



Tayo na, Tayô Na!:

Stories on how Kalahi-CIDSS provides support on disaster reduction and environmental protection to Filipino communities





OUR COVER

Filipinos are known for being resilient. They possess the amazing capacity to deal with life's blows.

Their strong sense of community has allowed them to not only rise above adversities, but to help each other in times of crisis.

Kalahi-CIDSS builds on this sense of community to encourage people to support each other.

Its local term, "bayanihan", aptly captures the sense of putting the good of the community and country above one's personal interest by pursuing development together.

"Tayo na, Tayô Na!" is a message of hope, an invitation, and a battlecry for Filipinos: to become a resilient community by working together.

ABOUT Kalahi-CIDSS-NCDDP

The Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services or Kalahi-CIDSS is a program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development that seeks to help alleviate poverty through community-driven development or CDD.



CDD is a development strategy that puts power back in the hands of the people by giving them the opportunity to make informed decisions on locally identified options for development and manage resources to implement sub-projects that address needs identified by communities themselves.

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WRITERS

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The nature of disasters demands we work together to build a strong line of defense...

The country was battered by some of the worst disasters, especially typhoons, in the past 6 years. We are now realizing that these climatic disturbances are increasing in intensity, frequency, and impact. The populations that we seek to protect and help are now facing constant risks from harm and displacement.

In November 2013, the strongest typhoon in recent history devastated many portions of the Visayas, particularly Region 8. This and some of the more recent ones: Ondoy in 2009, Sendong in 2011, Pablo in 2012, and the Bohol Earthquake in 2013, and a string of others, have triggered a rethinking within the DSWD about our role not only in responding in times of disasters but also our more long term responsibility for ensuring that people especially the poor and vulnerable are kept safe, prepared and resilient in the face of the phenomenon called the “new normal.”

Yolanda highlighted the vulnerability of the poor in this country and underscored the need to double our efforts to help move people out of poverty through our core social protection programs – Kalahi-CIDSS - National Community Driven Development Program, Sustainable Livelihood Program and Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. The reason: poverty exacerbates and increases people’s vulnerability to disasters.

I have always said that the greatest disasters are not the ones we see after a big storm. It is the fact that roughly a quarter of our people remain below the poverty line. This disaster is of a magnitude that necessitates an all-agency and stakeholders’ response to address poverty. The work of preparedness, response and recovery ultimately becomes doubly challenging when people are jobless, hungry, homeless and bereft of the basic tools to live decently.



Yolanda and the disasters of 2012 and 2013 taught us that there are big institutional changes we need to make to be more responsive to our clients. Part of those changes is a greater focus on poverty reduction and to see disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) as an integral part of our development interventions. Kalahi-CIDSS presents a great opportunity to weave these two together. It is ideally positioned to help make changes at the logical starting point of change – the community.

Several stories at the height of and after Yolanda show how oftentimes, one’s survival is just within arm’s reach – in the strength, resilience and solidarity of one’s immediate family, neighbor and community. The nature of disasters demands that we work together to build a strong line of defense so that there will be less of those who will die, lose their homes, go hungry and left unattended. These are the stories featured in this compendium.

I invite our partners and friends therefore to revisit the experiences and triumphs of people who have survived Yolanda in these moving stories that reveal how community and LGU actions can help save lives and make the task of recovery and rehabilitation within our reach.

Corazon “Dinky” Juliano-Soliman

Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development
Kalahi-CIDSS - National Community-Driven Development Program

A big part of the evolution of Kalahi-CIDSS has to do with the people themselves... they are able to select interventions that address their most pressing needs.



The Batanes group of islands is famous for its big storms and their people have learned to live with these frequent lashes from nature. But more than its signature sturdy stone cottages, Batanes is also a showcase of what a strong community can be if it knows how to tap what the resources that it already has in abundance. Their people display an amazing resilience after every calamity. At the core of this ability to quickly recover from natural calamities is the spirit of *bayanihan* – the tradition of pulling together and helping one’s neighbor in the face of crisis.

Kalahi-CIDSS’ approach builds upon the same foundation and envisions communities that are united in their goal to make their life better and themselves stronger to face future disasters.

The program which began in 2003 was conceived to apply the community-driven development strategy to contribute in reducing poverty in the Philippines by empowering citizens so they can organize themselves and make decisions to spur their own communities’ growth and development. Since then, the community-driven development (CDD) technology has been used by Kalahi-CIDSS as a medium for the promotion of key areas such as peace, gender, and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM).

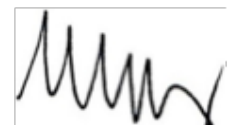
A big part of the evolution of Kalahi-CIDSS has to do with the people themselves. Because they are given the freedom to identify what sub-projects they will be implement, they are able to select interventions that address their most pressing needs. In the realm of DRRM, this includes the construction of environmental protection facilities such as sea walls, (anti) soil erosion sub-projects, and rip-raps or training and organizing for disaster preparedness and response.



Sub-projects represent (one of) the concrete outputs of a process in Kalahi-CIDSS. Thus, the rural infrastructures built benefit from the communities’ direct participation in community planning, mobilization and implementation. What the program seeks to do is to have everyone play a role in protecting the community and reducing its various vulnerabilities, which include poverty and disasters. Communities learning collaborative action with national government agencies, local government units, civil society groups, and other stakeholders to push for inclusive growth and development. is the other outputs of Kalahi-CIDSS.

The stories in this compendium provide clear examples of this. Cooperation among these people becomes even more critical in DRRM, because everyone has to work together in order to mitigate the impact of disaster and recover from its aftereffects.

We hope that in the next years, we will be able to help support more areas so that people across the nation will be able to exemplify the bayanihan spirit and have improved lives and close-knit communities who have the confidence to protect and respond to calamities in the future and are able to pursue concrete actions to develop their communities.



Camilo G. Gudmalin

Assistant Secretary for the Operations and Programs Group
Promotive Programs and Deputy National Program Director for Operations
KALAHICIDSS - NCDDP



...it is possible to better prepare our communities to manage risks that come with the intensifying occurrence of calamities.

Yolanda put to test the effectiveness of CDD (community-driven development), the approach employed by KALAHI-CIDSS in the last 12 years of implementation. The same approach will be used in the scaled up National Community Driven Development Program that will now cover 847 municipalities across the country.

CDD entrusts power into the hands of citizens. Concretely, these means they choose, plan and execute the projects that will help them address their needs for basic services and development. Over the years, communities have built nearly every type of community project that range from small foot paths, water systems, schools, day care centers, health stations to small irrigation, electrification and farm to market roads in some of the most remote and poverty-stricken areas of the country.

Several studies have pointed out that these community-built and managed structures are cost-effective, maintained well and most importantly, benefit those that need them most. But it was only after Typhoon Yolanda which left most part of the Visayas devastated that claims by communities that their handiwork are built to last did it become truly clear and proven that the structures were indeed built with quality and are durable. Save for minor damages, more than 90% of these projects have survived the onslaught of one of the strongest typhoons to have hit the country.

The lesser known benefits of CDD also began to surface when stories of how KALAHI-CIDSS communities found it easier to mobilize after the disaster or how they used their networks to quickly extend help to neighboring villages to offer passage, relief goods and conduct rescue operations.



If these experiences tell us anything, it is that the CDD approach can further strengthen this solidarity and with some additional investments in building the consciousness and skills of people on DRRM, it is possible to better prepare our communities to manage risks that come with the intensifying occurrence of calamities.

The stories in this compendium show us how communities survived Yolanda and offer insights on why it always makes very good sense to have communities lead the way.

Benilda E. Redaja

Benilda E. Redaja
 Director IV and National Program Manager
 KALAHI CIDSS-NCDDP

A person wearing a blue t-shirt, black pants with yellow stripes, and a white cap is leaning over and looking at a large white map or document. In the background, another person in a red shirt and glasses is standing near a stream with rocks. The scene is outdoors with trees and a wooden fence.

Close
calls

Last-minute construction saves community from Typhoon Yolanda

Barangay Buaya in Abuyog, Leyte, sits right by the sea, which means that it is under constant threat of being slapped by waves during the typhoon season. In order to reach the community, travellers need to take a one-hour-long boat ride from the town proper and bravely cross the rough Pacific Ocean.

There are also two rivers in Brgy. Buaya that treacherously rise during stormy weather, causing flooding in different areas.

These circumstances are bad enough on their own, but add Typhoon Yolanda to the mix and you have a recipe for disaster.

Things could have turned out horribly for this barangay, but the perseverance and dedication of a group of residents, with support from the Kalahi-CIDSS of the DSWD, proved that they could beat the odds and rise from the difficult situation they face, even with a challenge as big as the super typhoon.

Maria Concepcion Abina, more fondly called “Inday” by village folk, shared that on the eve of Yolanda, on November 7, she and other volunteers were busy working on their 150 linear-meter Kalahi-CIDSS flood control sub-project, doing what they could to keep their village safe.

“*Gabi na kami nahuman, mga alas-ocho* (We finished late, around 8 p.m.)” says Inday.

The reason for finishing work late: their drive to secure what they dubbed as the “danger” zone, the point where the two rivers in the barangay meet and the area which they anticipated as the main source of danger once Typhoon Yolanda hit.

Dati, hindi kami nakakatulog pag umuulan, kasi may posibilidad na kailangan mag-evacuate



Julie Pasaral points to where the danger zone is as Inday Abina looks on

According to the residents, it was not just flooding that was the problem. Once these rivers overflow, they produce the strong rushing waters, with a current strong enough to drag people away. This not only made the residents fear for their lives, they especially feared for their children.

Inday, a mother of two, described their sleepless nights during bad weather, saying, “*Dati, hindi kami nakakatulog pag umuulan, kasi may posibilidad na kailangan mag-evacuate* (In the past, we could not rest easy when it rained, because there was always the possibility that we will need to evacuate).”

Their fear, fuelled by their determination, drove them to work hard to secure the danger zone. At the same time, they secured the materials they still had for the construction of the remaining work to ensure that these would not get washed out when the supertyphoon made landfall. They knew that, should these get washed out, they might end up losing the chance they were given to protect themselves from the rising waters.

Still, even with the care and their efforts, they felt fear, because they knew how strong the currents could get.

Julie Pasaral, 43, a Kalahi-CIDSS volunteer, admitted, “*Nung una, natakot kami na umapaw ang tubig mula sa dike dahil sa bagyo, pero sa awa ng Diyos, hindi naman* (At first, we were afraid that the rivers would overflow during the typhoon, but with God’s mercy, they did not).”



Community volunteers beside their Kalahi-CIDSS flood control sub-project

What was surprising was that their sub-project was able to withstand the wrath of Yolanda--even if the area in the danger zone had only been constructed the night before. Even more surprising was how the community reacted after the storm.

Even without conferring with each other, all the Kalahi-CIDSS volunteers went to the project site on November 9, the day after Yolanda hit, and went back to work.

When asked why this was the case, Inday smiles and says, “*Sa barangay na ito, madami ang makaka-benepisyo* (A lot of people in the barangay will be able to benefit from this).”

“*Hindi lang isa o dalawang tao ang matutulungan mo* (You will help not just one or two persons),” said Julie.

The reasoning of the volunteers was clear: all 226 households within the barangay -- 70 of whom are part of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program¹ of the DSWD -- are beneficiaries of the flood control sub-project. The impact of Typhoon Yolanda made them realize how much they needed to finish their sub-project, which is why they gathered together to continue the work.

The community understood the principle of Kalahi-CIDSS, getting people to work together for the good of their community, so well that it set up a system wherein each household would send a representative to help out in the construction of the flood control sub-project to ensure fairness.

As a result, everyone in the community now has a personal stake in ensuring that the sub-project will be well taken care of.

¹ The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program is a human development program of the national government that invests in the health and education of poor households, particularly of children aged 0-18 years old

In describing the program, Julie says, “*Ang Kalahi-CIDSS ay pagtulong sa mga mahihirap. Nag-e-empower sa mamamayan* (Kalahi-CIDSS helps the poor. It empowers the citizens).”

She describes her own experience: “*Na-empower talaga ako* (I was truly empowered).” She says: “*Akala ko, hindi ko kayang humarap sa tao. Kaya pala. Kaya pala ng tao na gawin ang mga bagay, basta interesado at gustong matuto* (I did not think I would be able to face a lot of people, but I did it. People can do a lot of things as long as they are interested and want to learn).”

“*Dati, lagi kaming nasa tabi-tabi lang. Ngayon, may idea na kami sa pagiging foreman, sa engineering* (In the past, we citizens stayed on the sidelines. Now, we know what it is like to be a foreman, to be an engineer),” Julie says, describing how Kalahi-CIDSS trains its volunteers in various aspects of project implementation, including the construction of infrastructure sub-projects.

