



Center for Governance

(Center)

2016 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

**I. Project Information**

Project Code	CLPJK
Project Title	Basic Course on Child Rights-Responsive Governance (Public Offering)
Project Start	2016-01-04
Project End	2016-02-29
Project Price	Php 255,000
Client	Various LGUs
Organization	

**II. Project Team**

Project Manager	Jannis T. Montañez
Team Members	Ashley May Alison M. Monsanto, Ma. Narcielyn P. Rizal Leslie B. Ramos, Ismael M. Usman
Supervising Fellow	Ma. Christina R. Valte
Consultants/ Resource Persons	Imelda C. Caluen, Ma. Christina R. Valte, Atty. Anjanette T. Saguisag, Jed Sherwin G. Uy, Dr. Amado R. Parawan, Dr. Reinelda C. Raffiñan, Maria Alpha A. Larga, Maria Luisa T. Bermudo, Councilor Elmer S. Baldemoro, Mayor Liecel M. Seville, Engr. Paulo D. Cagara

**III. Project Details**

Project Description	The project is an offshoot of the previous projects implemented by the Center for Governance's Local Governance and Development Office (LGDO) for the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Child-Friendly Local Governance. While this public offering course is still focused on child rights, it makes use of a new design that centers more on teaching LGUs and other stakeholders how to develop and implement local projects for children.
Project Objective	The course is aimed at equipping local government units and other stakeholders with basic knowledge and skills in developing and implementing local projects in response to the needs and rights of children to survival, development, protection and participation.
Focus Area	Local Governance
Project Type	Training
Regional Coverage	National Coverage



Center for Governance

(Center)

2016 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

**IV. Project Accomplishments**

Key Activities Implemented

Major Outputs

- **Child Rights-Responsive Governance Course Design**

The three-day course design combines lectures and group workshops that center on training key representatives from local government units on how to identify and develop an appropriate and relevant project for children in their locality.

It consists of the following sessions:

**Session 1: Understanding Children and their Rights**

The session centers on discussing the four categories of child rights (survival, development, protection and participation) based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It also tackles important issues affecting children in the Philippines to help the participants better understand the vulnerabilities of children to different forms of human rights violation and abuse.

**Session 2: Mainstreaming Child Rights in Local Governance and Development**

This session gives the participants a better appreciation of the existing policies and mechanisms on child rights governance and the important role played by local government units in ensuring that child rights are protected. The session also discusses the challenges and policy gaps in mainstreaming child rights in local governance and the existing rewards and recognition for child-friendly initiatives. It also includes a sharing of the best practices on children by key representatives of select LGUs.

**Session 3: Designing and Implementing a Child Rights-Responsive Intervention**

This session centers on training the participants how to analyze the situation in their locality and how this and other tools may be useful in identifying and conceptualizing the appropriate and relevant projects for children. It also teaches the participants how to identify measurable project results that should be aligned with the existing standards and targets for a child-friendly Philippines.

The final output of the course is an LGU project concept that is presented to a panel of reviewers, preferably, key representatives from relevant government institutions and child-friendly LGUs.

- **Conduct of the Basic Course**

The Course was conducted on January 18-20, 2016 at the New Horizon Hotel in Mandaluyong City. Seventeen (17) representatives from 9 LGUs attended the course, including Misamis Occidental Board Member Zaldy Daminar, San Guillermo Mayor Marilou Sanchez, Nagcarlan Vice-Mayor Lourdes Arcasetas, and select representatives from the social welfare, health, education, population, planning and budget, and other offices directly working on child rights in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon; Victorias City, Negros Occidental; San Pablo City, Laguna; Quezon City; Valenzuela City and Marilao, Bulacan.





Center for Governance

(Center)

2016 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

DAP President Antonio D. Kalaw Jr. graced the opening program to welcome the participants. He mentioned the series of training on child rights that was conducted by DAP in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Academy's effort to develop this new course design that is now included in CFG's roster of public offering courses.

*Day 1 – January 18, 2016*

Session 1 started with a presentation by UNICEF Social Policy Specialist Atty. Anjanette Saguisag. She discussed the UNCRC with exercises that helped the participants get a better grasp of the principles and select provisions of the Convention. However, Atty. Saguisag was not able to tackle the situation of children in armed conflict and emergency situations. The team was prompted to proceed to the next important issue concerning children, that is, cybercrime which was discussed by Jed Sherwin Uy of the Office of Cybercrime of the Department of Justice. He discussed the vulnerabilities of children to online abuse and other forms of cybercrime because of their easy access to social media. Mr. Uy also used a video material on cybercrime as part of his presentation. The last speaker for Session 1 was Dr. Amado Parawan, the Health and Nutrition Advisor of Save the Children. He presented the highlights of their organization's study on child malnutrition and also emphasized the need for LGUs to prioritize intervention programs for the crucial first 1,000 days of children.

