

Panagtapok

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



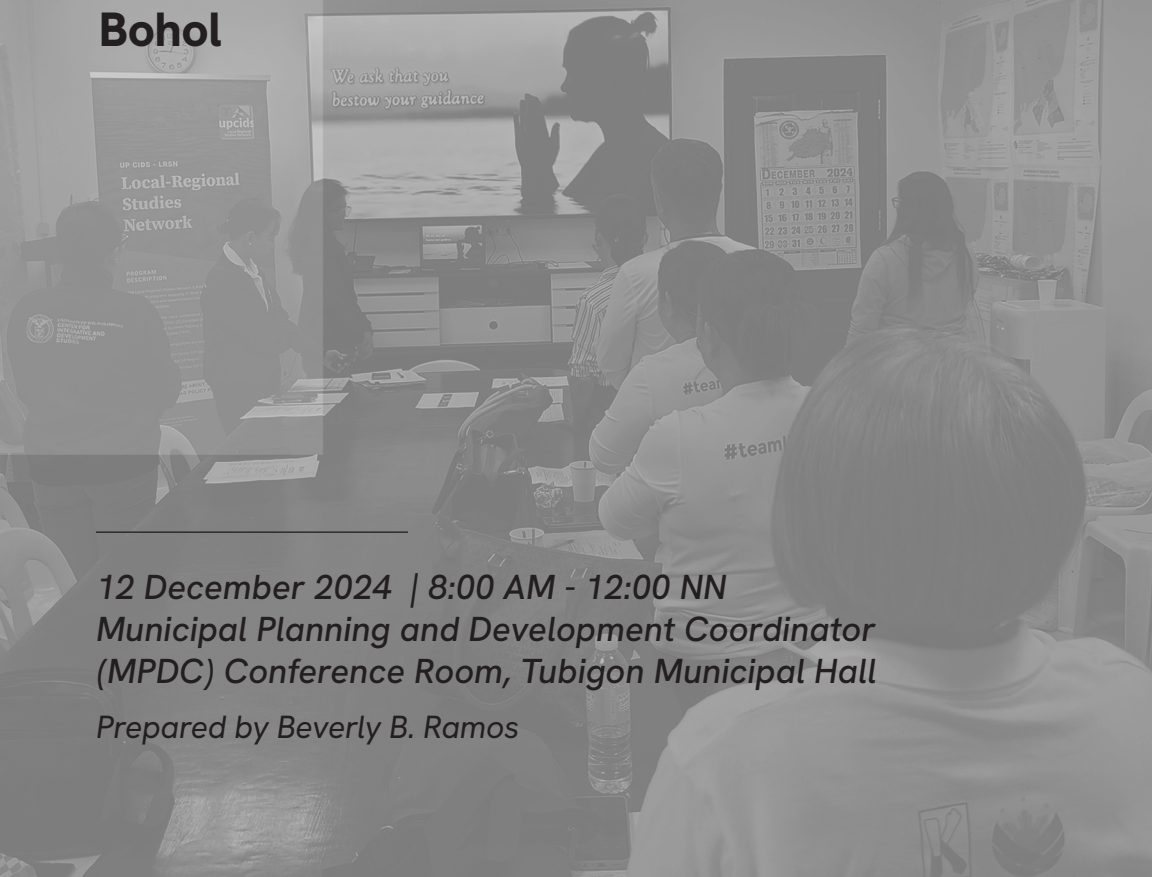
12 December 2024 | 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN
Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator
(MPDC) Conference Room, Tubigon Municipal Hall
Prepared by Beverly B. Ramos



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
**CENTER FOR
INTEGRATIVE AND
DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES**

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Diliman, Quezon City 1101

Telephone: (02) 8981-8500 loc. 4266 to 4268 / (02) 8426-0955

Email: cidspublications@up.edu.ph

Website: cids.up.edu.ph



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"Opening remarks and preliminaries kicked off the public forum held on December 12, 2024 at Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC) Conference Room, Tubigon Municipal Hall."

Photo by Mr. Neil O. Oring

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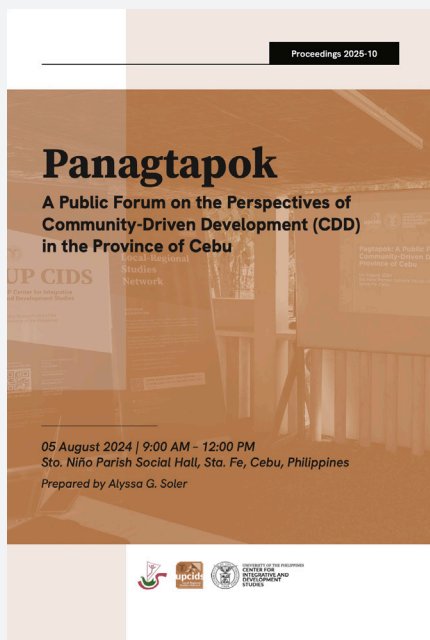
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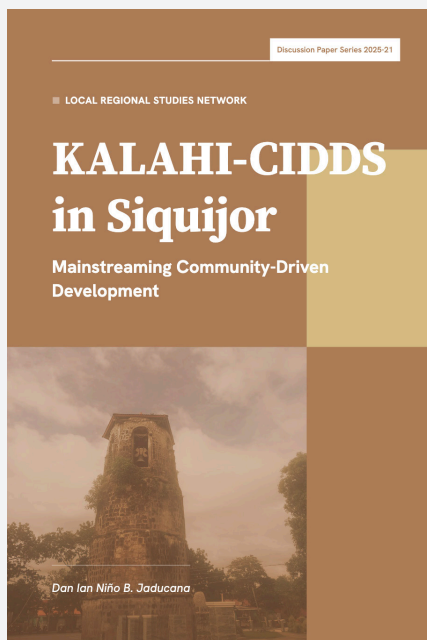
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About the Proceedings

Community-Driven Development (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, manifesting its adaptability and effectiveness in addressing different development challenges such as poverty reduction, social service delivery, post-disaster recovery, and infrastructure development.

In the Philippines, the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) KALAHY-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 across the country, ranging 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). While the Municipality of Pilar has taken the lead by passing an ordinance institutionalizing the local implementation of KALAHY and the CDD approach,¹ the Municipalities of Inabanga and Jagna continue to grapple with governance challenges as they work toward adopting and sustaining CDD practices within their communities.

“Panagtapok: A Public Forum on the Perspectives of Community-Driven Development (CDD) in Bohol,” organized by the University of the Philippines

1 An Ordinance Institutionalizing the Conduct of Sustainability Evaluation for All Completed Projects, Programs and Activities to be Conducted by the Multi-Stakeholders Inspectorate Team (MSIT) in the Municipality of Pilar, Bohol, Prescribing its Guidelines and Providing Funds for the Activity Thereof of 2022.

Center for Integrative and Development Studies—Program on Local Regional Studies Network Cebu (UP CIDS LRSN Cebu), sought to capture the diverse experiences and insights surrounding Community-Driven Development (CDD). The forum, which took place on December 12, 2024 at the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC) Conference Room of Tubigon Municipal Hall, explored its successes, challenges, governance dynamics, and potential impact at both the municipal and barangay levels. *Panagtapok* in Bohol serves as the third leg of the series of public fora under *Maayong Pagdumala* under UP CIDS Local Regional Studies Network Cebu.

Public Forum Organizers

Local Regional Studies Network (LRSN), University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS)

- Asst. Prof. Ana Leah D. Cuizon, DPA, LRSN Cebu Project Leader
- Alyssa G. Soler, LRSN Cebu Senior Office Assistant
- Beverly B. Ramos, LRSN Cebu Paper Writer
- Neil O. Oring, LRSN Cebu Documenter

These proceedings were prepared by Beverly B. Ramos²

2 Beverly Ramos (bbramos@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.

Welcoming Remarks and Brief Background

Dr. Ana Leah D. Cuizon

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

Dr. Ana Leah D. Cuizon delivered the welcoming remarks and provided a brief background of Community-Driven Development (CDD). In her remarks, Dr. Cuizon stressed that the forum aims to deepen the understanding of what CDD entails and to distinguish it from KALAHI-CIDSS under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), emphasizing that CDD serves as a framework applicable to all project implementations at the barangay or municipal level. According to Dr. Cuizon, the objectives of CDD focus on addressing key challenges in local governance and development. Dr. Cuizon emphasized the uses and practices of CDD and its suitability for culturally diverse settings. As an example, she cited how different volunteer groups have been empowered by the KALAHI-CIDSS program. Dr. Cuizon ended her remarks by highlighting that CDD is an effective framework for managing local development projects.