Through Kalahi-CIDSS, these women, as well as the other residents of Barangay Buaya, not only gained self-confidence and knowledge, they now also have peace of mind, brought about by the installation of the flood control sub-project.

With a smile, Inday says, “*Ngayon, kahit mag-ulan magdamagan, okay na matulog kami* (Now, we can sleep tight even if it rains throughout the night).”



The flood control sub-project kept Buaya residents safe from the ravages of flooding and of Typhoon Yolanda



Julie Pasaral points to where the water level reached during Typhoon Yolanda

DSWD's Kalahi-CIDSS provides protection to Iloilo municipality from Super Typhoon



"Kung wala po iyong Kalahi-CIDSS, madami na po ang patay dito dahil sa Yolanda [If we did not have Kalahi-CIDSS, a lot of the residents would have died because of Yolanda]."

These words were uttered by Rogelio Labsan, former barangay captain of Barangay Mangorocoro in Ajuy, Iloilo, his tone as fearful as it was proud, as he went on to describe how Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS), one of the three main poverty alleviation programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), was able to help protect their community from the ferocity of Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan), when it devastated the Philippines, particularly the Visayas region, on November 8, 2013.

Impact of TS Yolanda in Ajuy

Ajuy is one of the municipalities in Iloilo that was hit hard by the super typhoon, affecting 11,510 households, 7,064 of whom lost their homes because of the disaster.

As a coastal community, Barangay Mangorocoro is no stranger to the effects of inclement weather. Prior to the construction of the sea wall, incumbent barangay captain Conrado Fernandez says that it was normal for the elementary school campus, where a Kalahi-CIDSS school building now stands, to experience flooding during high tide, even on normal weather.

It was the constant fear of being flooded that pushed the residents of Barangay Mangorocoro to fight for the construction of the sea wall when they were given the opportunity to address the most pressing needs of their community through Kalahi-CIDSS.

The construction of the sea wall was completed in 2010. When presented with another opportunity by Kalahi-CIDSS in 2007, they elected to upgrade their sea wall, having it cemented to make it even more durable to better protect them from strong typhoons.

It was this foresight that fortified their community, so that they did not experience the full impact of Typhoon Yolanda. While some flooding occurred in Barangay Mangorocoro at the height of the typhoon, their village did not suffer from any casualties because the sea wall protected them from the storm surge.

Simon Hagurin, one of the senior citizens in Barangay Mangorocoro who served as a volunteer of Kalahi-CIDSS, says he does not want to think about what could have happened to their village had the sea wall not been constructed.

This was echoed by Ajuy Mayor Juancho Alvarez, who said, *"Kung wala ang Kalahi-CIDSS sub-project na sea wall, washed out na ang Barangay Mangorocoro (If the Kalahi-CIDSS sea wall sub-project had not been constructed, Barangay Mangorocoro would have been washed out)."*

The thin crack on the sea wall serves as a silent testament to the wrath of the super typhoon.

Community strength

While the residents of Barangay Mangorocoro are thankful for the construction of the sea wall, they are more grateful for how Kalahi-CIDSS has ingrained in them the spirit of participation and cooperation within their village.

As a project that uses the community-driven development (CDD) strategy, Kalahi-CIDSS seeks to develop the skills and capacities of the citizens, even as it strives to teach them to work together in partnership with their local government units (LGUs) to improve their lives. By empowering them, Kalahi-CIDSS enables them to become active agents in local development. In effect, the Project builds up communities so citizens will be able to work together to overcome poverty.

It is this sense of communal support that the residents of Barangay Mangorocoro keenly feel. Sis. Alona Marie Abunda, a local pastor who also serves as a Kalahi-CIDSS volunteer, shares, “*Sa Kalahi-CIDSS, dumami ang friends, at dahil*



Teacher Josie Basa holds up the passbook for the maintenance of the school building. Funds in the account come from the Parent-Teacher Association of Mangorocoro Elementary School, contributed willingly by the members to ensure that the school is well-maintained

dumami ang friends, tumaas ang cooperation [In Kalahi-CIDSS, we gained more friends, and because we now have more friends, we cooperate more].”

This was completely different from the situation before Kalahi-CIDSS was introduced to the community, when residents did not really work together, according to Sis. Alona.

In fact, when Kalahi-CIDSS started, the project staff had a hard time gathering the residents together. According to Teacher Cherry Santiago, it was difficult to conduct barangay assemblies at first. She said, “*Kailangan mo pang ipatawag isa-isa ang mga tao, tapos kakaunti pa ang nag-a-attend* [You had to invite the residents individually, and even then, only a few would attend].”

Since then, conducting barangay assemblies is no longer a problem. Teacher Cherry Santoyo, the principal of the elementary school, proudly shares that their attendance rate is at least ninety percent because the residents have since learned through Kalahi-CIDSS that these gatherings are an opportunity for them to discuss their concerns and how to solve them.

More importantly, they now understand that each of them has a personal stake in helping their barangay develop. Mayor Alvarez says Kalahi-CIDSS opened the eyes

“Sa Kalahi-CIDSS, dumami ang friends, at dahil dumami ang friends, tumaas ang cooperation.”

of the LGU and the residents to the reality that “development is a shared responsibility.”

Editha Labsan, who is one of the Procurement Team (PT) volunteers of Kalahi-CIDSS, says with conviction that the Project opened their eyes to their community’s needs. When asked if she preferred having sub-projects constructed by contractors versus having these directly undertaken by the residents, she was unequivocal in her stand that she preferred the latter.

She says: “*Baka kung contractor, sub-standard. Kapag kami, sigurado ang quality* [If a contractor did it, their work may be sub-standard. If we do the work, we can be assured of the quality].”

“*May transparency sa Kalahi-CIDSS* [Kalahi-CIDSS has transparency],” she says, referring to the project’s thrust to ensure that everything in the sub-project implementation--from handling of funds to construction to maintenance of the completed sub-project--is open to public scrutiny, whether they are coming from concerned citizens or third-party groups and individuals.

Editha’s sentiments were echoed by Lolo Simon, who says, “*Sa Kalahi-CIDSS sigurado kami* [In Kalahi-CIDSS, we have assurance].”

This self-assurance, as described by Josie Basa, a teacher in Mangorocoro Elementary School, is because the residents have a personal stake in their Kalahi-CIDSS sub-projects.

She said, “*May sense of ownership ang community* [The community has a sense of ownership for these].”

Teacher Josie shares that the reason why she served as one of the Kalahi-CIDSS volunteers in the construction of the school building is because she knew she had a role to play in helping her community.

“This is part of my legacy. *May parte ako sa proyekto* [I have a part in the project].” She continued, “Generations will benefit from this project,” a strong

statement coming from someone who works in a profession that ensures the protection of future generations.

Kalahi-CIDSS did not just mobilize the residents to work together, it also made them more sensitive to the different needs of the citizens. One such example is regarding gender.

Teacher Cherry says, *“Ang mga babae nag-pa-participate na. Nakakatulong na sila sa komunidad sa pamamagitan ng proyekto* [Women now participate. They are able to help out the community through the project].”

The participation of Teacher Cherry and Teacher Josie, as well as of others who have helped in the implementation of the school building project, also played a role in helping protect residents from Typhoon Yolanda, because the structure was used as one of the evacuation centers following the storm.

Teacher Josie is responsible for managing the bank account used for the operations and maintenance of the school building.

“Medyo nabasa [It got a little wet],” she said, smiling sheepishly as she presented the passbook, explaining how the status of the booklet, which was slightly damaged because of the torrential rains brought by Typhoon Yolanda. She said that some funds in the account were taken out for minor repairs to the school following the storm.

Continuing partnership between Ajuy and Kalahi-CIDSS

Ajuy, Iloilo is no stranger to Kalahi-CIDSS. The municipality has been implementing this since 2004, almost from the time of the project’s inception in 2003.

The implementation of Kalahi-CIDSS has earned Ajuy several recognitions, including a DSWD award for being a model LGU in practicing participation, transparency, and accountability for two straight years in 2011 and 2012.

Mayor Alvarez says that the main reason why Kalahi-CIDSS is so successful in Ajuy is because it was able to capacitate and empower people to actively participate in local decision-making processes.

He says, “The people are given the capacity and power to decide instead of simply waiting.”

He describes how Kalahi-CIDSS has taught the residents that their involvement is important, “It influenced their way of life. The people became assertive because they know what is best for them more than anyone else.”

Mayor Alvarez concludes: “[Kalahi-CIDSS] taught them to dream again.”

This statement is part of the grand narrative of Ajuy. From being a fourth-class municipality in 2001, it has since been re-classified as a second-class municipality in 2009, the change, Mayor Alvarez attributes in large part



Former Barangay Captain Rogelio Labsan says the sea wall helped save their village from being washed out during Yolanda

to the interventions introduced by Kalahi-CIDSS.

Since the start of the partnership between Kalahi-CIDSS and Ajuy, 115 community sub-projects have been constructed in the municipality, all of which address needs for basic services. These small-scale infrastructures include school buildings, day care centers, health stations, and water systems.

When asked if Ajuy can stand even after Kalahi-CIDSS leaves the municipality, the residents were one in saying that they can, because they have already embraced the community-

driven development strategy and will work doubly hard to ensure that they will continue following the processes instituted by the project.

According to them, disasters will not keep them from working together as a community. On the contrary, community-driven development (CDD) has helped them respond to problems better, because they were able to help each other in the recovery operations in the aftermath of Yolanda.

One volunteer sums up this love appreciation for CDD, saying, *“Na-in love na kami sa Kalahi-CIDSS* [We are in love with Kalahi-CIDSS]!”

Village folks built sea wall that saved them from 'Yolanda'

If there is one thing that Nelida Balaes, 31, is thankful for at the time when Typhoon Yolanda hit the country, it was the fact that they had a sea wall that protected them from the surge.

"Kung wala iyong sea wall na iyon, washed out na itong barangay,"

-Honesto Balaes



"Kung wala iyan, tapos na kami (It would have been the end of us if the sea wall was not there)," Nelida shares.

It was the predicted intensity of the typhoon that prompted the local government to impose a forced evacuation on the night of November 7 in areas along the storm's path.

On the eve of the typhoon, the families living near or along the coastline of Barangay Minuhang in the Municipality of Barugo, Leyte were asked to evacuate. While they all complied with the order, they tried to accomplish one thing before the typhoon hit the country: they worked as much as they could on their sea wall, a project undertaken through the DSWD's Kalahi-CIDSS.

They knew that given the predicted intensity of Typhoon Yolanda, they needed all the help they could get to keep their homes – and their lives – protected.

Typhoon Basyang

Their fears were not baseless. Maricel Velasco, 30, shares, Brgy. Minuhang was severely affected by Typhoon Basyang in 2010.

"Noong Bagyong Basyang, umakyat talaga iyong tubig (The water rose during Typhoon Basyang)," she narrates.

Moreover, in the past, the mildest inclement weather had triggered problems in Brgy. Minuhang. During

high tide, it is common for seawater to enter the homes of the residents.

These problems prompted the community to identify the construction of a sea wall as a necessary sub-project to address their most pressing need. They did not want to experience the same terror elicited by Typhoon Basyang in the past, so they strove to do as much work for their sub-project as they could on the eve of Typhoon Yolanda in order to fortify their village.

On November 8, 2013, their worse fears happened. From their vantage point at the evacuation centers, some of the residents witnessed the wrath of the super typhoon.

Saved by the sea wall

Nelida shared, *"Lumampas sa seawall ang taas ng alon nang mga two feet (The height of the waves were higher than the sea wall),"* no mean feat considering the height of the sea wall.

Recalling what they went through, Honesto Balaes, 54, says, *"Kung wala iyong sea wall na iyon, washed out na itong barangay (If the sea wall was not there, the barangay would have been washed out)."*

It was the wish of the residents of Brgy. Minuhang to keep their village protected from the seas, so when Kalahi-CIDSS provided them the opportunity to do just that, they jumped at the opportunity.

As a community-driven development (CDD) program, Kalahi-CIDSS seeks to help citizens rise from poverty by providing them the appropriate training and resources so they themselves can have the power and the capacity to pursue their own development.

When Kalahi-CIDSS came into the picture, the residents of Brgy. Minuhang immediately identified the sea wall construction as the sub-project they needed the most. Neither did they show reluctance in volunteering to ensure that the sea wall be erected as planned.

When asked why she served as a Kalahi-CIDSS volunteer who helped work on the sea wall, Nelida says: *“Para sa ikakaupay ng barangay (For the betterment of the community).”*

Because of the CDD strategy of Kalahi-CIDSS, the residents did not just get a sea wall, they were also able to get a lot of other things from the project.

