



TAO-PILIPINAS, INC.

eNEWSLETTER

May - June 2021

FEATURE ARTICLES

Community-led high-density housing: the case of People's Plan

TAO introduces its Low-Carbon Community Innovation

Using GIS to deliver TAO technical assistance

Community-led soil stabilization efforts in Masagana resettlement site

Pagtutulungan sa gitna ng pandemya, ipinamalas sa Lupang Arenda

NETWORK ARTICLES

PHILSSA NCR Cluster explore use of balance housing
TAO members participate in PMPI social media training

YP READING LIST & WEBINAR TAKEAWAYS

How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them
Her City

Building Resilience of the Urban Poor

Digital Security Training

Deep Journey into Laudato Si
and more webinars

YP PULSE & REFLECTION

On sustainability
of community pantries

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PMPI 2022 Elections
Voter's Registration
Campaign

Community-led high-density housing: the case of People's Plan Ville HOA

by Therese Julia

ADEQUATE HOUSING IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT—universal and inalienable, encompassing freedoms and entitlements. According to the [United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights](#), these entitlements not only include security of tenure and non-discriminatory access to adequate housing but also “participation in housing-related decision-making at the national and community levels.”

Participation in social housing

In the Philippines, the government has taken the conventional top-down approach in addressing the housing needs of the country. Despite the existence of [legal foundations](#) that support people's participation, housing projects are developed in ways that fundamentally undermine the level of participation entitled to citizens, especially the urban poor. This is apparent in predominantly off-city resettlement projects that inadequately respond to the needs of the beneficiaries. Often, informal settler families (ISFs) are relocated to far-flung sites plagued with issues like—substandard housing units and the lack of access to livelihood opportunities, basic and social services, and [connective infrastructure](#). [Social capital](#) weakens as communities are split apart. There are also [cases of relocation](#) to flood and landslide-prone areas near a fault line, effectively increasing the vulnerabilities of displaced ISFs.

Housing programs that essentially follow a ‘[one size fits all](#)’ approach tend to overlook the specific context and needs of the people. These programs result in unsuitable, unaffordable, and unsustainable housing—as evidenced by [low occupation and retention rates](#)—that further marginalize the urban poor. For cities ill-equipped to handle the increasing demands of [rapid urbanization](#), informal

settlements as manifestations of inequality continue to grow. In 2018, informal settlers made up [42.9 percent](#) of the urban population in the Philippines; the level of urbanization was at [46.9 percent](#). With urban informal settlers comprising approximately 20 percent of the Philippine population, at least one in five people is denied the right to adequate housing. Conventional methods remain insufficient for the considerable housing backlog in the country. This necessitates a paradigm shift in the government's top-down approach.

In rapidly urbanizing cities where [civil society is active and affordable land is scarce](#), among the alternative and innovative approaches to address the housing need is community-led high-density housing. It is a form of development that utilizes a bottom-up approach wherein the community takes initiative or plays a key role in addressing their

READ MORE: PAGE 2



Exterior perspective of proposed PPVHOA housing project

TAO introduces its Low-Carbon Community Innovation Initiative to partner communities and the academe

by Min-Roselle Malunhao

FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS, TAO-PILIPINAS has been working with the poor to deliver technical assistance in the planning and development of sustainable communities. As climate change continues to pose greater risk for the poor, building climate resiliency with partner communities has become a mission of TAO. Advocating low-carbon

practices and initiating innovations are the current means of the organization to push forward its agenda on climate resiliency and environmental protection. Thus said, TAO officially introduced its Low-Carbon Community Innovation Initiative (LCCII) to partner communities and prospective academic partners last June 9 through an online roundtable discussion.

Low-Carbon Community Innovation Initiative (LCCII) Concept

The LCCII is a two-stage project that aims to increase the awareness and knowledge on low-carbon growth, and develop low-carbon innovation in partner communities of TAO. The project will be a collaboration between the organization, participating academic institutions represented by

READ MORE: PAGE 3

Community-led high-density housing CONTINUED FROM: PAGE 1

shelter needs. It involves participatory processes at the grassroots level providing housing solutions that are responsive to the needs, aspirations, and values of the community with consideration to their priorities and capacity to pay. Through multi-stakeholder engagement, capacity-building, and consensus-building, community-led high-density housing provides the 'informal' urban poor an opportunity to express and fulfill their idea of development.

The case of People's Plan Ville HOA

People's Plan Ville Home Owners' Association (PPVHOA) is a community composed of 200 ISFs currently residing in Binondo, Manila with some of them situated along waterways. Fittingly, the organization's name reflects their vision of achieving security of tenure through people's planning. As defined in the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Act of 2019 (R.A. 11201), "people's plan" is a proposal formulated by the community association that contains a development plan, as well as non-physical components such as livelihood and estate management. The community uses the proposal to negotiate security of tenure, access financing for social housing, and address their housing needs.

Community-led housing through the people's planning process generally involves the following stages: (1) ISF identification; (2) site identification; (3) land acquisition; (4) people's plan formulation; (5) site development and house construction; (6) community guidelines or deed of restrictions formulation; and finally, (7) relocation of the community.

In PPVHOA's case, the high-density housing project is financed through the Community Mortgage Program (CMP) administered by the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC). The project site for the off-site and in-city resettlement of the community is a GSIS property with a total area of 3,164 square meters located in Sta. Mesa, Manila. The proposed housing is a five-storey building that will accommodate 200 residential units, 2 commercial

units, and 3 units for a multipurpose hall. SHFC has already purchased the lot from GSIS, which will be turned over to PPVHOA via usufruct agreement.

Capability-building activities were conducted in preparation for the people's plan formulation. These activities include workshops on BP 220 standards, design and planning guidelines, gender considerations in spatial planning, cost considerations in building construction and site development, understanding technical drawings, and site analysis. The activities equipped PPVHOA with technical knowledge to collectively make informed decisions and come up with a housing solution that addresses their needs, fits their financial capability, and embodies their vision. Learning visits to in-city high-density housing projects (including another community-led housing that executed the people's plan) were also carried out for PPVHOA to gather lessons and inspiration from other communities.