Introduction of Participating Local Government Units

Ms. Alyssa Soler, the forum's host, introduced the participating local government units in the public forum from Jagna, Inabanga, and Pilar. The attendees from Jagna included community volunteers and the Project Preparation Team (PPT) Head. She then introduced the participants from Inabanga, mentioning that while two Barangay Captains were initially contacted, they were unable to attend. The delegation from Pilar was headed by Barangay Captain Elemerio Saletrero and Engineer Joseph Anania, the Municipal Planning and Development Officer (MPDO).

Survey on Community Perspectives and Sentiments on CDD

Ms. Alyssa G. Soler

Senior Office Assistant, UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies Local Regional Studies Network Cebu

The survey on community perspectives and sentiments regarding the CDD programs focused on three main areas:

1. Participants' Perception of CDD
2. Participants' Sentiments on CDD
3. The Changes They Saw in the CDD Projects

To collect responses, Ms. Soler instructed participants to raise their hands to indicate agreement with the questions or statements presented.

Participants' Perception of CDD

QUESTIONS	AGREE	DISAGREE/NO RESPONSE
<i>Kahibalo ko unsa ang CDD.</i> (I know what Community-Driven Development (CDD) is.)	18	0
<i>Kahibalo ko bahin sa programa nga KALAHÍ-CIDSS.</i> (I am aware of the KALAHÍ-CIDSS Program.)	18	0
<i>Para nako, importante ang mga proyekto sa CDD alang sa kalamboan sa komunidad.</i> (I believe that CDD projects are important for community development.)	18	0

QUESTIONS	AGREE	DISAGREE/NO RESPONSE
<i>Nakadawat ko og igong impormasyon bahin sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa among lugar.</i> (I have received adequate information about the CDD projects in my area.)	18	0
<i>Para nako, epektibo ang pamaagi sa CDD sa pagsulbad sa mga panginahanglan sa komunidad.</i> (I think the CDD approach is effective in addressing community needs.)	18	0

Participants' Sentiments on CDD

QUESTIONS	AGREE	DISAGREE/NO RESPONSE
<i>Kontento ko sa resulta sa mga proyekto sa CDD.</i> (I feel satisfied with the outcomes of the CDD Projects.)	18	0
<i>Positibo ang akong paglantaw sa umaabot nga epekto sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa among komunidad.</i> (I am optimistic about the future impact of CDD projects in my community.)	18	0
<i>Para nako, giila ang akong opinyon sa pagplano sa mga proyekto sa CDD.</i> (I feel that my opinions are considered in the CDD project planning.)	18	0
<i>Positibo ko sa pag-apil sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa among komunidad.</i> (I am generally positive about the involvement of CDD projects in my community.)	18	0

The Changes They Saw in the CDD Projects

QUESTIONS	AGREE	DISAGREE/NO RESPONSE
<i>Nakabantay ko nga naay mga kalambuan sa mga pasilidad sa komunidad tungod sa mga proyekto sa CDD.</i> (I have noticed improvements in community facilities because of CDD Projects.)	18	0
<i>Sa akong tan-aw nakapalambo ang mga proyekto sa CDD sa kalidad sa kinabuhi sa among komunidad.</i> (I think CDD projects have improved the quality of life in my community.)	18	0

QUESTIONS	AGREE	DISAGREE/NO RESPONSE
<i>Akong nakita nga adunay kausaban sa lokal nga imprastruktura tungod sa mga proyekto sa CDD.</i> (There have been noticeable changes in local infrastructure because of CDD projects.)	18	0
<i>Para nako, epektibo nga nasulbad sa mga proyekto sa CDD ang mga partikular nga problema sa komunidad.</i> (I believe that CDD projects have effectively addressed specific community issues.)	18	0

In-depth Dialogue Breakout Sessions

Sharing of Experiences by Discussants

Group A: Discussants from Municipalities of Inabanga and Jagna

Dr. Cuizon facilitated the breakout session for Group A, which included community volunteers, committee heads, and barangay officials involved in the CDD and KALAHI-CIDSS programs from Inabanga and Jagna. Dr. Cuizon emphasized the importance of highlighting in the report that LGUs face varying challenges in implementing and institutionalizing CDD programs. While Pilar demonstrated exceptional commitment to CDD—remaining dedicated even as the KALAHI-CIDSS program phases out—she acknowledged that many LGUs continue to encounter significant hurdles.

Dr. Cuizon outlined the structure of the session's questions, which focused on three key areas: perspectives on CDD, participants' sentiments, and observed changes in the community with the program. Additionally, she proposed an extra question about participants' views on local governance challenges, particularly in sustaining the CDD approach without continued funding from the national government. She encouraged open sharing of thoughts and experiences to enrich the discussion.

PARTICIPANTS' PERCEPTION OF CDD

Question 1

Unsa ang imong nahibaw-an bahin sa Community-Driven Development (CDD)? Asa o giunsa nimo pagkahibaw niini?

(What do you know about Community-Driven Development (CDD)? Where or how did you first learn about it?)

Ms. Marissa Garay³ first learned about the CDD approach through KALAHl, recognizing its connection to various community projects. She expressed her perspective that it would be ideal if CDD could eventually be institutionalized as a law. She believed that nothing could hinder its implementation once enacted into law. Reflecting on her past experiences, Ms. Garay shared a brief narrative about the *Pantawid* program. She shared that her family was once recognized as '*Huwarang Pantawid Pamilya*' awardee. She was among those who campaigned on making the Pantawid program into law. In fact, she and her colleagues went to Manila to support the institutionalization of Pantawid into a national legislation. Ms. Garay hoped that similar efforts as well as conducting research studies and promoting best practices, could also be done to aid the institutionalization of CDD as an approach to community development. She firmly believed that CDD has significantly benefited local communities.

Question 2

Unsa ka ka-familiar sa kabahin sa programa sa KALAHl-CIDSS? Onsa na mga aspeto sa programa ang imong nahibaw-an?

(How familiar are you with the KALAHl-CIDSS program? What specific aspects of the program do you know?)

Ms. Carmelita Tadem⁴ shared that in 2016, the KALAHl program was introduced in their barangay, with a water system sub-project that included

3 Ms. Marissa Garay serves as a Barangay Development Council - Technical Working Group Head of KALAHl-CIDSS in Can-upao, Jagna.

4 Ms. Carmelita Tadem serves as the Barangay Development Council - Technical Working Group Head of KALAHl-CIDSS in Alewajan, Jagna. She is also a former Barangay Kagawad and Barangay Captain afterwards.

two tanks. She highlighted that the process was well-organized and involved several seminars, general assemblies, and strict adherence to KALAHI's procedures for project implementation. Leadership roles were assigned exclusively to volunteers, and not barangay officials, ensuring wider community participation. She emphasized that everyone, regardless of educational background, was involved, and leaders were elected during the assemblies. The importance of the project was also thoroughly explained during the assemblies, focusing on community ownership rather than direct implementation by barangay officials.

She further noted that proposals were created by the community, and members were trained, especially in canvassing and task assignments. The implementation process was led by the people, which she identified as one of KALAHI's best practices. The participatory approach was evident, ensuring that tasks were not monopolized by a single person. She added that in some sub-project implementations, each household contributed in any way they could, even providing one member to work on said sub-projects, with women and senior citizens actively participating. Women and senior citizens carried sacks, fetched water, and organized materials, while others mixed and secured cement.

Now as a Barangay Development Council – Technical Working Group (BDC-TWG) Head, her past experiences as a former barangay captain and councilor clearly played a key role in overseeing any projects. After volunteering, she stepped away from official duties to focus solely on community work. She also highlighted the involvement of youth in the barangay, reinforcing the inclusivity of the initiative.

