible changes in local infrastructure because of CDD projects?)

Expounding on the raised question, Ms. Rose shared a concern regarding the daycare centers that were established in one of the barangays in Bantayan. While the daycare centers were built near the community, an issue arose due to the lack of access to electricity. This was primarily because the building permits had not been included in the planning process. She explained that similar problems occurred with Phase 2 of their project, which involved training centers and integrated farming facilities across six barangays. Despite the facilities being in use, they still lacked building permits, and as a result, access to electricity remained a challenge. The team was still working on resolving this issue.

Dr. Cuizon questioned whether the situation was similar to the fish cage project.

Ms. Gal confirmed that the fish cages were also part of Phase 1, just like the daycare centers, and that both projects faced similar issues related to building permits.

- **Q4.** *Para nimo, epektibo bang nasulbad sa mga proyekto sa CDD ang mga particular nga problema sa komunidad?* (Do you believe that CDD projects have effectively addressed specific problems in your community?)

Responding to the question, Ms. Rose expressed her appreciation for the solution that had been found, particularly regarding the barangay's budget. She highlighted how the improvement of the roads, especially the difficult-to-navigate access roads in their area, had significantly eased their daily challenges. With the problem now addressed, daily life for everyone has become easier.

ANNEXES

Annex A

Ordinance No. 04-2021 — Ordinance Institutionalizing Community-Driven Development (CDD) on the Conduct of Proper Evaluation/Assessment of the Identified or Completed Programs, Projects, and Activities Executed in Both Municipal and Barangay Level of Bantayan, Cebu in order to Ensure the Appropriate Utilization/Function and the Attainment of Program-Sustainability and Providing Funds for the Activities Thereof.

Annex B

Resolution No. 393-2023 — Prioritization of Programs, Projects, and Activities for Funding Under the Aid to the Barangay Fund of the Municipality of Santa Fe, Cebu.

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