Since the beginning of the people's planning process, PPVHOA has played a central role in carrying out the various stages of the housing project. Taking on the supporting roles are PPVHOA's partner NGOs that facilitate the social and technical preparations of the process: COM as the community organizer, FDUP as the CMP mobilizer, and TAO-Pilipinas serving as the technical consultant. Together, the civil society organizations actively engage with the public and private sectors to carry out the housing project.

Challenges encountered and changes observed

Community-led high-density housing is not without its challenges. Compared to conventional methods, this approach usually requires more time and effort from the community association in terms of consensus-building. Stakeholders carry out multiple dialogues to cover all the bases and ensure the delivery of a suitable housing solution. The community undergoes this exhaustive process of development all the while enduring their daily struggles as urban poor.

Multi-storey housing is also perceived as ill-adapted for the relocation of ISFs mainly due to maintenance issues commonly experienced in such housing type. To address this drawback, estate management serves as a crucial aspect of community-led high-density housing. Capability-building and formulation of guidelines are conducted to ensure proper maintenance of spaces and sustainable management of the building by the community.

Regardless of these challenges, participatory processes like community-led housing remain fundamental in building safe, secure, and sustainable communities. The approach reinforces accountability as each stakeholder is responsible for specific roles essential in project delivery. It also develops a sense of ownership and empowers the community to ensure the actualization of their vision through capacity-building and planning activities. Participatory approach strengthens the sustainability of the project. Although the PPVHOA high-density housing project is still underway, a recent assessment activity revealed that the project has already prompted various verifiable changes in the community. The lessons learned along the way equip the members with further knowledge and skills in making informed decisions about the project. The approach also provides an avenue for their voices to be heard and to exercise collective agency in the development process. Lastly, community-led housing ensures an affordable and appropriate housing solution that is grounded on local realities and preferences by tapping into the community's knowledge of their situation.

Paradigm shift

The enactment of R.A. 11201 has reinforced the policy environment of people's participation by recognizing its importance and providing a clear-cut definition of people's plan. With the rising demands of urbanization, growing inequality, threats of climate change, and sweeping impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that disproportionately affect the marginalized sector, alternative and innovative housing solutions have never been more imperative. Among the most vulnerable are the urban poor who make up a significant portion of the informal sector—the invisible backbone of the Philippine economy. And yet, they are relegated to the fringes and leftover spaces of the city, or worse, displaced to distant sites virtually without livelihood opportunities or basic services. In line with promoting and protecting the right to adequate housing, the government must further institutionalize genuine participatory processes to accomplish its mission of developing inclusive and sustainable human settlements. Ultimately, this will strengthen citizen participation and empower marginalized communities to claim their rightful place in the city.



TAO-Pilipinas conducting a capacity building workshop on building design standards with PPVHOA members.

TAO introduces its Low-Carbon Community... CONTINUED FROM: PAGE 1



its students and faculty members, and TAO's three partner communities namely the Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association (Masagana) in Angat, Bulacan; People's Plan Ville Homeowners Association (PPVHOA) in Sta. Mesa, Manila; and Alliance of People's Organizations in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) in Taytay, Rizal.

The first stage of the project is research which will be spearheaded by the academe. According to the American Institute of Architects, there are six key strategies for reducing carbon in communities: (1) low carbon community planning; (2) transportation options; (3) building efficiency; (4) education and awareness; (5) shift in government policy; and (6) renewable energy supply. These strategies shall serve as guide in determining research topics that are most suitable to partner communities. At the end of this stage, students are expected to produce a research paper and relevant IEC materials and present their research to partner communities to aid in the development of low-carbon innovations.

The second stage of LCCII is the implementation of small-scale low-carbon innovation projects in partner communities. Equipped with various ideas generated from the research stage, community partners shall develop their own low-carbon innovation with technical assistance from TAO and the academic partners. Community project proposals shall consider the following parameters: specificity, time, cost, logistics, inclusivity and replicability, and sustainability.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, all project activities will be conducted online to ensure the safety of all participants. The research stage is initially scheduled from August to September. It will commence with a webinar introducing the partner communities and concepts of low-carbon practices and renewable energy to the students. The implementation stage is set on September to January next year. The project shall culminate with a public forum showcasing the project results and innovations. However, based from the inputs of prospective academic partners during the roundtable discussion, the initial schedule is expected to change.



LCCII Roundtable Discussion (RTD)

To further develop the project concept, TAO-Pilipinas invited prospective academic partners, representatives of partner communities and respective local government units, and community organizers to the LCCII roundtable discussion. A total of 58 participants had attended the discussion with representatives from TAO and its three partner communities, Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), local government unit of Taytay, and various academic institutions. Three academic units from the University of the Philippines-Diliman were represented during the discussion namely UP College of Architecture (UP CA), UP Institute of Civil Engineering (UP ICE), and UP College of Social Work and Community Development (UP CSWCD). Representatives from the University of Sto. Tomas Civil Engineering Department (UST CE), Polytechnic University of the Philippines College of Architecture, Design and the Built Environment (PUP CADBE), and De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde School of Design and Arts (DLS-CSB SDA) Architecture Department were also present during the discussion.

The program began at around 3:00 pm with a prayer and short introduction from all the participants. Architect Angel Sales of TAO-Pilipinas served as the facilitator of the event. The program proceeded with a very informative and insightful keynote speech on climate change and renewable energy technologies from Dr. Laura T. David, current director of UP Marine Science Institute (UP MSI) and a member of TAO's Board of Trustees. Following the keynote speech, Ar. Sales. discussed the project rationale, objectives, methodology, and timeline of

LCCII. In order to contextualize LCCII, leaders presented the background of their communities emphasizing settlement characterization and existing low-carbon practices. Ms. Edelyn Flores presented for APOLA, Ms. Norvie Armeza discussed about Masagana, and Ms. Claire Fajardo shared about PPVHOA.