Moreover, Mr. Rodilo Soco⁵ introduced himself and shared his experiences too. Before he became an official in their barangay, he was already aware of the first tranche of the KALAHI-CIDSS program, which was the covered court sub-project implemented. He recounted that in 2016, their barangay completed a more than 200-meter pathway, followed by an expansion of the

5 Mr. Rodilo Soco is a community volunteer and part of the Barangay Development Council - Technical Working Group in Dagohoy, Inabanga.

covered court. More recently, a 105-meter access road was turned over, also through the KALAHÍ-CIDSS program.

Mr. Soco, who began serving as the BDC Head in 2022 after a typhoon, reflected on the challenges and rewards of volunteering. He acknowledged the difficulty of balancing responsibilities as both a barangay official and a volunteer, particularly in managing time. Despite these challenges, he expressed that the sacrifices made—whether in time, energy, or personal commitments—were worthwhile because of the tangible benefits the projects brought to the community.

He emphasized that the impact on the people outweighed the exhaustion and sacrifices, making the effort meaningful. Mr. Soco also expressed hope for the CDD approach's institutionalization as a law to sustain its positive impact. He remained optimistic about future programs and pledged to support and implement them effectively to ensure they became a reality for the community.

Follow-up Question

Sa inyo mga barangay, naa na ba moy local ordinance na niingon adto na mugamit mo ug CDD sa pag implement sa projects? Unsa kahay rason na wala pa may barangay sa inyo municipality na nakasugod ug initiatives na maghimo unta ug local ordinance?

(In your barangay, do you have any local ordinance which mandates you to use the CDD approach in the implementation of community-based projects? What would be the reason that none of the barangays in your municipality has started initiatives to create the said local ordinance?)

Mr. Soco shared that none of their barangays currently have a local ordinance mandating the use of the CDD approach for community-based project implementation. At present, they are considering creating ordinances focused on Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of turned-over sub-projects to sustain what had been started through the KALAHÍ.

Ms. Tadem, who had been serving in the barangay for a long time, expressed that the concept of crafting local ordinances to utilize CDD approach in the implementation of community-based projects had not been widely introduced in the LGU level. She noted that it had never been emphasized or

communicated to municipalities or barangays that they could initiate such ordinances.

Ms. Tadem further highlighted that their local chief executive in Jagna was generally not supportive of adopting the CDD approach. She shared that even their Area Coordinator (KALAH-CIDSS), Sir Ruth Cahulugan, was not given the necessary support. They have an office for KALAH-CIDSS but there is only one Community Facilitator (CF) left, as some were pulled out from the office by their mayor to perform their original job description. Despite requests for assistance, the municipal government refused to provide financial counterparts for sub-projects, leaving the Area Coordinator disheartened. She explained that this lack of municipal support resulted in stalled projects and discouraged further efforts to promote CDD initiatives.

For instance, in their area, most projects that are being implemented are still part of the first tranche of KALAH-CIDSS. The barangays provided financial counterparts to the DSWD funding. However, the municipal government counterpart was limited to the use of heavy equipment rather than monetary contributions. This practice left the barangay and the DSWD bearing most of the financial responsibility.

Discussions about the CDD process also touched on the significance of the role of LGU counterparts in the success of the KALAH sub-project implementation. Mr. Mark Lloyd Montayre⁶ explained that when KALAH was introduced in their locality, it provided Php 20 million in funding, but the contract required LGUs to provide a 20 percent counterpart. This counterpart covered expenses such as office operations and salaries for MCT (Municipal Coordinating Team) staff. However, not all local government units have the commitment and financial capacity to adhere to the counterpart as required. Both seem to be the case of their LGU. Additionally, the process of identification of sub-project prioritization faced challenges as well, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, when gatherings were restricted. Instead of holding large assemblies at the barangay level, only appointed officials or a limited number of barangay representatives were called to attend,

6 Mr. Mark Lloyd Montayre is one of the Municipal Coordinating Team's Community Facilitators in Inabanga.

which affected the level of community involvement and participation. The participant also pointed out that before COVID, assemblies were larger and more inclusive, leading to higher citizen engagement.

Moreover, as part of the KALAH-CIDSS program team, Mr. Montayre was sent to seminars to learn techniques for promoting the CDD approach. Upon returning, he discussed these ideas with their barangay captain, emphasizing the importance of the CDD approach on sustainability evaluations. He stressed the need for proper monitoring and maintenance to prevent costly repairs in the future. He recounted experiences from Cuaming Island, where the community prioritized a health center during project planning because the old facility had become shabby. Given the island's distance from the nearest hospital, the health center became a crucial resource, especially during emergencies. Mr. Montayre also highlighted the participatory process used in Cuaming, where community members from each "Purok" ranked their priorities collectively. Instead of choosing a single project, they were asked to provide six options and to line up for their preferred choice. This method ensured fair and transparent decision-making.

However, Mr. Montayre reiterated that no barangay had fully adopted the CDD process due to time constraints. He explained that the KALAH program will end this December, leaving little time for continued planning and implementation. He further said that their sub-projects focused on COVID-19 response during the pandemic and the focus shifted to disaster response during Typhoon Odette. Since the KALAH projects depended on modality, their processes were always changing which led to the delayed implementation of such projects. This further hindered their intent to promote the CDD approach at the local level.

On the other hand, Ms. Tadem emphasized the importance of allocating funds for O&M in barangay budgets. She shared that in her barangay, Php 20,000 is set aside annually for maintenance and operations, managed by the people's organizations. As the BDC head, she took responsibility for pushing O&M activities and ensuring that the barangay council assigned people to maintain projects.

Lastly, Ms. Garay also stressed the importance of sustaining sub-projects, particularly those involving infrastructure. In her barangay, the women's

organization formed the O&M group, meeting monthly to discuss project maintenance. They also conducted regular clean-ups and inspections. Issues were reported to her as their BDC head, which she relayed to the barangay council to secure the necessary budget. She explained that an action plan was prepared to release funds and address maintenance needs. She concluded that most barangays followed similar practices to ensure the sustainability of their projects.

Question 3

Para nimo, sa unsung paagi nakatabang ang CDD sa mga panginahanglanon sa komunidad? Makahatag ba ka og example sa mga panginahanglan sa inyong komunidad nga nasulbad sa CDD?

How do you think CDD approaches address community needs? Can you give examples of needs that were addressed in your community?)

Ms. Garay shared that the CDD sub-projects significantly helped their community, particularly in addressing flooding issues. She recounted that before the implementation of flood control sub-projects, their area, being coastal and having a low-lying section connected to a small river from the mountains, frequently experienced severe flooding during storms and high tides. Floodwaters often rose to neck level, putting residents at risk and requiring frequent rescue operations. She explained that their barangay closely coordinated with the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) for rescue efforts, as the residents in the affected areas refused to evacuate. Over time, however, the community learned to anticipate and evacuate during severe weather conditions.

With the arrival of the KALAHI project in Can-upao, the situation drastically improved. A large allocation was provided for flood control, and they were able to complete the sub-project successfully. After its implementation, flooding no longer reached homes, even during storms and high tides. Ms. Garay also described the challenges they faced in processing necessary documents, such as the Certificate of Non-Coverage (CNC), since flood control was part of the negative list. Obtaining approval required navigating complicated processes through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) offices in Cortes and Duero, Bohol. As part of her role, she facilitated compliance by securing slots and ensuring guidelines were followed to meet the deadlines.

Mr. Montayre then emphasized that the focus of KALAH! projects extends beyond infrastructure, as the core objective is community empowerment. He explained that KALAH! follows a CDD approach that prioritizes poor, vulnerable, and marginalized sectors. He highlighted that the sub-projects received were merely tools to bring communities together and empower them. Decision-making was not limited to barangay officials but involved the entire community, guided by community facilitators (CFs). He also pointed out that the participatory process encouraged communities to identify and raise issues. When such needs were identified, the barangay development plans were updated to reflect them. Resolutions were created to formalize these additions and guide future development efforts.

PARTICIPANTS' SENTIMENTS

Question 1

*Onsa ka kuntento sa resulta sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa inyong komunidad?
Onsang mga resulta sa mga proyekto ang nakaabot or wala kaabot sa imong gila-uman?*

(How satisfied are you with the results of the CDD projects in our community?
What specific outcomes have met or not met your expectations?)