“Madami kaming nakuha sa Kalahi-CIDSS (We gained a lot from Kalahi-CIDSS),” Honesto says. *“Nagka-proteksyon ang barangay. Nagkaroon ng hanapbuhay iyong mga nag-labor. Nagkaroon ng pagsasama-sama ang mga tao. Natuto ang mga volunteers na mag-manage. Nagkaroon kami ng sapat na kaalaman (The community was protected. Income-generating jobs were given to those who provided labor. The community members became united. The volunteers learned about management. We gained knowledge).”*

Nelia Colata, 47, cannot help but agree, particularly in terms of participating by providing labor--having served as one of the laborers herself--hauling rocks to be used for the construction of the sea wall.

“Dati, ang babae, akala ko, hindi kaya ito. Iyon pala, kaya ko rin ang kaya ng lalaki (Previously, I thought women could not do [this kind of work]. It turns out, I can do what men can too),” she says with pride.

The volunteers even ensured that the quality of their sea wall would not be compromised, even if they were also the ones who actually constructed the structure.

Honesto shares: *“Watchdog kami. Binabantayan namin ang pag-implement (We serve as watchdogs. We monitor how it is being implemented).”*

Such was the community’s dedication to Kalahi-CIDSS, that they enforced the rules strictly, to ensure that the residents would take part in this.

Nelia explains: *“Iyong mga taga-barangay, nagsabi na kung hindi maga-attend ng Kalahi-CIDSS barangay assembly, may multa na P500 (The members of the barangay agreed that those who would not attend Kalahi-CIDSS barangay assemblies should pay a fine of P500).”*

She added that they also used the same rule to ensure that the Family Development Sessions of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, the

Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program of the DSWD, would also have good attendance.

Their efforts paid off. Even if the waves rose above the sea wall when Typhoon Yolanda hit, the structure suffered minimal damage.

Still, the residents remain vigilant. Honesto says that when the community identified that the minor damage to the wall was due to the lack of a culvert, they reached a consensus to add one, even if it was not part of the original design. This was subsequently approved by the engineer of the Kalahi-CIDSS team assigned to the town.

Extension

However, the problems of Brgy. Minuhang are far from over. Nelida expresses hope that their sea wall can be extended to cover the entire length of the barangay along the shoreline. They estimate that only twenty-five percent of that distance has been constructed so far.

Imelda Piñaranda, the barangay secretary, agrees. *“Ang areas ng barangay na walang sea wall, either na-wash out ang ilalim ng bahay, o nawala talaga (The areas of the barangay that were not protected by the sea wall either had the floors of their homes washed clean or were washed out completely).”*

She shared that her home suffered the latter, completely destroyed during the super typhoon. That is why she,

along with the other residents of the barangay, hope to be able to extend their sea wall.

“Ma-protektahan sana ang buong barangay (Hopefully, the entire barangay will be protected),” she says.

The Kalahi-CIDSS volunteers who worked on the sub-project are proud of what they have accomplished, even if the sea wall has yet to be completed.

Honesto sums up what he and his fellow volunteers felt: *“Mawala man ako, proud ako na masasabi kong isa ako sa nagpakahirap para sa barangay (Even if I will no longer be around, I am proud to say that I was one of those who worked hard for our barangay).”*



Nelida Balaes and Maricel Velasco proudly show off the sea wall they built themselves through Kalahi-CIDSS which helped keep their village safe from Yolanda



Bridge of love built through DSWD's Kalahi-CIDSS links communities closer together

The San Juanico Bridge is known as the “Bridge of Love” because it connects Samar and Leyte.

However, residents of a barangay in Barangay Cabadsan in Alangalang, Leyte want to vie for this title for their small bridge – a two-barrel box culvert. According to them, this structure, which was built through Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS), a program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), is the true “bridge of love”, because it is a testament of how their community has shown its devotion for their families and for their village.

LOVE FOR COMMUNITY

Before Kalahi-CIDSS became part of their lives, the people from the village proper and the sitios of Barangay Cabadsan had nothing to do with each other – and they preferred it that way. While there was no open hostility between the two, there was an undercurrent of tension present, with one group believing that the other thought too highly of itself.

Cristina Gatila, 43, a resident of one of the sitios, described the former situation. *“Dati snob ang mga tao [The people were snobs before]”*, she said with a cheeky grin.

As a program that utilizes the community-driven development (CDD) strategy, Kalahi-CIDSS provides citizens from the poorest municipalities across the Philippines trainings so they can gain knowledge and skills to access resources and implement sub-projects that will help them address their community’s most pressing needs. As such, when it entered Barangay Cabadsan, the residents had to learn to work with each other if they wanted to solve their village’s problem.

Their concern was no laughing matter: the river, which separates the barangay proper from the sitios, rises when it rains, so much so that it threatened to inundate the main road when it overflows.

Cabadsan not only had access problems when it floods, the villagers were also vulnerable to health and

safety problems. They are often left with no choice but to cross the rushing waters, as the school and most job opportunities are on the other side of the village.

Erosion was also a problem, as the rushing waters ate away at the soil.

This was why the residents of Barangay Cabadsan were willing to set aside their differences to work together to construct their box culvert. As Kalahi-CIDSS volunteers, they spent their time and energy in ensuring that they would be able to complete their sub-project.

Marilyn Asis, 49, who served as the Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee Chairperson (BSPMC), the de facto head of the Kalahi-CIDSS volunteers, explained that their hard work is for their own benefit.

She said, *“Wala po kaming suweldo, pero para sa amin rin naman ito. Habangbuhay sa amin ito [We do not earn any salaries from this, but we are doing this for us. We will have this for eternity]”*.

Describing their efforts as a “shared sacrifice”, Barangay Captain Herminohildo Salazar said that by working together, they were finally able to transform their dreams of having a bridge into reality.

For a lot of the volunteers, the best part of working together is the fact that they actually got to know each other, which dissolved the tension



between those living in the barangay proper and those from the sitios.

Looking slyly at her companions, Vicky said with a grin, *“Dati hindi nila kami pinapansin. Ngayon, sabay-sabay na kami kumain [In the past, they ignored us. Now, we eat together].”*

LOVE FOR FAMILY

Friendship was only one of the things that Vicky is thankful for with the construction of the bridge.

As a mother, her biggest concern in the past was keeping her children safe from disease. She saw for herself how the other kids in the barangay became afflicted with schistosomiasis and other waterborne diseases because they were forced to cross the rushing waters to get to and from school.

Describing the difference of their condition, she said, *“Wala nang problema mga tao kahit umuulan.*

Kahit tumaas ang tubig okay lang [People no longer have any problems even if it rains. The situation is okay even if the water rises].”

She added, *“Bilang ina, wala na akong takot na magka-sisto mga anak ko. Diri na sila dali-dali magkasakit, kaya wala na problema pang-schooling [As a mother, I no longer have fears that my children will have schistosomiasis. They will not get sick easily, so they will not have problems with schooling]”*.

This is a particular concern for Vicky. Like the other 124 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (Pantawid Pamilya) beneficiary families in the barangay, her children need to comply with the school attendance requirement to remain part of the program. With the construction of the box culvert, going to their classes will no longer be challenging for them.

LOVE FOR LEARNING

Vicky's children are not the only ones who have gotten the chance to learn through Kalahi-CIDSS. Their mother, as well as the other volunteers, was able to pick up lessons through their participation in the program.

"Nakagamit ako ng akong utak, nang akong ulo [I was able to use my brain, my head]", Vicky declared proudly, describing how she was part of the team that prepared the proposal on their box culvert. She also shared that unlike before, she was no longer shy in facing people, because she learned to interact with them as a Kalahi-CIDSS volunteer.

Marilyn is also thankful for the lessons she learned in the program. As an elementary graduate, she never expected that she would be put in a leadership position, a role she was given as the BSPMC chairperson. She recalled how nervous she was when she was made to sign her first check for their sub-project, as the funds for its implementation are managed by volunteers.

She shared, laughing, *"Pinapirma ako ng tseke na malaki. Naisip ko, 'Baka pa ako ma-presyo! English pa ito! Baka sumabit ako!' [I signed a check that bears a large amount. I thought, 'I might go to jail! This is in English! I might get into trouble!']"*.

Marilyn said that she asked the Kalahi-CIDSS area coordinator and community facilitator to teach her, something that she is proud of.

Gemma Lebanete, 65, is another Kalahi-CIDSS volunteer in the barangay who is proud of what she accomplished. She said, beaming, *"Kaming mga lagas gumawa dito [We, the old people, worked on this]"*.

Their appreciation for the box culvert is such that they took the initiative to plant shrubs and flowers near the culvert.

"For tourism", Gemma said with a twinkle in her eye.

The volunteers' participation in Kalahi-CIDSS also enabled them to learn about proper management of resources.

Describing the program as "financially efficient", Herminohildo said that a culvert worth PhP 1.2 million was constructed previously. However, instead of improving their living condition, it only made it worse, as the infrastructure was not constructed properly, as it restricted the water flow. As a result, the upper portion of the barangay became prone to flooding.

In contrast, their Kalahi-CIDSS sub-project, which cost PhP 1.67 M, addressed their needs properly while being environmentally compliant. Furthermore, the community's efficient utilization allowed them to construct a canal connecting to the culvert to further reduce the risk of flooding. Even with this, they still managed to save PhP 144,000 from their allocated funds.

The community is also discussing the allocation of a PhP 5,000 budget for the operations and maintenance of their box culvert, which will be mainly used for clearing of any debris that may block the waterways, as well as repainting the culvert.

The experience also taught them about ensuring quality in the construction of infrastructure sub-projects. The care they put into the construction of the box culvert protected them when TS Yolanda hit the country.

Herminohildo said, *"Kung wala iyong box culvert, madaming patay. Tataas ang baha at hindi makakarating dito ang relief goods [A lot of people here would have died if the box culvert was not there. There would have been flooding, and the relief goods would not have reached us]"*.

As it were, the box culvert, which the residents built as a community, was able to withstand the impact of the strongest typhoon to hit the country.

Vicky Sayson, one of the volunteers, attributes the durability of the culvert to the fact that they were the ones who built it. She said, *"Baka bumagsak pa iyong tulay kung contractor gumawa. Kumbaga, hilaw siya [It might have collapsed if a contractor had built it. It would have been sub-standard]"*.

Cristina agreed with Vicky's sentiments, saying *"Mas matibay iyong sa amin [Ours is tougher]"*.

TRANSFORMATION

The lessons from Kalahi-CIDSS, as well as the box culvert itself, have brought transformation to Barangay Cabadsan. Gemma shared that she now has dreams for their barangay, one of which involves conducting Zumba classes for senior citizens at the plaza.

She said that she would not have dared to think of that prior to the construction of the box culvert, but because access is now much easier, she can now think of other recreational activities for the other residents of Barangay Cabadsan.

She said, *"Naisip lang namin ito nung naayos na iyong daan kasi nagawa na iyong culvert [We are now able to think of these because the road is now better with the construction of the culvert]"*.

Through Kalahi-CIDSS, the residents of Barangay Cabadsan are able to put their love for their families and their communities into practice. It is in their participation that they grew to love the program as well.

Vicky said, *"Ang daming project na ang dumating, ito lang ang talagang nagustuhan namin [A lot of projects have been implemented here, but this is the one that we truly appreciated]"*.

With a wide grin, Marilyn declared, *"The best ang Kalahi-CIDSS [Kalahi-CIDSS is the best!]"*



Tying together
livelihood with
environmental
protection

Uplifting lives through convergence

DSWD Projects Improving Lives in Nasidman

THE success story in the lives of the villagers in Barangay Nasidman in Ajuy, Iloilo, illustrates the synergy that comes from DSWD’s three major programs: the Kalahi-CIDSS (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services), the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, and the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP).

Kalahi-CIDSS provides funding for the installation of 150 artificial reefs in the village in 2004 aimed to address the declining fish catch in the coastal waters of Nasidman.

Residents make money from the sea by drying the fishes they catch. The dried fish-making business is a lucrative source of income in the village, particularly for women. This livelihood gets a boost from the DSWD through the SLP, which provides capital assistance and capability building to villagers, who formed themselves into groups to borrow capital and to start their own income generating projects.

There are five registered associations in Nasidman. One of these associations is composed of women, who are also Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries and at the same time, Kalahi-CIDSS

community volunteers. Currently, there are 40 household beneficiaries of conditional cash transfer in the village.

The income of women, who are into dried fish-making business, are augmented by the P1,400 cash grant from the national government that is specifically for the improvement of health and educational needs of their children.

The effectiveness of the combined government assistance and supports in livelihood initiatives for the residents of Nasidman is seen in the much improved way of life in the coastal village.