After the presentations, an open forum was held to get the reaction and insights of all the participants. Representatives from the academic institutions expressed their interest and support for LCCII. Everyone understood the importance and relevance of the initiative. Having had previous engagements with TAO, the prospective academic partners believe that the project will be a fruitful endeavour. Some professors even expressed their intention to invite other partners as well. Nevertheless, some concerns were raised. There are a lot of details that need to be defined. The timeline of activities needs to be re-assessed. Henceforth, the professors asked for another roundtable discussions with each academic institutions to further explore and define project's mechanism.

Although a lot of work has to be done before the project can officially start, all the participants were enthusiastic about the project. Community members expressed their gratitude to the academe for their interest and support to provide technical assistance to the communities. Members of local government units present also backed the project.

The LCCII is still open for interested partners. As the project is still in the process of defining partnership details, other organizations who wish to contribute to the initiative are most welcome. To know more about LCCII, contact its project organizers at yp@tao-pilipinas.org.



Screenshot of LCCII roundtable discussion participants

Using GIS to deliver TAO technical assistance

by Angelus Maria Sales

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) is a set of computer-based systems that handles spatial data to solve real-world spatial problems. This technology has been around since the early 60s but only gained traction in its usage during the 90s. In the [Philippines](#), GIS was used by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) during the 80s for land assessment. It is now a vital tool for the agency in handling spatial data.

At TAO-Pilipinas, GIS was introduced to the organization by GIS specialist and educator Marc Delgado. Dr. Delgado is a graduate of UP Los Baños and Vrije Universiteit Brussel. For the last decade, he has been gradually teaching TAO staff how to use hand-held GPS device and GIS software such as MapWindow, KoboToolbox, and QGIS. Though this has been the case, it was only in recent years that TAO has utilized GIS in the delivery of its technical assistance and oftentimes with the support of other partners.

In 2014, when TAO worked in Manicani and Homonhon Islands for [Project Pagbangon](#), geologist-consultants from Reef to Ridges Solutions used GIS for the geohazard assessment of sites for shelter and evacuation centers. For TAO's community action [planning workshops in Tacloban](#) under the support of Catholic Relief Service (CRS), data validation and mapping was done by GIS consultants Ony Martinez, Janeen Kim Cayetano, and Ian Carlo Zuniga. This was also in 2014 amidst rehabilitation efforts from the devastation of Typhoon Yolanda in the region.

Onward to 2016, Dr. Delgado introduced KoboToolbox to TAO-Pilipinas which then became a TAO's tool for field data gathering. It was used to collect data for construction monitoring and household survey of shelter beneficiaries in Salcedo, Eastern Samar. During the [Financial Enablers Project](#) from 2017 to 2018, TAO also used



CBSWM monitoring per household in Masagana using QGIS by TAO project area team.

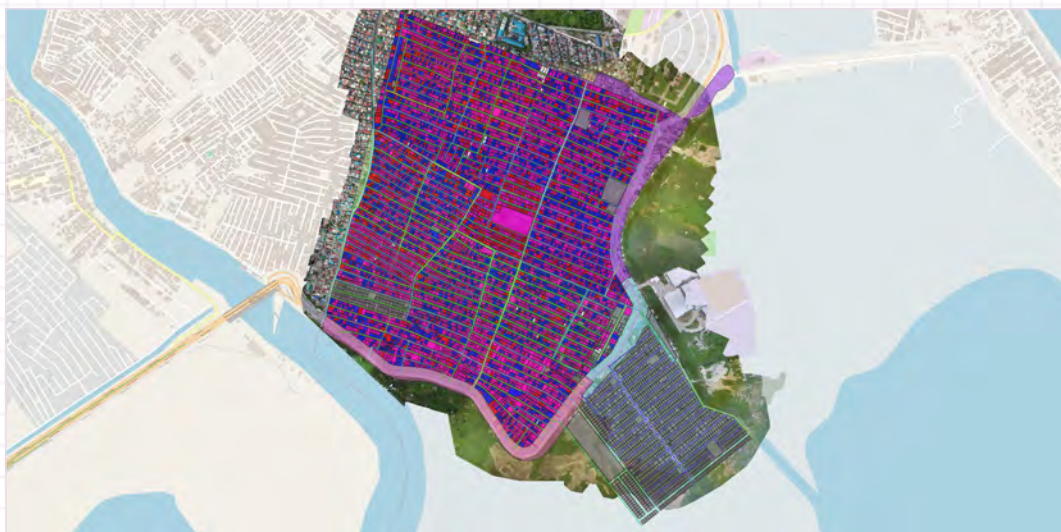
KoboToolbox to gather data on disaster risk reduction and management in four community areas. Maps showing the structural rating of survey respondents' houses were generated from the data gathered. These maps were made by another NGO partner Alterplan.

More recently, GIS was re-introduced to other members of TAO through a staff development training conducted last March ([read March-April 2021 YP Enewsletter](#)). In current project areas, TAO uses GIS in [Lupang Arenda](#) to map the number of storeys of each structure in the community. Printed as-built plans of each homeowners association (HOA) were used by the Alliance of People's Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) to develop color-coded maps showing the building heights (number of storeys) on each lot. TAO compiled these HOA structure maps and digitized them using Autocad and QGIS. The project team is in the process of validating the digitized structures

map, collecting lot owner information, and verifying that the data still holds true.

In Angat, the assigned project team uses GIS to monitor the community-based solid waste management (CBSWM) practices of [Masagana](#) community. Initial data has been mapped showing households that are practicing waste segregation and other type of CBSWM practices like recycling. The project team has initiated a waste characterization study and is in the process of information building.

GIS is a powerful tool that can help in the decision-making process of TAO project teams. Challenges in data gathering and validation face the project teams especially in large communities like Lupang Arenda. A lesson learned is that setting up a system to validate data efficiently must be put in place before implementing GIS. If planned and used correctly, GIS can be a handy tool for data visualization and can surely help improve the delivery of our technical assistance to TAO partner communities and even to other non-profit organizations.



Digitized structures map of APOLA using QGIS by TAO project area team.