Ms. Tadem expressed that the KALAH! program is closely tied to the CDD approach. She believed that once KALAH! ends, CDD might also end. However, after further explanation, she understood that CDD should remain because it involves the active participation of the people. She emphasized that this principle of inclusivity is crucial and must be sustained and strengthened.

She further shared that during the first phase of the program in Jagna, when she was still a barangay official, their barangay captain did not want to adopt the CDD approach. The captain questioned the need to undergo the process of barangay assemblies and community planning when funds, such as the Php 600,000 allocation, could be directly managed by the barangay officials themselves as they have the right to do it. However, the Area Coordinator, Sir Ruth, explained the processes in the session hall, clarifying KALAH!'s mechanisms, which is based on the CDD approach, to the council. His facilitation skills helped the officials better understand the program's framework but still to no avail.

In Inabanga, Mr. Montayre felt that KALAHÍ was well-received. He mentioned that the community in Barangay Cuaming would even cover KALAHÍ's official expenses for pump boats, unlike the Pantawid program, where the heads and officials had to pay their fare. The community appreciated these efforts, including the provision of meals during visits. Barangay captains in the area supported KALAHÍ, though not 100 percent, and it gained popularity. During the DSWD team's sustainability evaluation visits, the community always expressed hope for the continuity of the program and requests for more sub-projects, as they deemed it more helpful. Even the barangay officials remained enthusiastic about the program due to its sustainability practices.

Question 2

Onsa man inyong gibati bahin sa imong pag-apil sa pagplano sa mga proyekto sa CDD? Sa imong tan-aw, giila ba ang imong kontribusyon? Nganong oo or dili?

(How do you feel about your involvement in the planning process of CDD projects? Do you think your contributions were valued? Why or why not?)

Ms. Rowena Ramonal⁷ shared her happiness in benefiting from KALAHÍ sub-projects. She highlighted how the implementation of even small roads significantly alleviated the burden of farmers, fishermen, and students, especially during rainy days when mud made transportation difficult. She hoped for more sub-projects in the future to expand these improvements.

Mr. Ronell Visande⁸, who was new to the program, joined out of a desire to help. Initially unsure of his capabilities, he took it as a challenge and gained confidence in contributing. He discovered that his efforts extended beyond assisting the barangay—they benefited the entire community.

Ms. Garay added that the LGU of Jagna acknowledged their inability to fully fund the KALAHÍ program. While officials saw the positive impacts and desired to sustain its initiatives, they do not want to get the budget from their funds to continue supporting it. However, everyone expressed hope that future

7 Ms. Rowena Ramonal is a member of Project Preparation Team in Looc, Jagna.

8 Mr. Ronell Visande serves as the Head of Project Preparation Team in Kinagbaan, Jagna.

funding could be allocated for similar projects, recognizing the importance of community-driven development. She just hopes that the new set of officials (come the next election) will allocate funding for the continuation of the program.

Question 3

Onsa imong paglantaw sa umaabot na epekto sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa inyong lugar? Onsang mga kausaban ang imong gilauman sa mga umaabot na tuig?

What are your thoughts on the future impact of CDD Projects in your community? What changes do you hope to see in the coming years?)

Mr. Anthony Llido⁹ expressed that there is Php 300,000 in municipal aid annually allocated to barangays. He expressed hope that this could be used through the CDD process for prioritizing essential projects. He emphasized the importance of maintaining community participation in the process and hoped for officials to support CDD's integration into the barangay and LGU policies through local ordinances. He believed that adopting CDD could reduce corruption, as traditional methods involving bidding often resulted in questionable practices, unlike CDD's transparency.

Lastly, Mr. Soco shared his happiness in hearing community sentiments during meetings. He found these discussions encouraging and motivating. He emphasized building good relationships with volunteers and showing leadership through sacrifice to inspire others in believing themselves and in continuously doing good things for the community. He hoped that barangays would pass ordinances supporting CDD, especially given the availability of the 20 percent National Tax Allotment (NTA). With proper ordinances, funds could be effectively utilized for CDD initiatives, ensuring sustainability and community empowerment.

⁹ Mr. Anthony Llido serves as the Head of Barangay Development Council - Technical Working Group in Canjulao, Jagna.

THE CHANGES THEY SAW IN THE CDD PROJECTS

Question 1

Onsa man ang imong nabantayan nga mga kalambuan sa pasilidad o imprastruktura tungod sa mga proyekto sa CDD? Asa niini ang naay pinakadako og tabang para nimo?

(What improvements in community facilities or infrastructure have you noticed because of CDD Projects? Which of these improvements do you find most beneficial?)

Mr. Visande testified that after residing in their barangay for many years, the arrival of the KALAHI-CIDSS program brought significant improvements. Numerous sub-projects were adopted by their barangay captain, such as water sources, which proved especially useful during El Niño. The barangay captain allocated a budget to maintain these initiatives. In phase one, a culvert was installed in the river, and in phase two, a retaining wall was constructed to support a relocation site near the covered court. The retaining wall provided protection in landslide-prone areas, preventing soil erosion and ensuring the covered court's structural integrity. Maintenance measures were also established, including painting the steel reinforcements and regular cleaning of surrounding areas. Monthly monitoring by KALAHI staff ensured sustainability, even after project completion. There are no more on-going projects in their municipality as all projects in Jagna were turned over to the LGU this year.

In Inabanga, Mr. Soco shared that they were overjoyed with KALAHI's arrival. Recognizing the barangay's limited resources, the participant emphasized that the projects made possible by KALAHI addressed needs that could not have been met otherwise. They noted that community needs are continuous, but KALAHI contributed significantly by starting and completing sub-projects that barangays alone could not accomplish. One example cited was the construction of a covered court, initiated through KALAHI's first tranche and completed in phases. Without KALAHI, the barangay could not have sustained such efforts. Mr. Soco expressed the desire for local ordinances to institutionalize the CDD approach, highlighting that KALAHI's transparency and efficiency ensured better use of resources compared to traditional methods.

Question 2

Sa onsaang paagi gipalambo sa CDD ang kalidad a kinabuhi sa inyong komunidad? Aduna bay mga aspeto nga gusto nimong mas mapalig-on pa?

(How have CDD projects improved the quality of life in your community? Are there areas where you think the impact could be stronger?)

Ms. Tadem believed that adapting the CDD approach as a standard in barangays would be ideal. However, she acknowledged challenges in convincing local officials to adapt the approach, as traditional practices often prevailed. Drawing from extensive experience as a barangay official, she cited instances where decisions were monopolized by barangay captains, sidelining other officials' inputs. Challenges in ordinance implementation were highlighted. While council members drafted ordinances, captains often delayed or ignored implementation due to their own interests. Educating officials about CDD's benefits and aligning their priorities could ensure consistent application. Volunteers expressed concerns about their lack of authority, relying on officials' willingness to act. Establishing ordinances to institutionalize CDD could address these governance gaps.

Mr. Soco also stressed the need to promote CDD to barangay captains and mayors in Jagna. When barangay officials fully understand the process and eventually adapt it, they can encourage the municipal mayor to also adapt it for wider coverage.

Mr. Llido also voiced his concern on local governance even at the barangay level. He expressed that the volunteers have no power over the planning and prioritization of projects as the barangay officials often dismissed their sentiments and mocked them for speaking up during assemblies.

On the other hand, based on observations within the barangays of Inabanga and the entire LGU, Mr. Montayre noted that there is a lack of momentum, primarily because many are still unsure about how to make local ordinances and require proper guidance. But despite the absence of formal legislation, the residents of Cuaming Island have already implemented a participatory approach in selecting community projects. Even without a legal framework, they have practiced this participatory method. It was further verified through

his personal inquiries that their selection process was not appointed but rather involved the people's direct participation.

Interestingly, even with the presence of the KALAH I program, some barangays were unaware that their practices, such as voting on project decisions outside of KALAH I initiatives, already aligned with the principles of CDD. It is believed that the majority support this approach. However, there is concern that once the program officially ends this December, it may be forgotten if no one actively pushes for its continuation. It was also recalled that sustainability evaluations are conducted six months after a sub-project is completed and then annually thereafter. With the phasing out of KALAH I, the responsibility for these monitoring and evaluation would fall on the barangays and volunteers.