Coastal restoration increase fish yield

For villagers who depend on fishing as the primary source of living, the protection of coastal waters is very

significant in their food security, livelihood and environment.

The Nasidman coastal waters are fished beyond its limit that the fish species of sardinella and mackerel do not even have the chance to breed, grow and replenish their stocks. Thus, in 2004, the villagers proposed the installation of 150 artificial reefs with Kalahi-CIDSS funding in 2004.

After nine years, the villagers are harvesting the fruits of their discipline and dedication. Not only did their fish yields increase, but they also helped protect the marine resources of the municipality.

Rogelio Azuelo recalls that prior to the project, fishermen can only catch about one to two kilos of fish in one fishing trip, and a kilo sells at P20 to P30 only – an amount not even enough to buy a ganta of rice for his family’s meal.

“Kon may pamilya ka indi gid kaigo ang imo kita ilabi na gid kon may gina paeskwela ka nga mga bata (It is not sufficient if you have a family, more so if you have children in school),” says Azuelo.

But with the project, their yield reaches five to 15 kilos of fish, especially when the abos or greyfin croacker are in abundance.

Aside from tabagak (Golden Sardines), there is also an abundant stock of tanigue or narrow-barred mackerel and other species, he adds.

The 57-year-old village councilor Rogelio Balsomo agrees with Azuelo

and recalls that before they only used hook and line in catching fish, *“Diutay lang gid amon makuha (We have a little catch).”*

Fishermen’s observations on the fish yield before and after the installation of artificial reefs was affirmed in the Artificial Reef Monitoring Report of the Municipal Agriculture Office.

In the April 2013 report of Agricultural Technician Ma. Theresa Rodriguez, it states, the average fish catch in Nasidman using the hook and line reached to 5-10 kilos a day or 2.7 tons per year.

The average fish catch before the installation of artificial reefs is only one to two kilos per day or .5 tons per year using the same fishing gear. There is an increase in the average fish catch of 2.2 tons.

Currently, the average fish catch using gillnets posted at 10-15 kilos per day or 4 tons per year. It is much higher compared to previous years when the daily average fish catch is only one to two kilos per day or .5 tons per year.

The same report confirms the presence of nine other fish species in the island after the installation of the artificial reefs. Before, only fish species like Latab (Common Silver Biddy), Lagaw (Pale finned Threadfin Bream), Oposan (Lattice Monode Bream), Aso-os (Silver Sillogo) and Tabagak abound in Nasidman. But this time, species of Kugaw (Forefinger Threadfin), Abo, Gingaw, Dalopani (Common Pony fish), Alatan

(Painted Sweetlips), Baho-Ulo (Giant Trevally), Tanigue, Sapsap (Splendid Pony fish), and Lansang-Lansang (Forter’s Barracuda) also abound in the waters of Nasidman.

“Now we are using motorized banca and nets in catching fish outside the Marine Protected Area (MPA),” he says.

“*Daku nabulig sa amon sang artificial reef sang Kalahi-CIDSS* (The Kalahi-CIDSS artificial reef project greatly helped us),” he says, adding that aside from being able to send their children to school, the villagers are also able to repair their houses.

In Barangay Nasidman, most of the houses have second floors and are made of concrete materials or mixed materials of concrete and bamboos.

Thriving livelihood

The villagers continue to exude strong determination to uplift their lives from coastal poverty, primarily through dried fish-making business.



Fisherfolk dry their catch. They are now able to catch more fish when Kalahi-CIDSS implemented an artificial reef sub-project in Brgy. Nasidman in Ajuy, Iloilo

The process of drying fish, Balsomo describes, starts with the soaking of the fresh tabagak in salt and water solution immediately after the fishermen reach the shore.

After about seven hours, they rinse the fishes in salt water and place them in kapil – a large mat-like piece of rectangular bamboo where approximately three kilos of fish are dried under the sun.

Once dried, the tabagak is segregated according to sizes, placed in wooden boxes and shipped to Manila and sold for a much higher price.

Village Kalahi-CIDSS volunteer May Babac shares how the Kalahi-CIDSS project helped improve their daily income. She remembers how fishermen have to go to the middle of the sea, even beyond the MPAs just to try their luck for a good catch.

Beaming with pride, while putting the dried fish in a wooden box, Babac says they sell the dried fish for P65 per

kilo for distribution in Manila or in the local markets by the local retailers who frequent their village.

Babac says their daily income can buy them rice for the whole family while the capital they received under the Self-Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran (SEA-K) program aids them in their small business of buying fresh sardines from fishermen.

She says as a mother she has to venture into dried fish making business to augment the cash grants of P1, 400 they availed from the government to further address the health and education needs of their children.

Babac’s three children, Shara Marie, a Grade 4 pupil at the Nasidman Primary School; Almer; Grade 6 at the Barrido Elementary School and Miah, First Year high school at the Pili National High School are beneficiaries of the conditional cash transfer.

Artificial reefs

The restoration of fish habitat coupled with discipline has made a significant effect on the coastal waters of Nasidman.

Leandro Celedonio recalls the construction of the artificial reefs. The reefs are made of cement and formed into modules. The modules are loaded in a bamboo raft and dropped in the sea.

He explains that each module is tied tightly and divers oversee whether they are in correct position. Bamboo twigs are added to the modules to allow the

algae to grow and serve as food for the fishes and other marine life.

The 30-year-old Celedonio says the sea is their life, thus, it is imperative for them to protect the coastal waters, especially against illegal fishing. He says at first, they could not see the immediate results of the fishery management efforts implemented in the village.

The fishery management efforts include compliance to fishery laws which prohibit the use of fine mesh nets and other forms of destructive fishing in protected areas between the Calabasa Island and Nasidman.

Celedonio says fishermen have to control fishing within the protected areas to protect the fish habitat. To remind them of the ban, a marker is placed in the area where there is a fishing ban. In these protected areas, he says fishing is allowed for tourism purposes only and fishermen have to use the hook and line instead.

Every month, the Nasidman Fisher folks’ Association hold a meeting to discuss the initiatives aimed at protecting their coastal waters. It is also during these meetings when the association decides to drop additional bamboo twigs to enhance algae growth, says Celedonio.

At the end of the day, every fisherman in Nadisman agree that the village’s efforts to use traditional reef fisheries method generated positive results and fisheries management became the business of the whole village.

Prepared and equipped for climate change

The members of the community used to rely on their pathway, made of bamboo and wooden materials, to get around and about the neighborhood of Barangay Darumawang, in Lala, Lanao del Norte. It was a challenge for them, treading the narrow pathways, constantly at risk from slipping into the muddy waters below because the lightweight materials are not suited to carrying the load of residents using the passage daily.



Residents at Brgy. Darumawang, Lala, LDN are now enjoying the safety of this Elevated Concrete Footpath completed by volunteers under the Kalahi-CIDSS Project. The walkway, a far cry from their previous path (made up of loose wooden and bamboo materials) will finally shield the community from unpredictable Sea Level Rise. The introduction of this technology is in line with Climate Change Adaptation methods that would ensure the community of safety from any harm Panguil Bay may bring.

The community, situated between the coast of Panguil Bay and waterways comprising the rich fishing grounds of the Municipality of Lala, thrives on fishing; reason enough for the community to adapt to their environment, no matter how perilous and hard it is to live in a barangay surrounded by water.

Lala is considered to be one of the region's top sources of seafood (crabs, shrimps, bangus or milkfish, etc.)—a blessing the people of Lala associate with the richness of their waters. For the majority of coastal communities and barangays located in and around rivers and fish pens, living near their source of livelihood is necessary so as to protect their fish cages and be as near as possible to the river's mouth connected to the Panguil Bay, the area most likely to be teeming with marine life.

Fermin Buray, barangay chairman of Darumawang, shares the challenges people of Brgy. Darumawang face every day. "Ang among pagpuyo dinhi tubag kini sa kalisod. Kasagara sa among mga ka-barangay gikan sa mga pamilya nga nabuhi sa pagpanagat. Sila usab, mao may namat-an, mao pud ilang gisudlan nga panginabuhian (Poverty is the reason why we live under these conditions. Majority of the residents here come from fishing families. Since they have been raised

as fisherfolk, they take on the craft of fishing as their source of livelihood)."

The people of Darumawang bear no qualms about their living conditions. They say that it is their choice to live in their community, all because they still believe that being in Darumawang is better than migrating to another barangay where they will then need to adjust to a different environment and different living conditions.

Chairman Buray says: "Wala kami problema sa abot sa panginabuhian dinhi sa among barangay. Ug walay sud-an, mangisda lang mi sa among palibot. Lisod na ug mamalhin kami kay kasagara area sa uban barangay aduna nay nanag-iyá sa mga fish pond – aduna nay naka-angkon sa mga nindot nga platar nga pwede panagatan (We do not have any problems in terms of our livelihood here in our barangay. You could just fish anywhere and catch something to eat for the day. It would be hard if we move to another place because most barangays are already occupied by other fishermen. Fish ponds and strategic fishing grounds are already owned by other fisher folks)."

Danger is part of their everyday lives at Darumawang. Every step they took down the pathway was a risk. They have stopped counting the number of casualties that have taken the 6 feet or

so plunge down to the waters below. But the narrow wooden pathway posts a serious threat to the children in the community. Kids have smaller feet, too small that they get stuck between planks, causing them to fall into the water below.

Another problem is the unpredictable sea-level rise, brought about by climate change. Add to that surging, strong waves that make the elevated footpath less stable.

The chairman says: *“Ang lisod lang gayud kay delikado na ang among agianan kay kawayan ug kahoy lang baya among latayanan. Tubig ang ilalum sa among mga balay mao kinahanglan taas among panimalay ug ang mga agianan. Sa panahon nga mosulod ang mga bata sa skwelahan, maluoy mi kay maglisod sila ug latay sa agianan labi na sayo sa buntag nga daghan sila magka-tabo sa gamay nga agianan. Daghan na pud bata nga nahulog diha sa tubig* (The only downside of living in our barangay is the walkway around the community. It is made up of bamboo and wood planks, and we have to live with it since our community hovers above the water, so we have to elevate our houses and our walkways. During school days, our children have a hard time traversing the walkway, especially during the early morning, when a lot of people are using the narrow footpaths. There have been a lot of kids who have fallen into the waters below).”

If only a solution was possible to address the problems of Barangay

Darumawang. If only there was a way to ensure safety for all the people of Darumawang...

The solution came through a Community-Driven Development Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Kalahi-CIDSS. Through this poverty reduction program, sub-projects that address the most pressing problems identified by the community (through a barangay assembly), are funded and implemented by the community.

Marlito Canton, Barangay Sub-Project Management Team chairperson, knew then and there when he attended the municipal orientation, that this was the solution to their problem. During the 2012-2013 Kalahi-CIDSS Cycle, the community left nothing to chance, as they all actively participated in the Community Empowerment Activity Cycle (CEAC), the set of activities that all brangays have to navigate to achieve the objectives of the program.

“Nakita namo nga dakong tabang ning maong programa sa kalisod sa among barangay mao nga kaming tanan mi-suporta sa mga aktibidades sa Kalahi. Walay pagduha-duha, ang among lataayanan mao ang napili nga maoy among sulbaron pinaagi sa PSA (Participatory Situational Analysis). Wala gayud kami nagdahum nga maapil mi sa ma-priority para makakuha ug pundo. Mao nga adtong nag-implement na mi sa pag-himo sa sementado nga footpath, tanan gyud ang nitabang (We saw the huge opportunity the program gave in solving the problems

of the community, that was why all of us supported all activities of Kalahi-CIDSS. There was no doubt that the pathway was the major problem in our barangay, that is why it was ranked first during the conduct of the PSA. We never thought we would be prioritized for funding; that is why during the implementation, all of us helped cement the footpath in our barangay),” Marlito says.

The solution came through a Community-Driven Development Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Kalahi-CIDSS. Through the Anti-Poverty Program, sub-projects that address the most pressing problems identified by the community (through a barangay assembly), are funded and implemented by the community.

Barangay Darumawang was able to complete 556.4 linear meters of concrete elevated footpath, with 4 feet elevation from the ground and water below, and 1.3 meters wide, inter-connecting homes, establishments, and institutions around the community. This was a feat achieved by the community. The community members stood as

one in solving their most pressing problem and ensuring safety for everyone.

With the sub-project, safety issues and the lurking challenges of climate change will be addressed. The sub-project, an adaptation of sorts to secure the people in the community, was a success brought about by the community’s resolve to find a solution to their problems.