Community-led soil stabilization efforts in Masagana resettlement site

by Dessica Marie Salvador

LAND DEGRADATION IS A SERIOUS environmental problem rooted in direct and indirect human activities. It does not only bring damage to agricultural production and livelihood but also affects human health. The most visible effect of degradation is soil erosion which causes a decrease in the ability of the soil to provide essential nutrients to plants—thus affecting crop production. Furthermore, it clogs waterways leading to widespread flooding.

A partner community of TAO-Pilipinas has taken a step in addressing land degradation. In almost ten years of residing in Bulacan, the Masagana of Angat Homeowners Association had observed how the soil tends to dry out and crack during summer and be soft and mushy during rainy days. In the last quarter of 2020, the community had experienced extreme weather conditions such as super typhoon Goni (Rolly) and succeeding tropical storms Atsani (Siony) and Etau (Tonyo) brought prolonged rainfalls in Bulacan. The rain had further weakened the soil. Numerous puddles were formed particularly in lower elevation areas. The soil became too soft and unstable hampering the movements of goods and people in the community. However, it was category 4 Typhoon Vamco (Ulysses) that caused much destruction in the area.

In the early morning of November 12, 2020, the community of Masagana HOA felt the intensity of Typhoon Vamco. Its heavy rains and strong wind destroyed a house made of light materials, blew a few roofs and trees, and damaged the community crops. Moreover, a part of the road in one block

eroded as bamboo trees along the creek bank were uprooted. A week after the typhoon, leaders of Masagana HOA initiated a community-led activity for soil stabilization. Members of the community had planted vetiver along the eroded road and the creek. Vetiver is a type of grass known to enhance water quality, reduce siltation, and rehabilitates degraded soil. Its root system is impressive as it grows more than 2 meters and tolerant to drought. Their initiative did not stop with planting vetiver; they also started a clean-up drive along the creek every three months. The creek enhancement was organized to remove dirt that clogged the waterways caused by soil erosion.

In preparation for the rainy season, the community had planned to erect three tiers of the embankment made of bamboo and plant Madre de cacao, locally known as Kakawate, to fence the compacted soil along the eroded road. The community-led activity was held on May 5 and spearheaded by the community leaders. They plan to continue the initiative and hold the activity once a month. To date, the community has finished piling half of the first tier of the embankment with soil.

Masagana HOA's efforts on soil stabilization is a good example to showcase the power of collective action against climate risk. Hopefully, there will be more community-led initiatives to stop land degradation and build climate resiliency. Our failure to address this pressing matter would only haunt us, giving us little to no chance of fixing things.



A community member planting vetiver along the eroded part of the road.



A community member compacting the soil on the first tier of the embankment.

Pagtutulungan sa gitna ng pandemya, ipinamalas sa Lupang Arenda

ni Vicente "Enteng" Barlos

Si Kuya Enteng ang kasalukuyang presidente ng Alliance of Peoples Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) na isang komunidad sa Taytay, Rizal na katuwang ang TAO-Pilipinas. Kasama ang ibang mga lider ng samahan, pinangunahan nila ang pagbubukas ng community pantry sa anim (6) na purok ng Lupang Arenda.

MATAPOS MASAKSIHAN ANG TAGUMPAY ng Maginhawa community pantry sa lungsod ng Quezon, hindi nag-atubili ang Alliance of Peoples Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) na pakilusang dalawampung (27) organisasyon na kasapi nito. Masusing pinag isipan at inilatag ang plano sa gagawing APOLA Community Pantry sa Lupang Arenda sa kabila ng banta ng red tagging. "Basta para sa layuning makatulong sa ating lugar at wala tayong nilalabag ito ang mga nasambit ng mga miyembro ng konseho ng APOLA.

Ang paglulunsad ng community pantry ay naka-iskedyul ng lingguhan bawat purok. Mula

sa pinagsama-samang ambag na isang daang piso (Php 100) ng bawat organisasyon, nakalikom ang APOLA ng halagang Php 2,700 para sa panimulang pondo ng unang community pantry sa Purok 2. Sa gabi bago ilunsad ang community pantry, nagsipunta ang mga lider ng purok sa Pasig Palengke upang mamili ng mga gulay. Nakakatutuwag dahil kapag nalaman ng mga nagtitinda sa palengke na ang mga pinamiling gulay ay gagamitin para sa community pantry, ibinibenta nila ito sa murang halaga at kung minsan ay may dagdag pa na isang malaking supot ng gulay. Matapos ang masayang karanasan sa pamimili ng mga gulay, ang mga pinamili ay ilalatag na sa mahabang lamesa para sa mga nais kumuha ayon sa pangangailangan.

Ang pagbubukas ng community pantry ay sinimulan sa isang panalangin bilang pasasalamat para sa ang mga pagkain na ipamimigay sa diwa ng bayanihan at paghangad na magpatuloy ang pagdadamay sa panahon ng pandemya. Habang patuloy ang pamimigay para sa mga



APOLA community pantry with food packages for distribution to community members.

READ MORE: PAGE 6

Pagtutulungan sa gitna ng pandemya... CONTINUED FROM: PAGE 5

nangangailangan, nakatataba ng puso na may ilang mga residente na dumaring hindi para kumuha ng gulay o pagkain. Bagkus, sila ay naparoon upang magbigay ng donasyon ayon sa kanilang kakayahan. May ilang nagbibigay ng bigas, de lata, at iba pa.

Isang karangan para sa aming mga lider ng APOLA na masilayan ang kabutihang naidulot ng munting inisyatibo na ito sa mga miyembro ng pamayanan. Nakatataba ng puso marinig ang mga katagang “maraming salamat” at “malaking tulong” mula sa mga natulungan ng community pantry. Ang iba ay naluluha pa habang tinatanggap ang kanilang balot ng gulay.