Mr. Montayre stressed that the challenge now lies in the coordination of barangays and volunteers with the LGU, particularly with engineers, to evaluate and monitor projects since KALAH I staff will no longer be present. While the current situation appears manageable, there is a real risk that, without institutional support or legal backing, these practices could eventually be neglected.

Lastly, Ms. Mae Ombrosa¹⁰ has come to realize that the things they have accomplished so far would not have been possible if they were not in their position as a MCT staff member. Ms. Noemi Calmita¹¹ added that no matter how determined they are or how much they try to contribute, they often go unheard. Sometimes, people do not listen to them if they do not hold a formal position. That is why they sincerely hope that they can continue to meet with the volunteers regularly and that they all remain motivated, no matter what challenges they may face along the way.

10 Ms. Mae Ombrosa is part of the Municipal Coordinating Team in Inabanga.

11 Ms. Noemi Calmita is one of the Municipal Coordinating Team's Community Facilitators in Inabanga.

Question 3

Sa imong tan-aw, onsa ang mga partikular nga problema sa komunidad ang gisulbad sa mga proyekto sa CDD? Aduna pa bay ubang problema nga angay unahon pagtagad?

(What specific community issues do you think the CDD Projects have effectively addressed? Are there other issues you believe should be prioritized?)

Ms. Garay mentioned an incomplete sub-project in their area due to land disputes. The municipal aid of Php 300,000 was partially allocated, but half of it was stopped due to unresolved land ownership issues. They expressed hope for additional funding to address this stalled project, as plans were already in place but lacked the necessary budget.

In Inabanga, Mr. Montayre recounted that in earlier phases of KALAHÍ, sub-projects were limited to a few barangays. Later, funds amounting to Php 2 million were distributed among 41 barangays, as the other 9 barangays are part of National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), with allocations based on population and poverty incidence. Although smaller barangays received minimal funding, even the Php 100,000 contributions were still utilized for road construction. Projects such as road improvements addressed long-standing issues. Mr. Montayre observed that barangays often relied on makeshift repairs before KALAHÍ's interventions. Through the program's prioritization process, incremental developments were achieved. While phase three's budget was reduced to Php 9 million divided among 41 barangays, barangay counterparts had at least 35 percent to sustain the projects. KALAHÍ's approach was deemed superior as it extended project coverage and minimized wastage associated with traditional procurement systems. Seeing these improvements, the MCT staff are grateful that the LGU also contributed to these projects.

Regarding ELCAC-funded projects, Mr. Montayre noted differences compared to KALAHÍ. ELCAC allocations were bigger, with Php 4 million per barangay. According to a barangay captain of one of these barangays, they were allocated a total budget of Php 20 million, hence, they are expecting more projects to be implemented. The identification of these ELCAC barangays were based on military recommendations, but their project implementation was through contracts, unlike CDD's participatory approach. While ELCAC

focused on infrastructure like roads, KALAH's impact was more visible due to transparency and community involvement. Since these communities have been allotted for funding by ELCAC, the supposed budget for them from the DSWD was pulled out.

Group B: Discussants from the Municipality of Pilar

Ms. Soler and Ms. Ramos led the in-depth discussion with Group B, composed of community volunteers, barangay officials, committee heads, council members, and municipal representatives from Pilar. The Municipality of Pilar was awarded as the Champion of Community-Driven Development for its exceptional dedication in institutionalizing the CDD approach at the local level—resulting in numerous successful projects and inspiring stories.

Before starting the session, Ms. Soler briefed the participants, explaining that the discussion would mirror the survey questions. The questions focused on their perceptions of CDD, their sentiments about its implementation, and the transformative changes observed through CDD-driven projects.

PARTICIPANTS' PERCEPTION OF CDD

Question 1

Unsa ang imong nahibaw-an bahin sa Community-Driven Development (CDD)? Asa o giunsa nimo pagkahibaw niini?

(What do you know about Community-Driven Development (CDD)? Where or how did you first learn about it?)

Mr. Cesar Montoya¹² shared that he first learned about CDD in 2011. He became familiar with it after being assigned to the LGU and handling the KALAHI MCC Program. Through the program's training, which covered CDD and the CEAC process, he gained insights into community-driven development. At that time, the CDD principles were still PTA (Participatory, Transparency, and Accountability), as Inclusivity was just added later on. Their Municipal Coordinating Team underwent training on CDD, and community volunteers were also trained. He emphasized that he joined KALAHI in Pilar in 2011, although the program started in 2006.

12 Mr. Cesar Montoya is the Officer-in-Charge of the Municipal Engineering Office and Municipal Coordinating Team - Technical Facilitator in Pilar.

Mr. Marlon Fernandez¹³ mentioned that he learned about CDD only last year. When he assumed the role of PTA President, the barangay captain also appointed him as the BDC Head. He agreed to be a volunteer as he believed that it also coincided with his role as PTA President. With that, he could attend meetings simultaneously. Moreover, during that time, they implemented a Php 3.2 million project for a two-classroom school building. The project was completed in less than 60 days and was ready for use immediately by Grade 10 students at Catagdaan Integrated School this school year. He explained that their community urgently needed additional classrooms as some students were still using the stage for classes. For the completed classrooms, the LGU provided amenities such as chairs and boards. By the time it was turned over, it already had water and electricity, though the building permit was still in process.

Mr. Zosimo Balaba¹⁴ stated that he learned about CDD in 2014 when he started volunteering. As a PTA President, he became more aware of the CDD approach through KALAHÍ-CIDSS school building projects for their community, including participatory situational analysis and consultations. He emphasized that CDD taught him valuable lessons, which he shares with their barangay to improve their community. For him, CDD is highly significant to the development of their community.

Ms. Nuevavilla Damalerio¹⁵ has been a volunteer with KALAHÍ since 2012. Initially unaware that CDD was the framework behind KALAHÍ, she later understood its principles such as the importance of community participation in assemblies and project prioritization processes. She served as BRT Chair, PPT, and BDC-TWG Head twice. Through KALAHÍ's process, she was able to value transparency and accountability, which she applied to her personal roles and to the community, even reforming an organization in their "Purok" that

13 Mr. Marlon Fernandez is a Barangay Development Council (BDC) Head and Parents-Teachers Association President in Pilar.

14 Mr. Zosimo Balaba is a member of the Eskaya Tribe (Indigenous People Community) in Pilar. He is part of the Technical Working Group and he also served in the Barangay Sub-Project Management Council for four times.

15 Ms. Nuevavilla Damalerio is the Head of the Barangay Development Council in Buena Suerte, Pilar.

lacked transparency. For her, CDD's emphasis on these principles ensured effective project implementation and built community trust.

Ms. Geraldine Ramos¹⁶ admitted that when she initially joined, she had no knowledge about CDD. However, over time, she gained a deeper understanding of the approach and witnessed its significant contributions to their community. She emphasized that being directly involved in the program increased accountability, making the process more meaningful and motivating for her to continue participating. Ms. Ramos expressed pride in leaving a legacy through her contributions and hopes to inspire others in the community to actively engage in the process. She observed that through CDD, people no longer remain indifferent to community projects because they are now directly involved in planning and implementation. This participatory approach has had a profound impact on the community; encouraging residents to actualize their involvement and ensuring that the projects have lasting value. She stressed that institutionalizing CDD can lead to impactful and inclusive projects that benefit the entire community.

Ms. Ronielen Escobal¹⁷ had been a volunteer since 2006. She started as a bookkeeper, later became part of the Barangay Representation Team (BRT), and during the pandemic, served as the BDC-TWG Head. Currently, she is the Barangay Treasurer but continues to be a Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) member, as serving in both roles simultaneously is not allowed.

Ms. Escobal emphasized the significant impact of CDD in their community such as the improvement of their farm-to-market roads (FMR), which greatly benefited farmers by making it easier and faster to transport their produce. She noted that before the road was constructed, transportation had been a major challenge. She also shared her observations on the changing attitudes of community members toward participation. During her early years as a volunteer, only a few residents attended meetings, and organizing assemblies—one of the key requirements for project prioritization—was very difficult.