Session 2, on the other hand, had Dr. Reinelda Raffiñan of the Department of the Interior and Local Government – National Barangay Operations Office (DILG-NBOO) and Maria Alpha A. Larga of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as speakers. Dr. Raffiñan discussed the important role of LGUs in making their localities child rights-responsive. She emphasized the mandates and functions of different local bodies and councils and the crucial role of the Local Chief Executives in ensuring that child rights are integrated in local policies and programs. This was supported by Ms. Larga's presentation that centered on challenges in mainstreaming child rights in local governance. She also took the opportunity to discuss the rewards and recognition for child-friendly LGUs including the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance that is linked with the annual Presidential Award for Child-Friendly Cities and Municipalities.

*Day 2 – January 19, 2016*

The participants were provided samples of how child rights may be mainstreamed in local governance and development. Representatives from four child-friendly LGUs: Maria Luisa Bermudo of Davao City's Social Services and Development Office; Councilor Elmer Baldemoro of Naga City; Mayor Liecel Seville of New Lucena, Iloilo; and Engr. Paulo Cagara of Upi, Maguindanao Planning Office discussed the situation of children in their respective localities and how they have successfully implemented programs and projects that protect the rights of children. They also shared about the challenges their LGUs had to face and the lessons they have learned through the years. They have proven that while it may not be easy, their LGUs' hard work and commitment, along with their leaders' political will, can make a difference in achieving genuine and positive results for children.

Session 3 started in the afternoon with inputs from Ms. Maricris Valte, OIC-Director of DAP-CFG's Local Governance and Development Office. She discussed the value of situation analysis, particularly, the process and tools that may be useful for LGUs in understanding the situation and needs of children in their locality, and ways by which they can identify and prioritize the most relevant intervention. The participants also did their own analysis of problems confronting children using the problem tree where the cause and effect relationships among problems are established.



Center for Governance

(Center)

2016 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

Day 3 – January 20, 2016

DAP Vice-President and CFG Managing Director Imelda Caluen discussed the importance of aiming for and monitoring results and how this is relevant when planning and implementing intervention or projects for children. She also presented the country's target results for children based on the National Plan of Action of Children for 2011 to 2016 to give the participants specific examples of the results that they are expected to achieve. They were also guided on how to set their own performance indicators and targets and emphasized the value of baseline-building as a starting point.

The last part of the course was the preparation and presentation of LGU project concepts to a panel of experts from CWC (Maria Alpha Larga), child-friendly LGU Naga City (Councilor Elmer Baldemoro), and DAP (CFG Managing Director Imelda Caluen).

Some LGUs just opted to present the projects that they have already conceptualized in their respective localities, with some refinements of details based on the inputs gained from the course sessions. The rest of the participants, on the other hand, tried to come up with a project concept based on the "perceived needs of children" in their locality. The basis for needs identification was somehow limited because some LGUs were only represented by one personnel and / or without sufficient local data and information to use for the exercise.

The "Ampunan ng mga Bata at Estrangherong Nawaglit (AmBEN)" project presented by the San Pablo team was selected by the panel as the "well-presented" project concept out of the seven LGU outputs. The teams of Malaybalay City and the municipality of Nagcarlan both presented their projects that center on providing a facility for children in conflict with the law. The lone representative from Victorias City, meanwhile, shared about the city's intention to establish a child protection monitoring system through the conduct of a baseline survey in partnership with ERDA Foundation.

The municipality of San Guillermo, given its high incidence of teenage pregnancy, thought of the project, "LAMPPIN" or *Laban Upang Mawakasan ang Pagtaas ng Teenage Pregnancy Incidence*. The Marilao Team, meanwhile, centered on child participation as it presented its plan to organize a children's forum with their mayor.

Quezon City's unified birth registration program was one of the city's priorities for implementation in 2016. This was emphasized by the Quezon City team whose presentation centered on one of the key activities of the said program, that is, the conduct of a seminar-workshop for personnel of private and government hospital and lying-in and maternity clinics, on birth registration procedures and relevant laws.

Valenzuela City's lone participant in this course missed the afternoon presentation.





Center for Governance

(Center)

2016 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

Project  
Impact

The over-all rating of 4.68 shows the participants' positive feedback on the course which, as noted in their written evaluation, has made them understand better child rights and the Philippines' international commitments to protect children; and the good practices, strategies and tools for LGUs to become child-friendly. This may be attributed to the fact that this batch of participants is a combination of "experienced" and "new" in terms of implementing projects for children and / or not usually sent to training on child rights protection. Some participants are from the local social welfare office, education and health, while others are from planning and budget office, civil registry, and from the office of their respective local chief executives. They liked most the LGU sharing of good practices as it gave them practical examples of how cities and municipalities can become child-friendly and how they can sustain their initiatives for children.

The workshop outputs produced by the LGU participants were also reflective of what they learned from the course. The challenge posed to the team to come up with a clear project concept pushed each LGU (even those with just one representative) to deliver the expected output, including the crafting of an appropriate and catchy project title. The participants managed to present their own project concepts despite their limited data and information. What is more noteworthy is that they have recognized such limitation as well as the value of carefully looking at the real situation of children in their locality in identifying and developing a project.