Datapwa’t kami rin na mga lider ay mariing naapektuhan ng pandemiya, namayani pa rin sa bawat ang isa ang pagtugon sa hamon ng sinumpaang tungkulin na pangalagaan ang pamayanan sa kabila ng aming sari-sariling pangagailangan at banta ng COVID-19 sa kalusugan. Ang lahat ng takot at agam-agam ay aming ipinasa-Diyos na lamang; ika nga sa Matthew 25:40, “Anuman ang iyong ginagawa sa iyong kapatid ay siya ring ginagawa mo sa akin.”

To God be the glory!



Image of Vicente “Enteng” Barlos

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Community solidarity amidst the pandemic (Lupang Arenda community pantry)

by Vicente “Enteng” Barlos

Mr. Barlos is the current president of the Alliance of Peoples Organization in Lupang Arenda or APOLA residing in Taytay, Rizal. Together with fellow officers, he led the organization of the community pantry in their area.

INSPIRED BY THE SUCCESS OF THE Maginhawa community pantry in Quezon City, the Alliance of Peoples Organization in Lupang Arenda (APOLA) immediately organized and mobilized its 27 member organizations. The APOLA community pantry was carefully planned and developed despite concerns of police profiling and threats of red-tagging. Having faith in their words that “As long as we intend to help the people in our community and we are not violating any IATF guidelines, we have nothing to worry about”, the council members proceeded with the plans to establish APOLA community pantry.

The pantry is organized per purok or area in the barangay and scheduled weekly. From the Php100 contribution of each member organization, APOLA has raised Php 2,700 to fund the first community pantry in Purok 2. The night before its inauguration, Purok 2 leaders went to Pasig public market and bought bulk of vegetables to supply the community pantry. It was an uplifting experience for the leaders as they felt reassured by the vendors’ kind gestures. Upon knowing that the goods are supplies for a community pantry, the vendors marked down the prices; others even offered additional bags for carriage. After a joyful shopping experience of

long table for whoever wants to take them according to their need.

Before welcoming the public to the first APOLA community pantry, the organizers expressed their gratitude to all the contributions with a prayer. They also wished that the initiative would continue to inspire everyone to help each other in this time of crisis. While the distribution of items for those in need continued, it was heart warming that there were some residents who came not to pick up vegetables or food. Rather, it was to give according to their capacity. There were those who shared cash, rice, canned goods, noodles, and other stuff they can offer.

As APOLA leaders, it is a privilege to see the good that our simple initiative brought to members of our community. It fills us with great joy hearing them express their gratitude—“many thanks” and “a great help”—for putting up a community pantry. Some were even on the brink of tears as they received their bags filled with food.

While we, the leaders, are also severely affected by the pandemic, what prevailed was meeting the challenge of our sworn duty to protect the community despite our own needs and the threat of COVID-19 to our health. We lift all fears and doubts to the Lord. As exclaimed in Matthew 25:40, the Lord said “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”.

To God be the glory!



Members of the community receiving food packages—consisting mainly of different vegetables—from the APOLA community pantry at Purok 2.

PHILSSA NCR Cluster explore use of balanced housing funds in existing CMP projects

by Arlene Christy Lusterio

LAST MAY 6, MEMBERS OF THE PARTNERSHIP of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA)-NCR Cluster involved in housing and urban development met online to discuss the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) proposal for the reappropriation of two hundred million pesos (Php 200M) from the balanced housing funds. The budget will be earmarked for interventions to address water, sanitation and health (WASH) needs; and implementation of urban agriculture, livelihood, and solid waste management—particularly composting and rainwater harvesting—in existing Community Mortgage Program (CMP) funded projects in Metro Manila. Proposed projects must be completed within one year and before the 2022 elections. The information was gathered from a meeting between Asec. Avelino Tolentino of DHSUD and the Foundation for the Development of the Urban Poor (FDUP).

Members present during the online meeting were from Alternative Planning Initiatives (Alterplan),

Community Organizers Multiversity (COM), FDUP, John J. Carrol Institute for Church and Social Issues (JJCICSI), Muntinlupa Development Foundation (MDF), TAO-Pilipinas, and a PHILSSA coordinator.

Looking at CMP projects in various barangays, the attendees agreed that proposed interventions should be at the barangay level. Project areas may include sprawling or vertical CMP projects similar to the Alliance of People's Organizations along Manggahan Floodway (APOAMF) in Pasig City. FDUP will work with two barangays in Quezon City namely: Batasan Hills with 25 CMP projects, and Gulod with 10-15 CMP projects. COM is considering APOAMF project in Pasig; while MDF will prepare their data for Muntinlupa.

A rapid assessment will be conducted in 2 weeks and a proposal will be prepared in the next 2 weeks after the assessment. FDUP prepared a template for circulation to other members. JJCICSI will provide support for the research and analysis. Alterplan and TAO-Pilipinas will provide the technical support as needed. Other PHILSSA member organizations working in Metro Manila may also join.

Although areas of support are identified, the project must be defined from the existing needs of the community which will be determined through the rapid assessment. The realigned resource is a welcome opportunity; however, PHILSSA members are also aware that the DHSUD proposal does not conform to the existing provisions of the RA 10884 or the Balanced Housing Development Program Amendments. RA 10884 specifies that funds for balanced housing should be utilized for the development of new socialized housing projects. A document coming from DHSUD supporting decisions on the fund utilization for the proposed project should be secured. Though very recently, last May 18, the National Human Settlements Board approved the [20-year roadmap](#) of DHSUD which "envision[s] better, greener and smarter human settlements and urban systems in the Philippines with banner projects aiming to create spaces, transform spaces into communities, make communities accessible and affordable, and empowering communities". This plan may encompass the proposed balanced housing funds utilization towards its vision.

TAO members participate in PMPI social media training

by Arlene Christy Lusterio

THE PARTNERSHIP MOVEMENT FOR PEOPLE'S Initiative (PMPI), a partner network of TAO, organized a social media training in line with its advocacy work for the upcoming 2022 elections. Entitled "PALOS CAUCUS: Potentials and Limitations of Organic and Sponsored Facebook Video Streaming", the objective was to better understand the workings of social media—particularly Facebook—as a tool for advocacy. The online training was held on May 9 and attended by three members of TAO: Angel Sales, Min-Roselle Malunhao and yours truly.