16 Ms. Geraldine Ramos is a teacher and a volunteer for KALAHI for 15 years. She first served as part of the Project Proposal Team and later as a BSPMC Chairperson. Now, a member of the BDC-TWG.

17 Ms. Ronielen Escobal is a community volunteer in Poblacion, Pilar.

However, she has noticed a positive change over time, with more people actively participating in meetings and decision-making processes. Ms. Escobal described how project prioritization sometimes led to misunderstandings, as different “puroks” vied to have their projects prioritized. However, through proposal-making and prioritization processes, the assembly always prevailed in deciding which projects should move forward. She expressed her gratitude for the CDD approach, highlighting its role in uniting and empowering the community to take ownership of development initiatives. She credited KALAHI-CIDSS for fostering cooperation and accountability, ensuring that projects are impactful and sustainable.

Mr. Elemerio Saletrero¹⁸ first encountered Community-Driven Development (CDD) through KALAHI in 2007. However, the concept of community-driven approaches was not entirely new to him, as he previously worked with an NGO as a Community Organizer.

He recognized the value of CDD early on, particularly its emphasis on participatory processes. During the Participatory Situational Analysis (PSA), issues at the purok level were identified through meetings led by its officials. These representatives helped gather data to determine the top five problems of the barangay, which were then presented during assemblies for prioritization. Mr. Saletrero acknowledged that there were occasional disagreements due to sponsorship preferences, but ultimately, decisions were made based on majority votes. He expressed appreciation for KALAHI's transparency and the structured process and guidance it provided to communities in implementing projects. The program established various teams in its processes, including in the preparation, implementation, and operations and maintenance, each given with specific responsibilities and functions. These teams were formed voluntarily through community assemblies rather than just mere appointments, thus more organic.

He also highlighted that through KALAHI, their barangay had implemented numerous projects, including water systems, farm-to-market roads, school buildings, and solar dryers, among others. He emphasized that without these

18 Mr. Elemerio Saletrero served as a member of the Project Preparation Team for KALAHI from 2007 to 2016. Currently, he is the Barangay Captain of Estaca, Pilar.

developments, their barangay would be left behind. He credited KALAHI-CIDSS for addressing community needs, particularly for farmers and students alike. For example, solar dryers improved agricultural productivity, while school buildings benefited children's education. Even the construction of a covered court, supported by KALAHI, provided a space for youth to continue with its activities regardless of weather conditions. As the current Barangay Captain, Mr. Salatrero expressed immense gratitude for inheriting a legacy of completed and sustainable sub-projects that started with the community-driven approach initiated in 2007.

Engr. Joseph Anania¹⁹ recalled that he first heard about KALAHI-CIDSS' CDD in 2005. During that year, the DSWD identified the Municipality of Pilar as a potential beneficiary for KALAHI's expansion program. Although Pilar was not part of the pilot phase—preceded by Danao, Buenavista, and Bien Unido—the municipality was included in the third batch. Engr. Anania explained that during the 2005 regional orientation, participants were introduced to the principles and processes of CDD. They were informed that KALAHI-CIDSS was not merely an infrastructure project but rather a process aimed at promoting participatory development. While infrastructure served as a medium for applying principles like transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability, the primary goal of the program was to institutionalize participatory practices.

Municipal officials were required to decide whether to participate and provide counterpart funding. Following its approval, Pilar began its implementation process on February 6, 2006, with the municipal orientation sessions attended by the Municipal Inter-Agency Committee (MIAC), the Sangguniang Bayan (SB) members, and the barangay officials. An Area Coordinating Team (ACT) was deployed, and a Municipal Coordinating Team (MCT) was formed to support project implementation.

Engr. Anania emphasized that CDD empowered barangays to identify problems, propose solutions, and implement projects independently. The process reduced the workload at the municipal level, as barangays managed procurement, implementation, and monitoring themselves. He highlighted

19 Engineer Joseph Anania serves as the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator of Pilar.

that this approach resulted in more outputs for the same budget because the community now took ownership of the projects and maximized resources. For example, while contractors often delivered projects with exact measurements, barangays under CDD frequently exceeded targets. In one case, a project initially targeted 100 meters of construction was extended to 151 meters due to community involvement. Such outcomes demonstrated the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the CDD approach compared to the conventional government projects. He also noted that CDD ensured the sustainability of projects through O&M groups formed before project completion. These groups, composed of barangay organizations, were tasked with maintaining the projects and ensuring its long-term functionality. Mutual Partnership Agreements were forged and signed between barangays, O&M groups, and the municipality to allocate funds and resources for maintenance.

He cited examples of O&M groups such as Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) for schools and Farmers' Associations for farm-to-market roads. These groups received small cash contributions and in-kind support, such as volunteer labor and materials. Engr. Anania credited these arrangements for ensuring that projects withstood challenges, including natural disasters like Typhoon Odette, because communities took ownership of maintenance tasks. Annual Sustainability Evaluation Tests (SET) were also conducted to assess whether these projects remained functional. In cases where issues were identified, barangays and municipalities collaborated to resolve problems and restore functionality.

Engr. Anania concluded that KALAHI-CIDSS promoted community empowerment, enabling residents to take responsibility for maintaining projects. This shift in paradigm aptly ensured sustainability and prevented neglect after project handovers. Through this participatory approach, Pilar achieved significant development outcomes while maximizing resources and strengthening accountability at the community level.

Mr. Saletrero further cited examples where community members voluntarily deducted portions of their wages as counterpart contributions, reflecting their strong community participation and sense of ownership and co-ownership. He advocated for adopting the CDD approach in all government projects, emphasizing its efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness to community needs. He compared CDD with non-CDD projects, highlighting the delays

and lack of flexibility in non-CDD initiatives. He concluded that CDD's participatory process ensures community buy-in, better outputs, and long-term sustainability.

Question 2

Onsa ka ka-familiar sa kabahin sa programa sa KALAHI-CIDSS? Onsa na mga aspeto sa programa ang imong nahibaw-an?

(How familiar are you with the KALAHI-CIDSS program? What specific aspects of the program do you know?)

Ms. Ramos acknowledged that there may be a few people who are not yet familiar with the KALAHI-CIDSS program. When assemblies are called, and questions arise about the purpose of the gatherings, people respond by identifying it as related to KALAHI. The prominent billboard about KALAHI in Pilar also reinforces its presence. It seems that KALAHI will not be discontinued in Pilar, especially since there is already support through local ordinance. Thus, even in the absence of KALAHI, the process of CDD will continue to be followed. Additionally, their local CDD approach can be integrated into other government programs like the "*Panahon ng Pagkilos*".

In addition, as a volunteer, Ms. Ramos emphasized that involvement in barangay projects is a priority. Once someone volunteers, it becomes his/her responsibility to stay committed, regardless of whether the project directly benefits him or not. For example, in their barangay, they have benefited from more than ten projects, including four solar dryers, three school buildings, one covered court, a water reservoir, five additional classrooms, and even a rescue vehicle.

She highlighted that without the community-driven approach of KALAHI and CDD, barangays would struggle, relying solely on their limited Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA). The support from the Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU), combined with contributions from each barangay and the funding from the national government, had significantly helped their area prosper. Given that their community is primarily agricultural, most residents are tenants rather than landowners of their land, leading to fewer wealthy individuals and more families facing financial difficulties. Despite this, the

barangay has experienced a boom in infrastructure and development projects primarily due to the KALAHÍ program and its CDD approach.

Question 3

Para nimo, sa unsang paagi nakatabang ang CDD sa mga panginahanglanon sa komunidad? Makahatag ba ka og example sa mga panginahanglan sa inyong komunidad nga nasulbad sa CDD?

(How do you think CDD approaches address community needs? Can you give examples of needs that were addressed in your community?)

Ms. Ramos explained that their barangay is relatively large, similar to a Poblacion (barangay center). It was discovered that many students had dropped out of school due to the long distance from the school and lack of transportation fare. However, after the construction of the integrated school, with funding support from KALAHÍ, they observed that many former dropouts, including those who married young, eventually returned to school.