Marlito beams: *“Kami nga mga pamilya nga nabuhi sa gasa sa kadagatan, lisod mobiya ining gigikanan sa among panginabuhian. Ug wala miabot ang Kalahi-CIDSS sa among barangay, moabot ang panahon nga maghinay-hinay ug kahurot ning mga lumulupyo aning among barangay kay dili na maantos ang kalisod sa among pagpuyo, labi na karon nga dili na masabot ang kondisyon sa kadagatan ug sa panahon. Apan salamt sa Kalahi, nahatagan kami ug bag-ong paglaom nga makapuyo nga produktibo ining among barangay* (Our families have lived enjoying the gifts of the sea. It is hard for us to just leave our source of livelihood. Without the help of Kalahi-CIDSS, some of us would most probably one by one leave our barangay because of the hardships we face due to the situation, especially now that the seas are unpredictable and the weather conditions are erratic. Thanks to Kalahi-CIDSS we were given new hope to live productively in our barangay).”



HIGH-VALUE FISH. Village chief Froebel Miroy shows a red snapper catch in the coast of Brgy. San Isidro

DSWD constructs artificial reef, brings new life to fishing community in coastal Aklan town

In the space of one year, significant changes were already seen by the residents of Barangay San Isidro, Ibajay, Aklan ever since artificial reefs were realized through the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS), one of the poverty alleviation programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The artificial reef project was implemented by Kalahi-CIDSS through a grant from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

Fishy disappearance

In the past, Barangay San Isidro had rich fishing grounds, as attested by Brgy. Kagawad Vicente Espiritu.

“Daw ginapangayo lang namon ang isda sa lawod (It was as if we only asked the waters for fish)”, said Vicente, who has been fishing since he was 16 years old.

However, he said that sometime in 1988, fish such as *aloy* (bullet-tuna) and *hasa-hasa* (short-bodied mackerel) disappeared.

According to Agrifino Costan, one of the residents in the community, the destruction of coral reefs due to illegal practices such as dynamite and cyanide fishing, caused the gradual disappearance of the fish.

“Naglaas ang mga isda kay nagkalaguba ang mga coral reefs wala na sila istaran (The fish fled. Because the corals were destroyed, they lost their habitat)”, Vicente said.

This, in turn, had a major effect on the livelihood of the fisherfolk in the community, which comprised of 86 households, as the once-rich fishing ground degraded.

Agrifino said the fishermen had to spend money to buy more gasoline just so their motorized bancas can

navigate to other barangays. They also had to spend more time in the waters just to catch fish.

Despite their efforts, they only produced little yield. At times, they went home with only one kilo of fish as their catch.

With their primary livelihood failing, a lot of the fisherfolk had to resort to other jobs such as carpentry and farming, on top of fishing, just so they could support their families.

Bringing back the catch

The Barangay San Isidro residents, particularly the fisherfolk, keenly felt their loss, which was why they identified the installation of artificial reefs as their community project under the Kalahi-CIDSS.

Kalahi-CIDSS is a DSWD program that seeks to help alleviate poverty through the community-driven development (CDD) approach, a strategy that puts power back in the hands of the people by giving them the opportunity to make informed decisions on locally identified options for development and manage resources to implement sub-projects that address needs identified by communities themselves.

With the setting up of the artificial reefs through Kalahi-CIDSS, the fishing grounds of Barangay San Isidro is well on its way to going back to the way these were in the past.

Francisco Casungcad, one of the fisherfolk in Barangay San Isidro,

succinctly described their improved situation: “*Nagbalik na sila sa amon* (They have returned to us)”.

In fact, their situation has become even better. According to aquaculturist Christian Deza, who conducted an underwater survey of the San Isidro fishing grounds, there has been “recruitment of new fish species” in the array of concrete artificial reefs drop in the fishing grounds. From 16 species, there are now 21 around the periphery. Snappers, surgeon fish, and jacks are among the new fish species in San Isidro, high-value fish that are allowing the fisherfolk to earn more than they used to.

Describing the results of his underwater survey as “impressive”, Deza also identified some of the other fish species in the fishing grounds as *matang baka* (scad), *dalagang bukid* (fusiliers), *lapu-lapu* (grouper), *salay-salay* (jack), *managat* (snapper), and *tamban* (sardine) in his report.

He also found ornamental fishes such as *manapulok* (scorpion fish), *alibangbang* (butterfly fish), *palata* (damsel Fish), and *labayan* (wrasse).

Barangay captain Froebel Miroy confirmed Deza’s report, saying that new fishes like *maya-maya* (snapper) are now caught by Barangay San Isidro fisherfolk. He said that there are even fish species in their fishing grounds that he could not identify, given that these were not present there in the past.

“*Bihira naming ito mahuhuli noong*

una (we seldom catch this kind of before)”, he said.

Froebel said that some fisherfolk elect to sell their catch in Boracay, wherein high-valued fish cost at least P180 to P200 per kilo.

This was confirmed by fisherman Franciso. He and his companion were able to catch a 5.5 kilos yellow fin tuna and 4 kilos *balilin* (Crevalle) during an overnight fishing expedition.

A buyer awaited them at the shore, ready to buy their catch for distribution in the local market. They got P130 to P140 per kilo from the buyer. Should they have sold their catch at the local market, they would have earned about P180 to P200 per kilo.

Vicente, who owns a motorized banca, says he is now able to send his five children to school because of the improving fish catch in their coast. He says he does not have to borrow money from a loan shark because his income is now enough to support his family.

Prior to the setting up of the Kalahi-CIDSS artificial reefs, he had to resort to farming and construction work to earn enough money to support his family.

Schooling the residents in taking proper care of their artificial reef

Deza encourages the villagers to develop measures to protect the site where the concrete artificial reefs were installed, such as the imposition of fishing restrictions in covered areas.

He advised them to make the effort to protect the area where the artificial reefs are positioned to preserve this.

“The artificial reefs serve as shelter to juvenile fishes. If fish stocks are allowed to recover, more fishes would actually be caught in the next few years,” he said.

A former seaman, Froebel said he fully understands the importance of the artificial reefs on the biodiversity as well as on the livelihood of the people. As part of the requirements of their implementation of Kalahi-CIDSS, the citizens formed an operations and maintenance committee, which will lead the initiatives in protecting the

fishing grounds where the artificial reefs are installed.

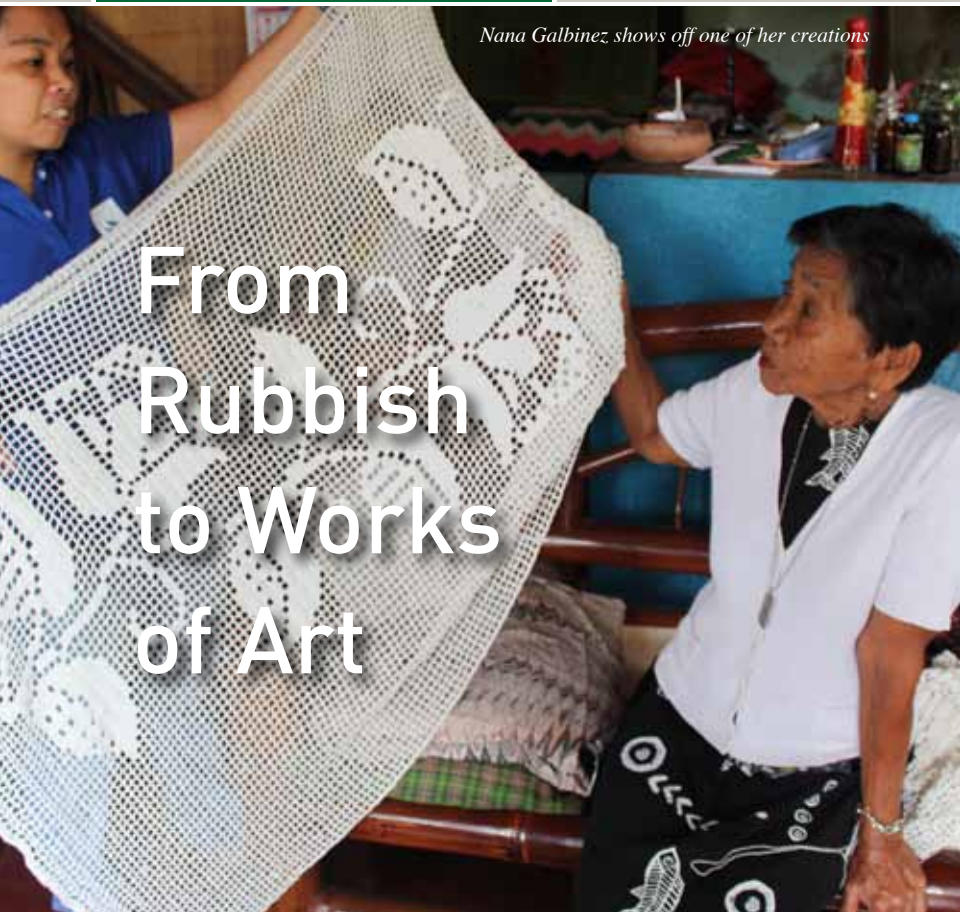
The barangay council is also preparing a resolution declaring portion of the site as marine protected area, he said. People must be educated on the importance of the concrete artificial reefs. “*Kailangan pangalagaan nila ang kalikasan. Isang paraan ay i-educate lang ang mga tao* [We should take care of our environment. One way to do this is by educating the people]”, he said.

For more information about Kalahi-CIDSS, please visit <http://ncddp.dswd.gov.ph>.



Fisherman Francisco Casungcad's day catch, 5.5 kilos of yellow fin tuna and 4 kilos mamsa

Nana Galbinez shows off one of her creations



From Rubbish to Works of Art

There is no doubt that Filipino creativity is among the best in the world. Over time, Filipinos have captured the attention of the world with limitless imagination and originality. The Filipino has been admired in the field of the arts and crafts, coming up with extraordinary works, making simple materials interesting.

In a world where people waste more than what is required for sustenance, having to come up with ways to dispose them is difficult.

But how about taking trash and turning it into something useful? It would be great not just for the people who throw away the waste, but also for Mother Nature. Tomasa Baptista Galbinez has come to perfect this art.

Tomasa Baptista Galbinez, or Nana, as she is fondly called in their community, is a retired teacher and a community volunteer for the Kalahi-CIDSS Project in Poblacion, Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte. At 83, she is among the oldest of the project's community volunteers. She has been a volunteer for three years, but not even once has age been a problem for her—even if being a volunteer requires one's physical presence in the field, eating up time and energy.

Nana has found passion in volunteering. She said that in volunteering, she has found her purpose, since she believes that one's existence is given meaning by what one does. It was through Kalahi-CIDSS that she had a chance to develop another passion: art.

“When we were doing our Drainage Canal sub-project for Cycle 2, I noticed that we were using a lot of cement. Since I was monitoring the project daily, I had some ideas on how to minimize the trash we had in the area,” Nana said.

There were between 40 to 70 sacks used per day, and what others would

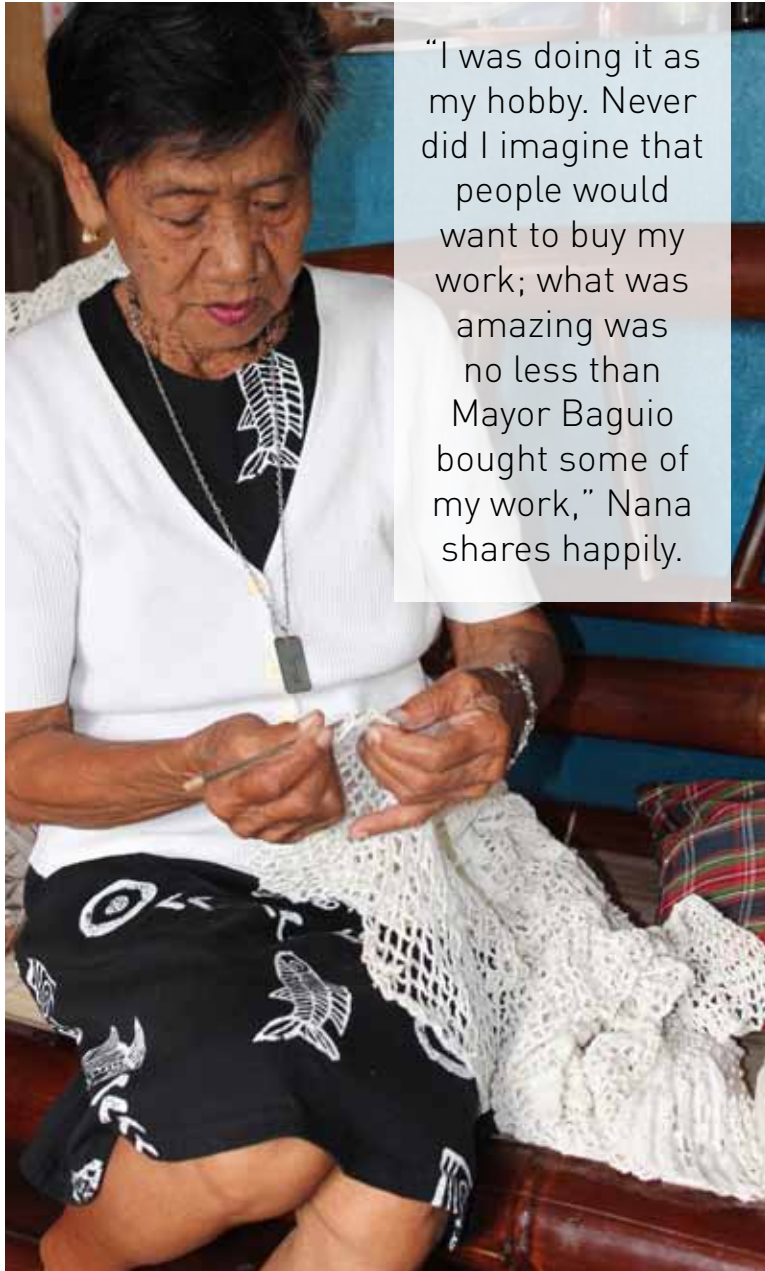
Tomasa Baptista Galbinez, or Nana, as she is fondly called in their community, is a retired teacher and a community volunteer for the Kalahi-CIDSS Project in Poblacion, Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte.

see as garbage, she saw something else. She noticed that the yarn used in sewing the cement sacks closed were similar to the twine she used for knitting, something she loves doing. She then collected all the sacks used and collected all the yarn from the sacks and kept them until they were enough to make a knitted masterpiece.