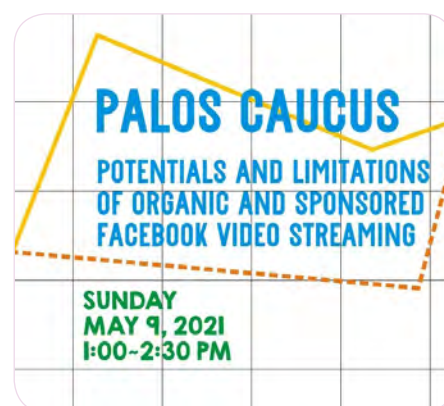
The training was conducted by LAPIS with Mr. Gary Granada and Jed Dalangin as resource speakers. Mr. Granada is a known social activist and an independent artist/composer; while Jed Dalangin is a certified digital professional and a drafting committee member of the Internet and Mobile Marketing Association of the Philippines.

For the first part of the training, Gary Granada discussed about various measures decision makers ought to know about organic and boosted Facebook streaming. He explained the meaning behind the total views indicated on Facebook video posts. Using a case study, he showed what thousands of views on a video ad represents. Looking at the metrics, only a handful views (about 6) were thruplays—when a video is viewed for at least 15 seconds—and only 1 viewed the whole video. He clarified that Facebook counts an interaction as a view when a video is played for at least 3 seconds. Therefore, total views does not capture reliable baseline data for impact

monitoring. It only presents audience reach but insufficient in determining whether the campaign message had been truly communicated. The case study also shows a short attention span among the audience—with only 6 viewing the ad for at least 15 seconds; hence, when making an ad, long videos are definitely not the way.

In congruence with Mr. Granada's topic, Jed Dalangin discussed the realistic factors that must be taken into consideration in the planning of organic and/or sponsored social media campaigns. He presented the technical and scientific aspect of social media use. He started with differentiating social media terms like metrics versus key performance indicators (KPI), impressions versus reach, views versus thruplays, livestream versus video, organic versus paid versus earned, boosting versus Facebook paid ads, and ads versus campaign.

Metric is a digital measure. Examples of metrics are views, reactions, thru plays, clicks, reach. KPI refers to the most important metric used to determine if the campaign objective is achieved. Reach is defined by unique IP addresses. Impressions refers to reach multiplied by the frequency an ad had been served. Views refers to the number of times an ad is viewed for at least 3 seconds for Facebook and 30 seconds for Youtube. Thruplays are views for a minimum of 15 seconds for Facebook. Livestream refers to live broadcast or broadcasting while capturing the video, while posted video is pre-recorded. Dalangin also shared that there are essentially 3 types of views:



organic, paid, and earned. Organic views are views from free ads while paid views are from ads that has been served from a paid campaign. Earned views refer to posts shared by viewers—thereby increasing the reach without additional cost.

In terms of campaign strategy, Dalangin had discussed about the advantages and disadvantages of boosting and targeted paid ads. Boosting is a paid ad package of Facebook which sends ads to any viewers without parameters. This is beneficial for campaigns with an objective to establish and increase audience reach. If the campaign objective requires interaction to specific set of people, targeted paid ad is the smarter way to advertise. Through this, parameters can be defined such that ads will be sent only to the

READ MORE: PAGE 8

TAO members participate... CONTINUED FROM: PAGE 7



targeted audience. Parameters are defined by identity, interest, intent and behavior. Identity is characterized by demographics, geography, and technology. Interest refers to an affinity while intent is defined from the use of search engine (eg keywords and previous actions). More specific choices are determined by behavior gathered from primary data given by target audience. Dalangin refers to targeted paid ads as the future of marketing. Nevertheless, he noted that ads with the more defined and clearer target are more expensive as compared to general boosting which is the cheapest method.

Dalangin recalled the difference of an ad and a campaign before discussing the details of a campaign strategy. He defined ad as a message with a specific format while a campaign is a collection of ads. Critical to launching an ad or a campaign is setting clear objectives with desired results. There are 4 levels of objectives that yields to a specific result: (1) reach and awareness (awareness), (2) engagement (consideration), (3) intent (interest); and (4) performance (conversion). Dalangin introduced the “conversion funnel”—based on the levels of objectives and results—as a marketing tool to strategize a

campaign. It is used by defining some metrics in order to compute for the KPI at each level of objective and desired result. Dalangin reminded everyone that a good objective should be quantifiable and with a defined timeline. In terms of budget, he noted that 70% should be for media cost while the remaining 30% should cover production cost. There is no point in creating a very expensive ad if it cannot be launched at proper media platforms. Media advertising is not free; hence, media cost should be considered. Dalangin also shared that relying on organic reach (ie unpaid ads) for a campaign will not be sufficient in achieving campaign objectives. Based on statistics, organic reach is on decline at the end of 2020. The average organic reach for a Facebook post was 7.7% in 2018, 5.5% in 2019 and 5.2% in 2020. The average engagement rate for an organic Facebook post was 0.25% in 2020. This drops to 0.08% for Facebook accounts with more than 100,000 followers.

For the last part, Dalangin reminded everyone that Facebook is not the only platform to launch effective campaigns. Next to Facebook are Instagram, Twitter, Tiktok, Pinterest, Viber, Skype

and LinkedIn which captures more than 36% of the social media users aged 16-64 in the Philippines. He also recommended to diversify content formats and strategy for various users. Formats may be longer (3 minutes or more) for those who have time for viewing or purposive (1 – 3 minutes) or shorter for those on-the-go. Dalangin shared about the “Hero content” often used by big and branded names to appeal to a mass audience. It can be episodic or it can be for learning and discovery. The training ended with an exercise on computing ads reach using the conversion funnel and a viewing of various examples of effective ad campaigns utilizing different strategies.

The training was very enriching and eye opening. It has dissected the glamorous information we normally see from social media campaigns. It showed the real score as far as the digital reach of Facebook posts are concerned. This training will definitely serve as guide in planning any campaign whether it is for voter's education or information dissemination on any topic.

