

Sustainable Community Development of Masagana Homeowners Association of Angat, Bulacan

Shelter development assistance | Capability-building / Training services

Location : Angat, Bulacan

Date : March to December 2019;
extended until March 2021

Client : Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association Inc.

Project partners

- Australian Embassy in the Philippines
- Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association Inc.
- Jonjon Sarmiento (community organizer)

Funding support

- Direct Aid Program (DAP) of the Australian Government

Contract / agreement value

- PHP 825,000



Community bayanihan activities by men and women of Masagana HOA during road concreting and facilities construction

Project brief

In April 2019, TAO-Pilipinas was among the awardees of the Direct Aid Program (DAP) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian Government. The Australian Embassy in the Philippines bestowed TAO a project grant to support capacity-building and small infrastructures development at the Masagana resettlement site in Angat, Bulacan. TAO has been providing technical assistance in shelter development to the Masagana community since 2009 (*see related Projects 0902, 1001, 1202 and 1804*).

TAO implemented the DAP project in close collaboration with Masagana Homeowners Association (HOA) Inc. The DAP project aimed to enhance the living condition in the resettlement site by addressing community-identified needs for livelihood development, water supply distribution, and road-right-of-way improvement. Masagana HOA has been incrementally developing the site through supported self-help. Through the DAP project, segments of the road-right-of-way and internal roads were paved with concrete and a 4-story multi-purpose community facility (MCF) and small greenhouse for seedling propagation were built. The MCF houses a community kitchen on the ground floor and a HOA office on the second floor. The third level is a roof deck-cum-livelihood space, while an elevated water tank sits on the fourth-floor deck. Much of the building activities to complete the infrastructures were done through community *bayanihan* or mutual cooperation. The community made eco-bricks and used these as alternative material for the MCF walls at ground level.

HOA capability-building activities complemented the provision of physical amenities. TAO conducted community workshops on permaculture, house extension design, community-based solid waste management, and estate management. Learning about permaculture led to the improvement of the community garden space and increased practice of backyard gardening in many households. Gardening beautified the community surroundings and growing their own crops created supplemental income and food source for families. The HOA has also initiated the formulation of community policies applying lessons derived from the workshops.

DAP project activities were implemented amidst the Covid-19 pandemic and contributed to both community tensions---due to counterpart obligations---and community cohesion---because of the unifying bayanihan spirit. It encouraged a sense of accountability among the HOA leaders who monitored construction progress and marshalled members to actively participate in the project. The project also provided leverage for the community to get support from the barangay local government unit which funded parts of the road concreting component.

Site improvements (especially the road condition) brought about increased mobility and facilitated access to basic services, with more households gaining direct connection to electricity and water supply. The once muddy roads now paved with concrete have hastened delivery of building materials for house construction and offered residents more comfortable passage on foot, especially children walking to and from school. Tricycle drivers became more willing to ferry passengers into the remote site. At end-of-project evaluation, the residents were optimistic that with the improved site condition and physical amenities already in place, more economic opportunities have been opened to them. Plans for developing community livelihood programs are underway as the HOA starts to make use of the MCF and greenhouse.

The DAP project highlighted TAO's participatory approach to project implementation and aided Masagana's physical and organizational development. At its completion, Masagana residents gained recognition from neighboring communities and the local government as they saw the accomplishments born out of *bayanihan*. This sense of ownership and validation now sustains Masagana's commitment to continuously develop their area into a safe and livable community.

Project outputs

- Concreting of road segments
- Construction of multi-purpose community facility and greenhouse
- Cultivation of community garden and backyard gardens
- Community training-workshops on Permaculture, House Extension, Solid Waste Management, and Estate Management

{ End of Project **1904** Profile }