After she was able to collect enough, and right after she finished her job on the field volunteering, she would work on her masterpieces at home. During the second cycle of implementation alone, she was able to make four knitted table covers and three scarves with intricate designs.

During the third cycle implementation, she was able to do more; even Kapatagan municipal mayor, Atty. Benjie Baguio, was ordering table covers from her, because he found the designs unique.

“I was doing it as my hobby. Never did



“I was doing it as my hobby. Never did I imagine that people would want to buy my work; what was amazing was no less than Mayor Baguio bought some of my work,” Nana shares happily.

I imagine that people would want to buy my work; what was amazing was that no less than Mayor Baguio bought some of my work,” Nana shares happily.

But she did not stop there. She noticed that the inner covering of the cement sacks were made of material similar to that used in making brown envelopes, but were sturdier. She made use of the material, making envelopes out of them, using them to file Kalahi-CIDSS documents. She even shared the envelopes with other barangays implementing the project.

Other volunteers in their community were amazed with how Nana was able to do all those things at her age. They were inspired by her resourcefulness. “I am doing all of these because I believe our community will benefit from Kalahi-CIDSS. I can do what

I love with Kalahi-CIDSS...and I get materials from the garbage of the project,” Nana jokes.

Indeed, Nana was able to do things she definitely loves while volunteering for Kalahi-CIDSS. It is amazing how an old lady could stay under the heat of the sun all day, monitoring progress of the sub-project, and right after that, still have the energy to do what she does best: knit. Her contribution to Kalahi-CIDSS is priceless.

Nana has ensured that their sub-project implementation was kept environment-friendly by limiting waste materials produced in the area. But above all, she made the most of her contribution to the project by simply being an inspiration to everyone. Just like her masterpieces, she leaves people in awe of how well she has lived her life. In service.



Nana Galbinez shows one of her finished products to her fellow volunteers in Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte



Improved
community
life

Battling poverty by building disaster-resilient communities

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness that strengthening resilience to disasters is not only about disaster management but an essential component of all emergency and development programming. Communities with sustainable infrastructures that provide livelihoods, good levels of health care, and access to quality education are less susceptible to hazards. However, it is also important that these development projects are protected from disasters.

Parent Teachers Association (PTA) members, laborers, and community volunteers render their free service to excavate and clear the area to continue the construction of the elementary school building in Pangsi, Kumalarang, ZDS.



Even before institutionalizing the disaster risk reduction by way of introducing the Thematic Environmental Management System (TEMS) as part of Kalahi-CIDSS implementation, a number of municipalities have already been integrating environmental safety measures in building community sub-projects in the countryside.

The municipality of Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur was among the awardees for Best Practice in Promoting Community Environment and Awareness because of its sub-project constructed last February 2013 in Barangay Pangsi.

Barangay Pangsi is one of the poor barangays of Kumalarang, lacking classrooms to accommodate all of its elementary school pupils. The community has expressed its intention to access funding assistance from KC-AusAID for the construction of one unit of a two-classroom elementary school building. The said project, worth Php 1,414,821.40, was funded by Australian Aid for International Development (AusAID), now known as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), with local counterpart contributions coming from the BLGU, MLGU, and the community.

Since the identified project site is an upland area, landslides present a substantial threat to students and educators alike. During the construction of the sub-project, landslides at the rear of the building hampered the operations and delayed the completion of the sub-project.

The municipality of Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur was among the awardees for Best Practice in Promoting Community Environment and Awareness because of its sub-project constructed last February 2013 in Barangay Pangsi.

After identifying the need to prevent the same incident from occurring in the future, a series of consultation sessions were held at the community level to ensure the stability and sustainability of the sub-project. Three options were presented to the community: benching with installation of coconut husk net, riprapping, and soil bioengineering techniques. Technical personnel had assessed the characteristics of the soil prior to finalization of the slope protection concept. The team decided to employ the latter option, wherein there is benching with vegetation control, or nearly similar to the LIVE FACINE techniques to support failing slopes or to reduce slope angles and allow other vegetation to be established.

Kalahi-CIDSS is a community-driven development project that aims to empower communities through their enhanced participation in community projects that reduce poverty

Melchor Verallo, Kalahi-CIDSS Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee Chairperson shares how this particular project is different and special compared to other community projects: *“Kahit na di kami na-prioritize sa pondo ng Kalahi-CIDSS, dito, sa tulong ng AusAid, ‘di lang kami natuto gumawa ng proposals, mga paglihok sa papeles, dito, may bago kaming kanang nakat-unan kung paunsaon ang pag-construct sa usa ka building nga stable, dili ma-apektuhan sa kalamidad* (Although our proposed project was not prioritized under the Kalahi-CIDSS fund, still, with the help of AusAID, we learned not only how to make proposals, to process documents, but we also learned

how to construct a stable building which will not be easily affected by disasters).”

The TEMS is an initiative to address the need to increase awareness and action to address environmental issues. The challenge among DSWD staff is to pursue building the attitude of the community to be resilient against disasters and develop sustainable ways that will support the growth of their community through Kalahi-CIDSS.

KALAHI-CIDSS is a community-driven development project that aims to empower communities through their enhanced participation in community projects that reduce poverty.



The actual completed 1 unit 2-classroom building of Pangi Elementary School landscaped through Soil Bioengineering Technique with benching and vegetation

DSWD program helps make Samar community stronger, wiser

“May times na gusto na naming sumuko.”

-Mario Vinceto



Near-defeat. Mario Vinceto almost gave up as the head of the KALAH-CIDSS-MCC Procurement Team for Barangay Inobangan in San Sebastian after suppliers backed out following Typhoon Yolanda

Yolanda abounds with stories of loss and destruction. Many have fallen hard after the storm.

Barangay Inobangan in San Sebastian, Samar, however, is a different case. Even though it was also hit by the super typhoon, the residents did not allow the disaster to overwhelm them. Instead, they used it as an occasion to grow stronger as a community, with the help of the Kalahi-CIDSS, one of the programs of the DSWD in partnership with the Millennium Challenge Account (MCC).

Looking at the face of defeat

After the supertyphoon hit, prices of construction materials skyrocketed due to the high demand for large-scale repairs and infrastructure recovery work. This held true particularly in Eastern Visayas, which was hit hardest by the typhoon, resulting in US\$22.6 million worth of infrastructure damage in the region.

The people of San Sebastian found themselves faced with this situation. A Kalahi-CIDSS sub-project, the construction of a .7-km path, suffered when their previously-contracted supplier backed out because materials simply ran out.

The procurement team volunteers, led by Mario Vinceto, 42, nearly gave up. Their canvass for supplies failed several times, almost forcing the volunteer procurement team to surrender.

“May times na gusto na naming sumuko [There were times when we wanted to give up],” said Mario.

They were eventually able to find suppliers, but in January 2014—two long months after Typhoon Yolanda hit.

Still, the experience produced a lot of good results. Since the community had prior experience with Kalahi-CIDSS, having implemented a project the previous year, they were able to further develop their procurement skills. The barangay is now looking into formally adopting the procurement system that they learned through Kalahi-CIDSS because they want to increase the involvement of residents.

The residents also became more confident in their skills in identifying materials with high quality and in the actual construction of sub-projects—even those that are not under Kalahi-CIDSS.

Antonieta Abaygar, 58, who served as the Barangay Sub-Project Management Chairperson (BSPMC) for their path walk sub-project, says that people are now more confident and stringent about standards of sub-projects. *“May nakita ang isang volunteer na na-damage ang kalsada. Agad sinabi, “Nasira ang kalsada. Magkaka-findings iyang supplier. Kung Kalahi-CIDSS iyan, blacklisted na iyan [One of the volunteers saw that part of the road had been damaged. He said, ‘The road is damaged. There will be findings on the supplier. If this was a Kalahi-CIDSS sub-project, the supplier would already have been blacklisted]”*.

Employment

Residents have gained many other things through their involvement in Kalahi-CIDSS. For instance, women were able to earn as laborers during the construction of their path walk. This was something new for them, as it was more common for them to stay at home rather than work, especially in construction.

Priscilla Jabonete, 41, who served as one of the laborers, says: *“Dati, lalaki lang ang nag-li-labor. Ngayon, diri na... Ang mga babae, puwede na magtrabaho ayon sa kakayanan* [Previously, only men did construction work. This is no longer the case. Women can now work based on skill].”

The female laborers received the same salary as the men, which they used to help support their respective families.

Elita Pacayra, 25, and a mother of two says, *“Okay ang trabaho kasi nakakadagdag kita para sa pamilya* [The work is good because it helps us earn for our families],” adding that she uses the money to buy food for her family.

The job opportunities for women in Barangay Inobangan through Kalahi-CIDSS-MCC do not end there. Earlier this year, the barangay was one of the communities that was awarded a Gender Incentive Grant (GIG).

Through the GIG, interested women are provided skills trainings in construction work such as welding, plumbing, electricity, masonry, and carpentry.

As a barangay of a 6th class municipality with 57 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino partner-beneficiaries, the job generation as a result of the trainings will be a big help to these families in need.

More economic opportunities

The path walk itself will lead to greater economic opportunities for the villagers. Inobangan is primarily a farming community, with 77 of its 108 households involved in this industry. Before the path walk was constructed, farmers had to hire porters to help them bring their crops to the market at P20 per sack—already a sizeable sum, considering their meager earnings. To make matters even more difficult,

even a little rain would make the path muddy, so it was difficult and dangerous for them to traverse the path, especially when they were trying to transport their crops.

Path to progress

The path walk will help Barangay Inobangan villagers have improved access to and from their farms and the market.

Due to the construction of the path walk, travel to and from their farms will now be safer and swifter; they will also be able to use the money previously spent on hiring porters to buy more seeds, put food on the table, and support their children.

Residents from neighboring barangays, such as Balugo and Osmeña, will also benefit from the path walk, as they can also use it to travel between their villages and their farms.

Working on the sub-project also gave the residents ownership, motivating

them to take good care of it. According to Priscilla, *“Kami ang nag-trabaho diyay. May share kami diyay* [We were the ones who worked for that, so we have a share in it].”

According to Inobangan residents, volunteering for Kalahi-CIDSS helped tie the community closer together.

Barangay captain Wilma Abaygar, 41, says, *“Ang Kalahi-CIDSS ay pakikipagtulungan, kapit-bisig* [Kalahi-CIDSS is about helping, linking arms with each other].”

Barangay Inobangan proved that even a disaster as strong as Typhoon Yolanda cannot break their spirits as long as they work together as a community.

As barangay captain Wilma Abaygar says: *“Dati, walang pakialam ang mga tao, lalo na para sa kabilang barangay. Nagkaroon lang ng ganyan sa Kalahi-CIDSS* [People used to not care about barangays. This only happened as a result of Kalahi-CIDSS].”



Gender equality. Women form part of the physical labor force working on the construction of the path walk in Barangay Inobangan in San Sebastian, Samar.