The water system, which was previously identified as a major issue, was also addressed through the program. As a result, school enrollment significantly increased, not just from their barangay but also from neighboring barangays even outside Pilar; as the school became more accessible. Students no longer felt embarrassed to attend school, especially those who were behind in their studies, because the classrooms were no longer overcrowded. With fewer students per section, they felt more comfortable attending classes.

She further highlighted the existence of income-generating projects, such as solar dryers, which continue to generate funds for their community annually. These funds are used to maintain facilities, ensuring sustainability. Income from such projects is also allocated to support non-income-generating initiatives. For example, in their school, they collect an annual contribution of Php 120 per parent, with Php 20 allocated specifically for classroom maintenance. Having more stakeholders involved creates accountability, ensuring that projects are well-maintained and protected. Schools, for instance, experience fewer incidents of vandalism because people actively monitor the facilities. Similarly, during construction, no materials are lost since community members themselves oversee the process. Ms. Ramos emphasized that providing accountability to beneficiaries is effective because

they directly benefit from the projects, motivating them to take care of and sustain these development initiatives.

PARTICIPANTS' SENTIMENTS

Question 1

Unsa ka ka-kuntento sa resulta sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa inyong komunidad? Unang mga resulta sa mga proyekto ang nakaabot or wala kaabot sa imong gila-uman?

(How satisfied are you with the results of the CDD projects in our community?
What specific outcomes have met or not met your expectations?)

Ms. Ramos expressed satisfaction with the results of the CDD projects in their community. Initially, some residents were skeptical, especially since some barangay officials tend to prioritize projects in areas where they could secure votes. However, through the CDD approach, decisions were no longer influenced by political motives. Instead, projects were implemented based on actual community needs, ensuring fairness and inclusivity.

She recounted how skepticism arose from concerns about sustainability. For example, there were cases in other areas where KALAHÍ-funded projects, such as school buildings, were constructed but left unused—leading to wasted resources. Such instances made their community cautious about project selection. To address this, they consistently advocated for prioritizing schools during Participatory Situational Analysis (PSA). Schools were seen as highly sustainable investments because they provide long-term benefits through education. Over time, even initially skeptical officials had already recognized the value of prioritizing public welfare over personal/vested interests. The successful implementation and sustained use of these projects eventually changed the mindset of the community, proving that the CDD approach could deliver impactful and lasting results.

Mr. Saletrero elaborated and cited the solar dryer project as another example of success. Initially, it faced challenges, particularly because it was constructed near a school's perimeter. Their area, being irrigated and with approximately 70 percent of its land dedicated to rice farming, had farmers struggling to dry their produce effectively during the rainy season. Previously, they had

to replace tarpaulins every cropping season due to its wear and tear. The construction of four concrete solar dryers stopped these recurring expenses, providing farmers with a sustainable and income-generating facility. This not only supported farmers by preserving the quality of their rice yield but also generated additional income for the purok.

Regarding schools, Ms. Damalerio highlighted their significant role in helping out-of-school youth return to school. The number of enrollees increased as the population grew, and the establishment of nearby schools removed financial challenges to education. Families who could not afford transportation costs to distant schools now had accessible options within their community. With schools closer to home, education became more affordable, as students only needed to walk instead of paying for fares. This accessibility ensured that even less privileged students had no reason to drop out, thus promoting inclusivity and equal learning opportunities.

Question 2

Onsa man inyong gibati bahin sa imong pag-apil sa pagplano sa mga proyekto sa CDD? Sa imong tan-aw, giila ba ang imong kontribusyon? Nganong oo or dili?

(How do you feel about your involvement in the planning process of CDD projects? Do you think your contributions were valued? Why or why not?)

Ms. Ramos shared that the planning process under the CDD approach begins with meetings at the purok level, where residents gather to discuss and decide on their desired projects. After these initial discussions, proposals are brought to the Barangay Assembly where problems are presented and deliberated upon. Project proponents must defend their proposals during these sessions.

The process then advances to the municipal level, where all 21 barangays present their proposals during the Municipal Inter-Barangay Forum (MIBF). Each barangay competes for prioritization, and scores are assigned. Community involvement is a key factor in the rating process, ensuring that everyone participates and has a voice. While full consensus is not always achieved, the community acknowledges opposing views. Proposals that are not prioritized for the current year are still considered for the next cycle, reflecting the inclusive nature of the process. Priority is determined by

majority vote, but minority proposals are not dismissed as they also address community needs. Ms. Ramos emphasized that the process gradually meets the barangay's needs through a rotational cycle. For example, only three barangays may receive national funding each year, while the remaining 18 would rely on local funding. Although not all contributions are immediately prioritized, they are still recognized and considered in future cycles.

Furthermore, attendance at assemblies and meetings during the MIBF significantly affects prioritization, as barangays must meet an 85 percent attendance rate to earn corresponding points. The evaluation criteria include both qualitative and quantitative aspects—60 percent of the score is based on proposal quality, while 40 percent is linked to attendance and participation in meetings, assemblies, and volunteer activities. She acknowledged that some participants feel discouraged when their efforts in preparing proposals are not rewarded with prioritization. It can be disheartening, especially when proposals are overshadowed by politically connected groups. However, local leaders like Sir Joy and the mayor make extra efforts to explain decisions and address frustrations, assuring participants that their proposals will eventually be accommodated. To improve fairness, the evaluation criteria have been revised. Greater emphasis is now placed on community participation, accounting for 60 percent of the score, while proposal quality makes up the remaining 40 percent. Volunteer teams also conduct site visits to validate proposals, ensuring decisions are evidence-based and transparent during the final prioritization process.

Question 3

Onsa imong paglantaw sa umaabot na epekto sa mga proyekto sa CDD sa inyong lugar? Onsang mga kausaban ang imong gilauman sa mga umaabot na tuig?

(What are your thoughts on the future impact of CDD Projects in your community? What changes do you hope to see in the coming years?)

Ms. Ramos expressed optimism about the future impact of CDD projects in their area, attributing much of the progress to the leadership and collaboration between the mayor and Sir Joy. She noted that their mayor has a heart for the people and prioritizes collective effort over and above personal gain.

This collaborative approach includes the participation of barangay captains, ensuring transparency and fairness.

In the beginning, there were disagreements from some who felt their areas were not prioritized, but through constant dialogue and open-mindedness, compromises were reached. Starting next year, each barangay is expected to receive a budget of 1 million pesos for project implementation. With 21 barangays in total, projects will be implemented in cycles—seven barangays per year over a three-year period. The allocated funds will be directly downloaded to the barangays, allowing them to implement projects independently.

Despite that, Ms. Ramos still highlighted concerns about the possible discontinuation of the CDD approach. She pointed out that as people have become more aware and accustomed to the participatory process, its absence might leave them wondering about its future and the projects it has produced, particularly under KALAH-CIDSS. She expressed fears that reliance on government aid could increase, especially as more people expect assistance rather than actively participating in development initiatives.

Nonetheless, Ms. Ramos acknowledged that the existing projects—such as schools and reservoirs—would continue to benefit the community in the long term. Schools, in particular, were seen as having a sustainable impact, as they could help ensure that 100 percent of the youth in Estaca could eventually become professionals. The reservoir project also holds potential for generating income, with plans to develop a water refilling station modeled after other CDD projects (best practice). Additionally, existing projects may give rise to new sub-projects following the CDD framework, further sustaining development.

As for Mr. Balaba, CDD projects will continue to play a vital role in the community, even if the KALAH program ends. The processes and volunteer-driven efforts instilled by the program are expected to persist, supported by local funding. However, they acknowledged that national funding provides larger allocations compared to local budgets, which are typically smaller. To address this, the municipal government plans to prioritize seven barangays each year, potentially increasing allocations to Php 1 million per barangay. This ensures that community empowerment and volunteerism will continue, as the processes adopted at the national level will be mirrored locally. Mr.

Balaba expressed confidence that the knowledge and skills gained by the older volunteers can be passed down to younger generations, encouraging them to sustain the practices and principles learned through the CDD approach. This intergenerational transfer of knowledge is seen as key to ensuring the long-term sustainability of community development efforts.