Title: **How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them**
Author: **Jason Stanley**
Publisher: **Random House (2018)**



How Fascism Works warns of fascist politics currently pervading many supposedly democratic societies, particularly in the US and globally (the Philippines included). Author Jason Stanley explains the fascist ideology of the 1930s, its fingerprints and what fascism actually looks like today. In ten short chapters, he lays out the ten pillars of fascist politics that ultimately divides people into an “us” and “them” and makes authoritarian leadership appealing.

The book focuses on fascist propaganda and rhetoric, especially of populist politicians seeking to undermine trust in institutions (eg press, universities) and sway people's will. The author shows how recent socio-political issues in the US—racist policing, mass shootings, anti-immigration policies—are connected to the normalization of fascist ideology.

Even though much of the discussion is US-centric, the book's thesis is very relevant to our

country now ruled by a strongman with popular support. It is also a timely read especially in a forthcoming national election. Reading the book can help us recognize the tactics associated with fascism and call to attention candidates who are inclined to practice fascist politics. It uncovers the “trickery” they employ upon a vulnerable electorate to gain or retain power. Knowing these, we can be clear-eyed in choosing government leaders and in ensuring we protect democratic ideals. (Geraldine Matabang)

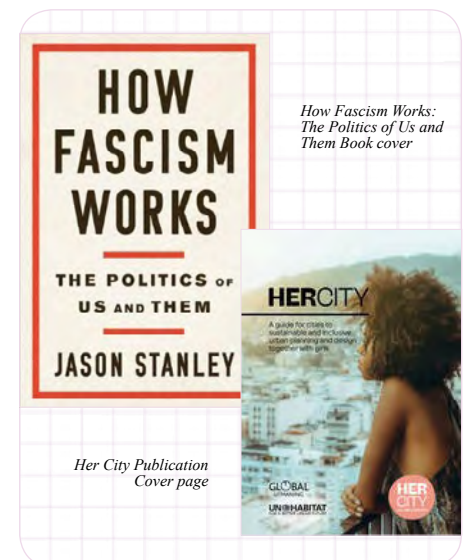
Title: **Her City: A Guide for Cities to Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Planning and Design together with Girls**
Author: **Elin Andersdotter Fabre, Tove Julin, Christelle Lahoud, Chiara Martinuzzi**
Publisher: **UN-Habitat (2021)**

More than a publication, Her City is a far-reaching urban development initiative by UN-Habitat and the independent think tank Global Utmaning. It forwards the global agenda on gender equality and women's empowerment in the planning and design of cities through participatory processes. Among the outputs of the initiative are a digital platform Her City Toolbox and a publication of a comprehensive guide on the processes.

This published guide provides a detailed account of the various methods, tools, and references developed and utilized in the Her City Toolbox. The

toolbox is divided into three main phases—assessment, design, and implementation—which are further subdivided into various stages or blocks. Each block contains its own set of activities.

The complex guide captures and presents all the necessary information such as rationale, methodology, considerations and expected results and serves as a walkthrough for participants to imagine the process. It can also serve as a checklist to those who are using the toolbox. It is noteworthy as a repository of research materials, standards and references, and tools on planning, gender and youth.



The guide is a good-read for planners and designers alike on how to integrate gender and development in urban planning especially in the design of public spaces. It contains a pool of participatory activities that can be used for one's own initiatives or projects. (Min-Roselle Malunhao)

Building Resilience of the Urban Poor in the Philippines

Asian Development Bank (ADB) | April 14, 2021

The webinar presented the results of the diagnostic study conducted by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) together with partner consultants and organizations for the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) technical assistance project. To help them complete the diagnostic study for the project, NEDA established the Multi-Agency Technical Assistance Team Advisory Group (MATATAG). In the presentation, the drivers of risk in the Philippines were discussed. These included considerations on the course of urbanization, climate change, disasters, and urban poverty in the

country. Vulnerabilities of the poor during disasters, greatly noticeable amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, were also highlighted. The result of the study is expected to be used for NEDA's "pro-poor disaster resilient investments."

During the open forum, issues were brought up about the urban poor in hazardous areas relocated to equally unsafe sites. To this, the passage of the National Land Use Act is deemed urgent and vital to help decision-makers formulate better solutions for their constituents. Overall, the study provided



insightful recommendations that reinforces the demand for improved access to data, transparency, participation, and inclusive development at the local level. (Ma. Lorena Hernandez)

Digital Security Training for CSOs and CBOs

Project Defend | Center for Disaster Preparedness Foundation, Inc. (CDP) | April 23, 2021

In this age of information technology, there is a constant threat that our data may be acquired by people with ill intentions. Digital crimes are increasing but substantive regulatory and penal laws are yet to be in place. For this matter, a webinar-training was organized by Project Defend to introduce the basic concepts of digital security amidst the current challenges facing civil society and community-based organizations.

The concept of "surveillance capitalism" was introduced to contextualize the value and demand for data. It is said that data is now the new gold to

which profit-driven entities are eager to acquire and accumulate through massive data collection. Moreover, data is perceived as a source of power for states with repressive government. Given that our existing laws—like the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012—lack provisions, the webinar provided different technologies we can use to ensure the protection of our data. For example, the messaging app Signal proves to be the most secured application due to its open-source characteristic and end-to-end encryption technology. It is interesting to note that a vital criterion in determining the digital security of any software application is its source code; the



the source code should be open-source which entails no underlying profiteering motive from the developers.