Path to progress. The path walk will help Barangay Inobangan villagers have improved access to and from their farms and the market.

KC-PAMANA Day Care Center Restores Dreams



Eduardo T. Elangos, a farmer and one of the procurement team heads in their community, shares that KC-NCDDP has helped him bounce back after typhoon Pablo hit their area.

In December 2012, Typhoon Pablo hit Brgy. San Jose in Compostela, Compostela Valley. It may have ruined the homes, infrastructure, and farms of almost ninety percent of the residents, but not their will to survive.

Eduardo Elangos, 60, a farmer and one of the project procurement team leads, recalls how their community stumbled and gained back their life through Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS). Specifically, their recovery was supported through the program's implementation of the Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan (PAMANA), a peace framework of which the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is one of the implementing agencies, after the disaster hit their area.

Right after the Storm

Prior to the typhoon, most of the farmers lived in a small bungalow in the middle of the rice field in barangay San Jose. As a purok leader, Eduardo saw how their community suffered from measly income obtained from farming.

“Daghan na ko nasinatian na problema sa akong mga kauban sa komunidad, matud pa nila, nay mga adlaw na wala silay kitaon. Dili nila mahatag ang mga panginahanglan sa ilang mga anak, labi na ang matagaan sila ug mayo na edukasyon (I heard a lot of complaints

from my fellow residents. There were days when they earned virtually nothing. They could not sustain the needs of their children, especially providing them with formal education),” he says.

After the typhoon left them with almost nothing, residents thought that no one could save them from the claws of poverty.

“They are more concerned about their children. Since most of the residents here weren't able to finish school, they want their children to go on a different path. But then, even the school that they hoped would be a place for their children to get education has been devastated”, Eduardo says.

To Restore the Faith

“Nawalaan sila ug pagsalig sa gobyerno pagkahuman sa trahedy, kadaghanan diri, gatuo sila na walay gibuhat na pagpakabana ang gobyerno na matagaan sila ug paspas na pagtubag sa ilang mga panginahanglan pagkahuman sa bagyo (They lost trust in the government after the tragedy. Most people here believe that the government ignored them and didn't attend to their needs after the typhoon hit),” Eduardo recalls.

The tide turned in their favor as Kalahi-CIDSS PAMANA granted the residents a unit of a day care center building in Purok 2, Barangay San Jose. On September 3, 2013, the project was approved during the barangay assembly.

Revalidation processes were conducted with the participation of barangay officials, purok leaders, representatives of religious sectors, farmers, and parents to discuss the problems of the community and identify the solutions.

The unity of the community and authority was evident in the construction of the day care center.

Eduardo adds: *“Makaingon ko na nag*

kahiusa gihapon ang among barangay pagkahuman sa kalamidad, ang ilahang kawad-an kay wala nahimong balakid sa pag tinabangay (I can say that barangay residents were united after the calamity, their loss after the typhoon was not a hindrance to them working hand-in-hand).”

Community Benefits and Development

Kalahi-CIDSS is DSWD's community-driven development program that trains the community and their Local Government Units to choose, design, and implement sub-projects that helps them reduce poverty.

Through Kalahi-CIDSS-PAMANA, addressing the triggers to conflict like lack of government attention to poor communities can be realized. At present, there are 50 households in Barangay San Jose who will benefit from the day care center project.

“Kaya namo ang pag bag-0 kay dili lang proyekto ang gihatag sa gobyerno sa among komunidad. Gitagaan pud mi nila ug gahom na mamuno ug makapag desisyon para sa among komunidad (The improvement in our community in terms of infrastructure wasn't the only huge contribution that the government gave. They also gave us the chance to lead and decide for the welfare of our community),” shares Eduardo.

In September 2014, the day care center in Barangay San Jose was inaugurated. With its new facilities, children from the community now move one step closer to their dreams.

Indeed, the government regained the community's trust through Kalahi-CIDSS PAMANA after the devastation brought about by Typhoon Pablo. Now, their children have a better place to learn and will eventually contribute to their community in the future.

Tire path leads to progress for Tanauan

Without the access path road, hunger would have been inevitable for the residents of Barangay Baras in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda.

According to Elizabeth Escagay, 54, their village has long experienced a dearth of support because government and non-government organizations alike find it difficult to access their village.

Patrosina Severino, who was born and raised in the village, agrees. *“Noong bata pa kami, ang hirap ng daan. Sobrang hirap. Kapag tag-ulan, hindi kami makaalis* (Traveling was difficult when we were young. Very difficult. When it was raining, we could not leave).”

In case she needed to travel with her children, she had to bring water to wash their feet after they passed through the rough, muddy path.

Through the DSWD’s Kalahi-CIDSS, the construction of a tire path commenced. They overcame the struggle with hunger and helplessness because the path enabled responders to come to their aid after Typhoon Yolanda hit, providing food and other emergency services.

Improvement

Even without Typhoon Yolanda as a factor, the residents attest that they have experienced the advantages of finally having a good access path to and from the village.

Not only the residents of Brgy. Baras have benefited from construction of the tire path, but also nearby communities, as it provides an alternate route to the Poblacion and to the municipality of Dagami.

This was a major improvement for the farmers, as they are now able to earn more money from selling their produce.

Leah Patanao, 52, a Kalahi-CIDSS volunteer says, *“Dati, doble-doble ang gastos sa pagbiyahe ng mga ani. Babayaran pa ang labor sa paghakot, tapos kalabaw pa ang gamit. Pabalik, pakyawan pa* (In the past, there were so many expenses involved in the transport of our goods. We had to pay laborers to haul our produce, we used carabaos

to carry them. For the trip back, we had to haggle and strike a deal with the drivers).”

Patrosina shares that in the 1970s, they would spend about P5 to bring their goods to the market, which she estimated is roughly equivalent to P50 today--a large sum considering how difficult it is for small-scale farmers to earn it back.

With the new road, farmers are now able to bring their products more conveniently to the market, and this allows them to earn better.

The improved path has now also made life easier for students.

Elizabeth narrates: *“Dati, mga isang oras ang lakaran ng mga bata. Ngayon, 15 minutes na lang* (It used to take children one hour to walk to school. Now, it just takes them 15 minutes).”

She says that students can now also be taken to school on motorcycles; this saves them even more time. Senior citizens now also find it easier to travel to and from the village.

Bayanihan

For all the advantages they are now experiencing due to the construction



The tire path constructed through Kalahi-CIDSS is now helping members of Barangay Baras move toward development

of the tire path, Leah says that the road itself is not the main advantage that they gained from Kalahi-CIDSS. *“Pinakanatutunan namin, pagka-urosa (We learned to work together).”*

Margarito Gimpis Jr., another volunteer, says: *“Obligasyon natin na tumulong (It is our obligation to help).”*

It was this learning that pushed them to clear the road of debris immediately in the days immediately after Typhoon Yolanda, because they knew that access would be the biggest problem for them.

The women even began planting flowers along the sides of the tire path, as they wanted to take better care of their community project.

They also learned to be more vigilant with the resources they have been given. Because they received training through Kalahi-CIDSS on proper community project management, they learned to be more thorough in procuring supplies for their tire path.

These lessons allowed them to extend their tire path, which was originally planned at 1.12 kilometers, by 80 meters--as they were able to save money from the original P2,136,205 proposed cost.

Even with the extension, for which they sought approval, they still had money left over.

“May sobra pa (We still had savings),” they declare proudly.

They also take to heart that they now have the skills needed to implement their community project themselves, as Kalahi-CIDSS provided them with the opportunity to actually work together as a community to construct their tire path.

Leah says: *“Wala na kaming contractor. Kung ano ang dapat sa contractor, napunta sa project (We did not hire a contractor. What costs would have gone to that, we invested in our project).”*

One unintended but welcome effect for some of the residents who served as Kalahi-CIDSS volunteers was that some of them now hold positions in the barangay, as in the case of Gloria Rementalio and Margarito, who are now serving as councilors.

As they narrated, their fellow residents encouraged them to run during the local elections because they saw for themselves the hard work the two put into the implementation of their project.

“Nakilala ako ng mga tao (The people got to know me),” says Margarito with a shy smile.

He says he appreciates the community-driven development (CDD) strategy of Kalahi-CIDSS, saying, *“Involved ang community, nagtutulongan para matapos (The community is involved, we work together to complete the project).”*

He also cited the program’s thrust for transparency: *“Ang programa maupay ang proseso kay nasusunod ang tama*

na sistema (The program has a good process because it follows the right system).”

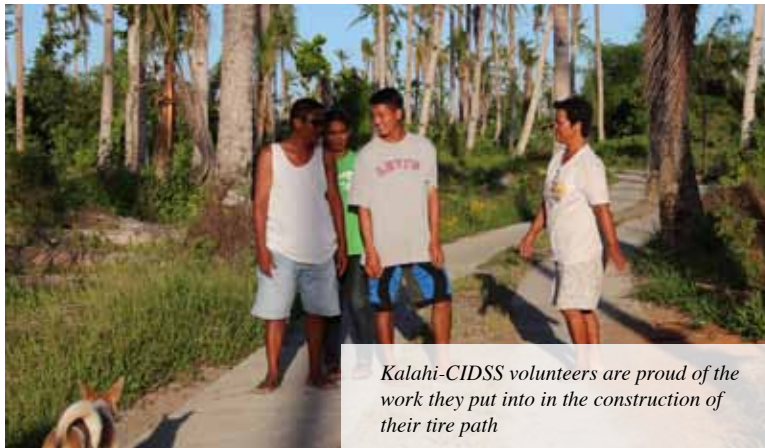
Progress

Both pedestrians and motorized vehicles alike now get to and from Barangay Baras in Tanauan, Leyte with ease

Through the process of the construction of the tire path, the residents of Barangay Baras have changed for the better.

This and the lessons they learned from Kalahi-CIDSS now serve as their hope to improve their lives.

When asked if they would be willing to continue working together to help in the improvement of Tanauan, Elizabeth smiles and says: *“Walang problema ang bayanihan. Sabihan lang kami, magbabayanihan kami (Working together is not a problem for us. Just tell us and we will work together).”*



Kalahi-CIDSS volunteers are proud of the work they put into the construction of their tire path



Both pedestrians and motorized vehicles alike now get to and from Barangay Baras in Tanauan, Leyte with ease

Threatened no more

The effects of climate change are undoubtedly intensifying day by day, so Filipino families face the challenge of how to be resilient amidst uncertain these times. The best way to face threats brought about by these phenomena is by being informed about the necessary facts on disaster risk reduction management (DRMM).

None of us have control over the elements of nature, so individuals and communities are better off preparing for worst-case scenarios. Communities must capitalize on whatever is available and workable, what is doable, so that even ordinary folks can contribute to diminishing the negative effects of calamity.

Experience Dictates Need

Sarah Bihag, a resident of Brgy. Rupagan, Bacolod, Lanao del Norte, still remembers how Typhoon Sendong damaged homes and destroyed livelihood in their barangay. The small creek around their homes was overflowing after just a few hours of rain, leveling anything in its path.

“Gamay raman na siya nga suba unta pero sukad niadtong Sendong, dali nalang siya moapaw kay lahi na gyud ang bagyo karon, kusog na kaayo. Tungod ana, halos dili mi makatulog kung adunay bagyo kay mahadlok mi nga magbaha napud dinhi sa among lugar, basin naa pay mahitabo sa among pamilya (It’s just a small creek, but ever since Typhoon Sendong happened, it easily overflows. Storms nowadays are very different, very strong. Because of that, we have sleepless nights when there is bad weather: we fear that flooding will again hit our houses, even put our families in danger),” Sarah says.



*Before and after:
Foreground – The construction of the Kalahi-CIDSS slope protection sub-project by the residents; Background – the completed structure*



Since Sendong happened, low pressure rainstorms and usual thunder storms would bring flooding in their barangay, even affecting neighboring communities. Residents now want to do something about it, but there was not enough evidence to encourage everyone to spur the neighborhood to concrete action.

Kalahi-CIDSS in Bacolod

Bacolod is one of the municipalities in Northern Mindanao that qualified for the Community-Driven Development Program of the DSWD’s Kalahi-CIDSS. Communities previously availed of five cycles of the Kalahi-CIDSS Program (3 Cycles under the Kalahi-CIDSS:KKB, and 2 Cycles under the Makamasang Tugon)--blessing them with various sub-projects that have proven to be effective in addressing pressing issues of poverty in their communities.

Since Sendong happened, rainstorms and thunder storms would bring flooding in their barangay, even affecting neighboring communities.

Barangay Councilor Yvonne Lacia recalls how two sub-projects were successfully implemented in their barangays because of Kalahi-CIDSS. Barangay Rupagan was prioritized

during the third cycle for KC:KKB, implementing a road gravelling sub-project for their barangay access road and a barangay health station for their KC:Makamasang Tugon first cycle; two sub-projects that have brought immense benefits to the community.