THE CHANGES THEY SAW IN THE CDD PROJECTS

Question 1

Onsa man ang imong nabantayan nga mga kalambuan sa pasilidad o imprastruktura tungod sa mga proyekto sa CDD? Asa niini ang naay pinakadako og tabang para nimo?

(What improvements in community facilities or infrastructure have you noticed because of CDD Projects? Which of these improvements do you find most beneficial?)

Mr. Balaba noted significant improvements in infrastructure made by the CDD projects, particularly the construction of an integrated school in their area. The barangay of Lundag is approximately 12 kilometers away from the town center, and the minimum one-way fare via motorcycle used to be Php 250. Before the construction of the school, students had to travel to the town center, which meant high transportation costs and additional expenses for allowances.

With the establishment of the integrated school, supported by national funding through the KALAHI program, majority of students from Lundag—approximately 98 percent—now study locally. This has significantly reduced the financial burden on families and enhanced student safety. Parents can now monitor their children more closely, reducing risks related to travel and minimizing exposure to vices. Furthermore, the integrated school provides students with better opportunities to focus on their skills and talents, as smaller class sizes (teacher-student ratio) allow for more personalized attention compared to overcrowded schools in urban areas. This has led to improved educational outcomes and greater encouragement for students to develop their abilities.

Ms. Damalerio added that the cemented roads funded by CDD projects were very beneficial. Previously, the roads leading to their village were extremely difficult to traverse due to loose stones and sharp curves, making accidents common. Farmers and motorcycle drivers delivering goods, such as rice, to Pilar faced significant challenges. But through the CDD initiative, these roads were cemented, and the improvements have nearly reached the school area. Even if national-level funding ends, the local government is expected to sustain the progress with continued infrastructure projects.

In addition, Mr. Balaba shared that before the road was paved, drivers had to attach chains to their truck tires to climb through the steep and rough terrain, which often caused damage to the vehicles. As a result, many resorted to carrying their goods manually. The implementation of cemented roads through KALAHÍ has made transportation much easier, facilitating the delivery of products to the town center. The improvements also reduced transportation costs due to better road conditions. The once motorbike-scarce barangay now has increased motorcycle ownership, as residents can now navigate the area more easily. The community credited KALAHÍ for most of these road developments.

On the other hand, Ms. Ramos shared that water supply was another major challenge highlighted by the community. Although their town has rich water resources, an agreement with a neighboring town, Dagohoy, which is located at a lower elevation, resulted in stronger water flow toward Dagohoy. Consequently, residents of Pilar often faced water shortages, relying only on nighttime water supply. This situation created difficulties, especially in schools, where insufficient water made it hard to maintain hygiene. Students often urinated behind school buildings, creating unpleasant odors, and school gardens suffered due to the lack of irrigation. Hence, the construction of a water reservoir through CDD projects resolved many of these issues. The community now enjoys a steady water supply, addressing both sanitation and irrigation needs. This has greatly improved hygiene standards in schools and enhanced the growth of community gardens.

Question 2

Sa onsaang paagi gipalambo sa CDD ang kalidad sa kinabuhi sa inyong komunidad? Aduna bay mga aspeto nga gusto nimong mas mapalig-on pa?

(How have CDD projects improved the quality of life in your community? Are there areas where you think the impact could be stronger?)

Ms. Damalerio observed that the CDD projects have contributed significantly to improving the quality of life in their area. Previously, those who were unable to attend school often remained trapped in poverty, unable to improve their circumstances. However, with the construction of schools and the availability of scholarships, more children are now able to pursue education. This access to education has resulted in better opportunities, giving families hope for a brighter future. The community no longer perceives itself as desperately poor, but rather as modestly comfortable. Residents now envision a more secure and prosperous future for their children through improved educational access.

Mr. Balaba also added that in rural farming areas, the CDD projects have also improved livelihoods. Over the past 20 years, the income of farmers has grown because of better roads that make it easier to transport produce. For instance, some families were able to send their children to college using the income earned from vegetable farming. Many of these children have since graduated, secured jobs abroad, and significantly improved their living conditions.

Without the KALAH I program and its road improvement projects, transportation challenges would have limited farmers to small and localized markets, keeping incomes low. With enhanced infrastructure, the Indigenous People (IP) community now envisions further development, such as becoming similar to Baguio, where cable cars support transportation.

Mr. Balaba also shared a story about a large family that once struggled to send their children to school due to poor road conditions. After the roads were improved through the CDD projects, their children have completed college and are now professionals. The father, who was a farmer, supported the family by growing crops and selling produce—an effort that became sustainable due to the road improvements. Additionally, the projects have facilitated better trade opportunities, with vendors now able to bring in fish and other goods using larger vehicles like trucks.

Question 3

Sa imong tan-aw, onsa ang mga partikular nga problema sa komunidad ang gisulbad sa mga proyekto sa CDD? Aduna pa bay ubang problema nga angay unahon pagtagad?

(What specific community issues do you think the CDD Projects have effectively addressed? Are there other issues you believe should be prioritized?)

Ms. Ramos explained that the CDD projects address problems based on the community's priority needs, as identified during consultations. However, some challenges persist because community members must first be willing to accept and support proposed projects. One of the most pressing issues raised was the lack of a local college in their town. Currently, students need to travel long distances to attend college, which remains a financial burden for many families. Another issue involves the pricing of agricultural products. Farmers often face low buying prices for their produce, such as rice, which is sometimes sold for as low as Php 17 per kilo. Large companies like BQ and Alturas are said to control prices, leaving farmers with little bargaining power. With that, she emphasized the need for government programs that provide subsidies to farmers and producers rather than focusing solely on consumers. She argued that the current approach disproportionately benefits consumers at the expense of producers, leading to unfair market conditions.

Follow-up Question

Unsay best practices ninyo na nakapahimo ninyo as Champions of CDD?

(What are the best practices that made you a Champion of CDD?)

Engr. Anania discussed the best practices that contributed to their success as Champions of CDD, which include several key strategies. First, he emphasized the importance of counterparting and pooling resources. The local government and barangays signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to collaborate effectively. Each barangay contributes Php 150,000, and with 21 barangays, this amounts total to over Php 3 million. The municipality also contributes over Php 4 million, totaling to Php 7.35 million. This pooling of resources allows them to implement projects worth Php 1 million per barangay within the term of the barangay officials, making it easier to execute these projects.

Despite challenges in convincing other municipalities to adopt similar strategies, Pilar's success in implementing the pooling of resources is recognized. Others have questioned how Pilar manages to do this without issues from the Commission on Audit (COA), but the MOA is authorized under the Local Government Code, which allows such collaborations for the benefit of the community. This practice has been ongoing since 2006, and they have continued to implement it with or without grants.

Another best practice is the strong political will at both the barangay and municipal levels. The officials are fully committed to the Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach, and almost all barangay officials are knowledgeable about KALAHÍ, as well as the municipality, regardless of who is in office. They also have supporting legislation in place to back up KALAHÍ initiatives.

Additionally, the involvement of community volunteers is crucial. They receive small rewards and benefits, such as life insurance through the Philippine Red Cross, supported by the municipality. Starting next year, the community volunteers will also receive small incentives, such as Php 200 per day for attending training sessions or seminars organized by the municipality. This motivates volunteers to participate in various activities.

From a management perspective, the head office assigns a specific barangay to each staff member for monitoring. If issues arise in that barangay, the assigned staff member troubleshoots the problem regarding KALAHÍ implementation. Regular coordination meetings are held every week during project implementation, involving community volunteers, barangay officials, and contractors. These meetings allow them to discuss and address any issues that may arise, preventing larger problems and delays. Lastly, their Management Coordination Team (MCT) has been consistent and active since 2006, and they regularly conduct social evaluations (SET) to ensure the effectiveness of their programs.

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ANNEX

Annex A

An Ordinance Institutionalizing the Conduct of Sustainability Evaluation for All Completed Projects, Programs and Activities to be Conducted by the Multi-Stakeholders Inspectorate Team (MSIT) in the Municipality of Pilar, Bohol, Prescribing its Guidelines and Providing Funds for the Activity Thereof of 2022. Ordinance No. 01-2022

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