The activity was also an opportunity for some teams to assess the existing program or project they have for children and if it is indeed the appropriate intervention, based also on the feedback of the panel of reviewers. For example, Malaybalay City already has a plan to establish a residential facility for children in conflict (CICL) with the law and has the information to support this. The workshop allowed them to review the details of their plan and its feasibility, given certain limits of the existing law on CICL. The team also got the assurance of CWC (through Ms. Larga, one of the panel members) that Malaybalay can still push through with this project, given the alarming incidence of CICL in the city and nearby areas, and the capacity of the local government to establish and maintain the facility.

It was also evident that the course has taught and guided the participants on the process of identifying and designing a relevant project concept for children. The San Pablo team, for instance, remarked that the course has helped them prepare a clear concept for their plan to establish a facility for children. They have long been planning to present this to their city mayor and it was only through the three-day course that they knew exactly how. One of them was even heard saying, "*Sulit yong P45,000*" (referring to the total course fee that the city had to pay for the three-member team).



Center for Governance

(Center)

2016 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

Lessons

Learned As a pilot run of the new course design, the activity was an opportunity for the team to observe the proceedings and to generate feedback from the LGUs. The following points are deemed helpful in refining some of the sessions, including logistical concerns that may be considered in the next run.

- Discussion on child rights and the salient provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is helpful in setting the succeeding sessions in proper context. The lecture is not a rehash of what the participants may already know about child rights and the UNCRC. The "unfinished agenda for children" and the significance of the Sustainable Development Goals (17 goals) to child rights protection can be part of the interesting discussion and which can also make it more timely and relevant.

Infusing some exercises during the lecture does not only encourage more interaction with the participants. It also simplifies concepts and terms that may be too technical and overwhelming for some. Time is limited, though, and the speaker has to manage it well enough to give sufficient time for equally important topics on child rights and issues.

- Session 1 can also be flexible in terms of selecting relevant child-related issues to tackle. For this first run, cybercrime and child malnutrition were the topics discussed. The speakers' strategy of using new research findings and case stories in the presentation provides statistical and anecdotal evidence, respectively, and may also be used to emphasize the urgency and gravity of issues concerning children. The training team may also try to consider other children's issues that are more relevant to the common situation among the LGU participants. This is quite a challenge, though, since the course is open to all LGUs that may have varied needs and concerns.
- Session 2 is equally important for it is meant to guide the LGUs on how to mainstream child rights in local governance and development. Discussion on the role of LGUs in child rights governance and the standards set for meeting positive results for children at the local level is important in leveling off expectations and concerns between the concerned government agencies and local government units. The sharing of experiences and accomplishments of child-friendly LGUs (both cities and municipalities) is definitely helpful as also cited by the participants in their course evaluation. This translates concepts and standards into specific examples from which LGU participants may also get some ideas which may also be applicable in their own locality.
- Availability of data and other information on the situation of children in the locality is crucial in the course workshop where participants are required to come up with a relevant project concept for children. It is also beneficial to the participants if this session is directly linked with the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) so they can have a better appreciation of how designing and implementation of projects for children may contribute to earning the Seal of CFLG.





Center for Governance

(Center)

2016 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

- Engaging speakers from LGUs (cities and municipalities) outside Metro Manila entails costs for their honoraria, travel, and board and lodging requirements. Nevertheless, it is more important to consider the value of their sharing of good practices on child rights governance. Getting the facts straight from these LGUs adds credibility to the information being shared and stirs up the participants' interest. Also worth mentioning is the common observation and feedback that these resource persons were effective speakers with evident knowledge and experience on the subject matter. Their session is, in fact, considered as the one of the most useful for the participants, as shared in their course evaluation.
- Marketing the course remains a challenge for the team as the minimum number of participants (25), despite the postponement and rescheduling of the course, was still not met. The P15,000 for a three-day training with board and lodging arrangements was still not affordable for many LGUs. The mandatory audit for the Seal of CFLG was not even enough to solicit a sufficient number of course enrollees. For future course run, DAP may want to consider finding potential funders or sponsors for LGUs, similar to DAP's previous project with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), that can shoulder part of the course fee. The flexibility of the course design to allow integration of specific issues on children is also a "come-on" to funding institutions and other organizations with programs for children.

DAP may also want to consider tapping the assistance of the different leagues to disseminate information about the course. This may also help reduce marketing costs, particularly, for the long distance calls and courier service for the transmittal of information and follow-up.

- Setting a more feasible schedule for a public offering course such as CRRG is crucial in ensuring that there is sufficient time for marketing the course, confirmation / enrolment of LGUs, and pre-training arrangements including logistical preparation. December may not be a good time because some LGUs are already busy with the holiday season. January, on the other hand, may be too early for some LGUs to allocate and use budget for training.
- The Center for Governance, particularly the Local Governance and Development Office, needs to keep an updated directory of LGUs using the contact numbers that were also searched and used by the team in sending the invites to local chief executives. This saves time especially when marketing a public offering course to a large market like the LGUs.

V. Attachments

- Summary of Course Evaluation and Resource Persons
- One-point lesson
- News Release for DAP Developments

Prepared by:

JANNIS T. MONTAÑEZ  
Project Manager

Approved by:

IMELDA C. CALUEN  
Center Head