

## ASMPH Learning Experiences in Communities

### *Capability-building / Training services*

**Location** : Lupang Arenda in Taytay, Rizal  
**Date** : August 2019 to June 2020; extended to June 2021  
**Client** : Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH)

#### Project partners

- ASMPH
- Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda (APOLA)

#### Funding support

- ASMPH

#### Contract / agreement value

- PHP 46,000



*ASMPH students assist community leaders of APOLA during a workshop on community-based solid waste management*

### Project brief

TAO-Pilipinas entered into a partnership with the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH) to carry out the school's 2019 Learning Experiences in Communities (LEC) program. The LEC program aligns with TAO's own Young Professionals Formation project that provides venues for university students to engage in community development work. One of TAO's community partners, the Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda (APOLA), was selected as the LEC field immersion site for graduate students taking up Doctor of Medicine and Master of Business Administration. The ASMPH students were expected to complete 240 hours of learning by immersing in the community and coming up with a feasible community project.

Guided by TAO staff, students conducted their first community visit in Lupang Arenda on August 30, 2019. They met with community leaders of APOLA and visited the barangay health center in the area. The students made subsequent visits from September 2019 to February 2020 to firm up their engagement with APOLA, assess the community situation, and plan a community project. The ASMPH students eventually set focus on the sanitation and waste management issue in one purok of Lupang Arenda.

The ASMPH students conducted a community-based solid waste management (CBSWM) workshop in Purok 5 on March 6, 2020. They applied the CBSWM workshop module developed by TAO and emphasized the connection between improper waste management and proliferation of diseases. The workshop was attended by 14 APOLA leaders. The students and workshop participants came up with various action plans focused on CBSWM information dissemination, capacity-building, and coordination with LGUs. Plans to pilot a CBSWM system and distribute educational materials were cancelled at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

By the second year of engagement, the LEC program has shifted to remote methods of student-community interaction and changed project priorities to address pandemic needs. In December 2020, the ASMPH students distributed Covid-19 activity books and gift packets to children in Purok 5 of Lupang Arenda.

### Project outputs

- Provided (7) ASMPH graduate students with guided field exposure in Lupang Arenda community