“Medyo gibati mi ug kasubo sa una adtong gipahibalo mi nga wala na mi 3rd Cycle sa KC: Makamasang Tugon kay pahunanay na ang project diri sa Bacolod. Sa kadako sa tabang nga nahatag sa Kalahi sa amo, lisod nga mawala na siya sa amo. Nakahilak gyud ko nga mawala na ang Kalahi labi na nga na love na gyud pud namo ang project (We were really sad when we were told that we wouldn’t have the KC: Makamasang Tugon third cycle implementation since Kalahi-CIDSS was already closing in Bacolod. Considering the assistance that we had been receiving from Kalahi-CIDSS, it was hard to accept it was the end. I really cried about the news because we have come to love the project,” Councilor Yvonne says.

Councilor Yvonne recalls her ordeals and learnings as part of the Kalahi-CIDSS Project. She even credits her being the Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee (BSPMC) chairperson as one of the reasons people trusted in her capacity to lead, ensuring her a spot in the Barangay Council.

Another cycle for a good performer

Life went on for the people of Bacolod post-Kalahi-CIDSS. It was a sad note though that they were

not able to continue with their third cycle for the KC: Makamasang Tugon, which was supposed to be the culmination of the Kalahi-CIDSS Project, but residents in the different communities in Bacolod were more than thankful for the sub-projects they received during the five cycles of Kalahi-CIDSS in their municipality.

But there was something brewing. During the second half of 2013, good news was spreading through the communities like bush fire. Kalahi-CIDSS would be back in Bacolod, and this time, it was special. The National Project Management Office chose Bacolod to pilot the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Modality for Kalahi-CIDSS. The Regional Project Management Office recognized the good performance of the LGU and rewarded it with another cycle using savings generated from unutilized grant funds.

“Prayers were answered”, Councilor Yvonne exclaimed joyfully. It has been almost three years since their last Kalahi-CIDSS implementation, people were still hopeful for another cycle of the project, and this time, their prayers proved effective.

With the thrust of the department in promoting resilience against the tests of climate change, Kalahi-CIDSS would be promoting Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) through Community-Driven Development. Communities would be oriented about DRRM and apply

it in proposing and implementing community sub-projects. Through this, communities living in disaster-prone areas would be able to prepare for the trials of nature.

The communities in Bacolod are already well-versed in the Kalahi-CIDSS implementation, so the pilot implementation was smooth sailing. Communities were able to finish their sub-projects within the allotted time. Now, communities are ready to face the uncertainty. They are already capable of facing calamities with none of the usual fear.

“Tulo na ka kusog nga ulan ang niagi human makompleto among kanal. Diretso na ang tubig paingon sa dagat ug wala na magbaha sa among balay. Karon, makasiguro na mi nga makatulog na mi ug tarong maski pa adunay bagyo, salamat sa Kalahi-CIDSS (Three strong downpours have already happened since we completed the canal. Water went straight to the sea, and we no longer experienced flooding in our houses. Now, we can sleep peacefully at night even if there is a storm, thanks to Kalahi-CIDSS),” Sarah says.

The Disaster Risk Reduction Management Modality of Kalahi-CIDSS has aided communities in Bacolod prepare for the worst trials nature may bring. Nowadays, so many lives and properties are lost during unpredictable weather disturbances, but it is comforting to be prepared for the worst that could happen.



Volunteerism
in the face
of disaster

Suzan's Relief

Suzan and her family almost died in 1995. They even lost their home after that fateful day on November 2.



Saving the living and the dead. The community-managed construction of the drainage system in Zone 2, Puro Batia in Libamanan, Camarines Sur now unclogs the stream in the municipal cemetery that had brought flooding during the rainy season to about 70 households who live in the vicinity.

It was raining for over a week before Typhoon Rosing swept away their house. Suzan clearly remembers how they dealt with the sudden surge of water and ran for their lives. For them, Typhoon Rosing, which hit Camarines Sur on November 1, 1995, was the most destructive storm.

Just before All Souls' Day, Suzan, together with her children, setup their small stall in the municipal cemetery to sell candles, food, and drinks. The weather had seemed to improve until the rain started to pour again during the night, forcing them to pack away their goods.

After returning home, they salvaged their belongings and transferred everything that they managed to pack into their neighbor's house. They were on guard that night because they knew that the condition could worsen after hearing the announcements over the radio and television. Heavy rains started to pour at around eleven in the evening and after an hour, the water had flooded their home. Suzan, whose height is around 5'3", said that the water had reached her chest level by around two in the morning, prompting them to evacuate. They transferred to the barangay outpost just few meters away from their home, to stay for the rest of the night.

She was dismayed to discover that they had to say goodbye to their 11-year-old house that cost almost PhP10,000 when it was constructed.

Suzan Tuazon, now 53, has since relocated to safer ground, but she has not forgotten that decisive moment in her life. Bringing with her the memory

Suzan, whose height is around 5'3", said that the water had reached her chest level by around two in the morning, prompting them to evacuate. They transferred to the barangay outpost just few meters away from their home, to stay for the rest of the night.

of the tragic past, she took part in finding a solution to Zone 2's frequent flooding.

She took part in the construction of their drainage system at the most critical area of Brgy. Puro Batia, considered to be the lowest portion of Libaman, Camarines Sur, and the catch basin of Sipocot, a neighbouring municipality.

Located between the municipal cemetery and in its vicinity some 70 households of Zone 2, Puro Batia is a stream that connects Sipocot to Libamanan. Even during regular rainy days, Suzan says the water level can reach up to knee level and flooding would subside only after a week.

She became one of the community implementers of the drainage system that amounted to Php770,600, Kalahi-CIDSS project of DSWD - which received funding support from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

“Nag-volunteer ako ta gusto kong makatabang na makakuang project ang sumuyang barangay [I became a volunteer because I want to help our community to complete the project],” Suzan says. Since community participation is the main requirement of any Kalahi-CIDSS project, Suzan joined the rest of the volunteers in complying with this; they found relief after the community-managed project was completed this year.

Even the eight-hour wrath of Typhoon Glenda that lashed out at most parts of the Bicol region last July 15 did not endanger the households of Zone 2, Puro Batia because of the drainage system already in place and fully operational.

“Nag-volunteer ako ta gusto kong makatabang na makakuang project ang sumuyang barangay [I became a volunteer because I want to help our community to complete the project],” Suzan says.

According to Suzan, this contributed to unclogging creek and ensuring the continuous flow of water to the adjacent rivers, so as to avoid causing any harm to the villagers.

According to Dir. Arnel B. Garcia of DSWD Field Office V, the MCC provided a total grant of Php614,284,050.00 for the implementation of Kalahi-CIDSS from 2012-2015 for the region.



Rebuilding a Home through Kalahi-CIDSS

At a glance, no one would think that this makeshift house in this hilly part of the town of Batan, Aklan, made of scrap galvanized iron sheets and walls of bamboo and nipa could be a home to a family.



Ethelda Iman's family is sustained by her husband's job of shucking oysters

It is one of the remnants left by Typhoon Yolanda in the province of Aklan.

Yet, the head of the family that lives in this house is slowly healing the scar left by the super typhoon by working as storage keeper for a Kalahi-CIDSS project.

Every day, as she wakes up in the morning, Ethelda Iman, 39, is reminded of the destruction brought about by Typhoon Yolanda to their house. It has been a year, and yet the image of devastation still remains.

Ethelda is a mother of five. Her husband gathers and shucks oysters for a living. She describes their source of income as "Hindi perfect (Not perfect)." Thus, she has had to find ways in order to support her family and rebuild their house.

At first, Ethelda was reluctant to accept the offer from the community to work as "bodegera." However, considering her meager income and the desire to help the community, she accepted the work.

Every day, as she wakes up in the morning, Ethelda Iman, 39, is reminded of the destruction brought about by Typhoon Yolanda to their house.

The constant prodding of the village chief and school principal also prompted her to work as the "bodegera" in the two-classroom

project implemented by Kalahi-CIDSS. The agreement was made after a few details were finalized.

Working at the project site

With no extra hands to help out, Ethelda had to bring her 11-month-old daughter to the project site. "Amo na ang ginpangayo ko sa ila pwede ko dalhon ang akon anak (That is what I asked of them, that I be allowed to bring my daughter to the project site)."

Ethelda narrates how she manages her time at the work site. She says she also brought along the child's playing pen. "Dira ko lang ginabutang ang akon bata kag hatagan ko lang sa pagkaon kag indi palahibi akon bata (I placed my daughter there and gave her food so she will not cry)."

"Kon kaisa ginahambalan ko ang mga workers lantaw- lantawa ninyo anay bata ko kay ginatawag ako ni foreman o may ginaisip ako nga deliveries (There are times when I request the laborers to watch over my child when I am called by the foreman or if I need to check the deliveries)."

She says it takes patience to work at the construction site. Ethelda admits that at times, she gets mad when the laborers fail to wash the construction tools they used, like muddy spades.

However, there are times when she herself does the cleaning. "Kon kaisa nga makita ko sila nga kapoy na ako na lang gahugas kag gatago sang

gamit (Sometimes, I clean the tools, since they are already tired)."

The work at the project site runs smoothly, with the full cooperation of the community volunteers, barangay officials, and teachers of the Cabugao Elementary School.

Income used to rebuild a house

Ethelda says the P150 daily income of her husband, Erwin, is only enough to buy food for the family. The weekly wages she receives from Kalahi-CIDSS are allotted for the construction materials needed to erect and complete the construction of her 14 x 16-meter house. "Maayo lang kay nakaobra ako sa Kalahi-CIDSS kundi kabakal ako amat-amat sang mga materials (It is good that I was able to work in Kalahi-CIDSS, I was able to gradually buy the construction materials)."

She buys pieces of plywood, hollow blocks, and iron bars every week out of her more than one-thousand pesos wage. "Ang supplier sang balas kag bato sa Kalahi-CIDSS project ginapautang man ako (The supplier of the Kalahi-CIDSS's project opened a credit line for me)."

At times, she would ask herself when she will finally have a tiled comfort room. "Nakita ko man sa gina obra nga school building kanami sang comfort room kay tiles ang salog (I saw the comfort room in the constructed classroom and how good it is when the floor is tiled)."

Her family also received four sheets of galvanized iron sheets from a non-government organization. She is determined to finish her house to improve their current uncomfortable living condition.

“Ang supplier sang balas kag bato sa Kalahi-CIDSS project ginapautang man ako (The supplier of the Kalahi-CIDSS’s project opened a credit line for me).”

“Indi man kami pwede ka estar sa kay tatay balay kay mal-am na sia. Hindi ko gusto ma istorbo siya ilabi na gid kon maghinibi ang mga bata ko (We

cannot stay in my father’s house. He is already old and I don’t want to disturb him, especially when my children are crying), she says.

The community never doubted Ethelda’s sincerity and honesty as the person in charge of the warehouse. She heard no accusations from the community of any missing construction materials in the site. *“Wala gid sang nag duha-duha sa akon nga may nadula nga materials nga gin gamit ko samtang gapatindog man ako sang akon balay (No one suspected that I stole materials from Kalahi-CIDSS to construct my house).”*

In spite of the meager income she has received, Ethelda agreed to donate a portion of it as local cash counter-contribution of the community for the classroom building project.



The completed school building, built by the volunteers in Batan, Aklan



Ethelda Iman by her house

Kaya ko ang pagbabago

Ethelda possesses a strong determination to build her new house and at the same time, to help her community. *“Kon gusto mag-volunteer may paraan. May paraan kon paano mo obrahon imo ulobrahon. Kon gusto mo makabulig te mabulig ka eh (There are ways to become a volunteer. There are ways to do your work. If you want to help, you can help).”*

She says a half-hearted person could never have done what she did. *“Kon hapaw-hapaw lang pagbulig ay hindi mo gid maobra ang gin obra ko nga may bata, gabantay pa ako, gasulat may mag abot materials kag gabantay pa sang tawo (If your help is superficial,*

you can never do what I have done: watching my child, recording the deliveries, and watching the laborers).”

At 4:30 a.m., Ethelda is already awake and starts her day by preparing their breakfast. After cooking, she goes to a nearby river and washes their clothes. *“Gapanglaba ako pag nagbutlak na ang adlaw para masanag (I wash the clothes as the sun rises so it is brighter).”*

People also ask her about how she prioritized her work. Her reply to them: determination and perseverance. She says her children will someday benefit from the Kalahi-CIDSS project.



**Kalahi-CIDSS
DISASTER RESILIENCY COMPENDIUM**

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