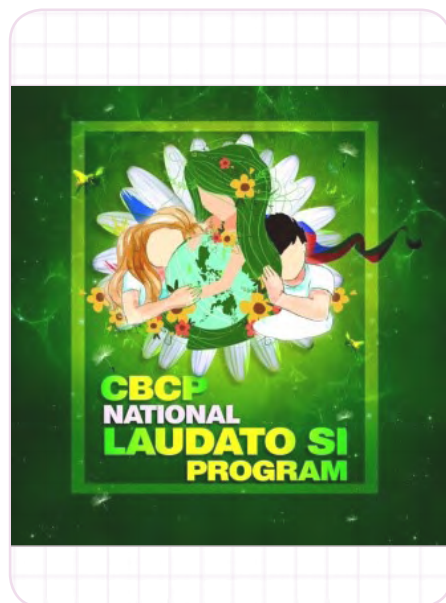
This webinar-training equips participants with the basic knowledge and tools to protect one's self against digital attacks. (Min-Roselle Malunhao)

Deep Journey into Laudato Si

Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) National Laudato Si Program | Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM)-Pilipinas | April 28, 2021

This webinar delves into Laudato Si—the encyclical of Pope Francis and one of the foundations of the Rights of Nature campaign—and brings a spiritual perspective into the discussion of the environment. This online workshop enables participants to reflect on the modern worldview that humans are separate from nature, and looks at the unexamined assumptions and consequences of this worldview. (It is adapted from the environmental education symposium "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream" by Pachamama Alliance started from 20 years ago.) Reflections on Laudato Si quotes are at the heart of this workshop and they guide participants towards changing human consciousness about nature.

Applying the see-judge-act approach to Catholic social teaching, the workshop examines the current situation of our environment, the root causes of the environmental crisis, the possibility for change, and the actions needed to bring about change. The workshop also outlines the CBCP National Laudato Si pledge—to pray for and with creation, to live more simply, and to advocate to protect our common home. (Geraldine Matabang)



Resilient Entrepreneurship: Why Inclusive Innovation Matters

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Accelerator Labs Philippines | Development Academy of the Philippines | April 29, 2021

This webinar is the fifth installment of UNDP's webinar series on inclusive innovation and brings attention to social enterprises as accelerators of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Presentations focused on making enterprises impact-driven and ensuring innovation impacts the marginalized sectors. The webinar started off with stories from



two entrepreneurs whose businesses thrived in the pandemic—Coffee for Peace and LiveGreen International—and how their enterprises have adapted to a new normal by building digital infrastructures.

The webinar also looked at the policies and reforms to support impact-driven enterprises, with presentations about Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) programs and services for micro, small and medium enterprises; and about a proposed legislation that creates an enabling source policy environment for social entrepreneurship.



Lastly, the webinar emphasized the need for impact measurement and management as part of business strategy and to understand social enterprise contribution to the SDGs. The webinar highlighted different ways that social enterprises in the Philippines measure impact. (Geraldine Matabang)

Aversion, Conversion, & Subversion: Views of the Role of Heritage in One's Social Milieu Episode 2

UST Graduate School Center for Conservation of Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (USTGS-CCCPET) | May 10, 2021

This second episode of a webinar series by USTGS-CCCPET was divided into three lectures given by Cheek S. Fadriquela, Ph.D., Rona Catherine Repancol, and Arch. Ramil Tibayan. Dr. Fadriquela's lecture was about the conservation of timber heritage in Philippine churches. He defined how timber is used in various parts of the church such as trusses, yokes for church bells, and retablos. He then enumerated the six Ms of heritage documentation which are not mostly observed in timber conservation. He proposed characterization of timber trusses based on its design and typology. his concluding statement, Dr. Fadriquela noted that the Western material view of heritage conservation poses a dilemma on the Asian values where there is spirituality found in wood.

Ms. Repancol's presentation was about heritage stone and its sources. She talked about her findings on the different quarries in Luzon (in Pangasinan, Guadalupe, and Meycauayan) as sources of stones used in different churches. Stones found in the Guadalupe quarries were used as foundation for the old churches in Manila, with the Pasig River and its tributaries as the main route to transport the stones. Stones from Meycauayan quarries were used to build and rebuild various parts of Intramuros and were transported through the Polo River.

Lastly, Arch. Tibayan discussed the conservation of religious sculptures made from ivory or "garing" in the local vernacular. He talked about the highly prized Christian ivory sculptures and presented his



study on the ivory collection of Intramuros Administration. He used photogrammetry, x-ray scanning and elemental analysis to examine the collection, and proposed ivory cleaning methods. Through his research, he determined whether the ivory came from Asia or Africa.

This second installment of the webinar series is quite informative especially for those who want to know more about various materials being used in our Spanish colonial structures. (Angelus Maria Sales)

Divestment: Advances & Challenges in Moving Finance away from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels

CCBCP-National Laudato Si Program | Eco-convergence | Manila Observatory | Caritas Philippines | Withdraw from Coal | May 19, 2021

This webinar tackles fossil fuel divestment and the role of banks and financial institutions as climate actors. Following the 2015 Paris Agreement, attention was drawn to transparency in how financial products and investments contribute to climate change or to climate solutions. The first presentation focused on the call for ethical investment by Catholic institutions—a move to divest investments that finance dirty energy—in keeping with the message of "ecological conversion" from Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si. Lorna Gold of GCCM (Global Catholic Climate Movement) presented how the Catholic Church in Ireland moved to divest

funds from fossil fuels and realign them towards sustainable, zero-carbon assets.

The second and third presentations focused on the local context. Gerry Arances of CEED (Center for Ecology, Energy and Development) highlighted how the country has become coal-dependent and that all Philippine commercial banks had been supporting this coal expansion. He discussed the public campaign pushing these banks to withdraw from coal and how this had led to some wins, with a number of banks now developing coal exit roadmaps. But Arances also warned of banks



moving instead towards other dirty energy such as fossil gas, and emphasized the need to challenge them to advance clean energy alternatives. Bishop Gerardo Alminara, on the other hand, presented the local experience of coal resistance in Negros Island, considered the renewable energy capital (in terms of power generation) of the country. The bishop urged people to learn to understand how financial resources are being used in line with our duty of responsible stewardship. (Geraldine Matabang)

Next Wave Cities: Regional Development through Urban Design Infrastructure as a Strategy towards Equitable and Inclusive Urban Growth

UP College of Architecture |
May 24, 2021

This webinar gives a glimpse of how a number of so-called “next wave cities” in the Philippines are being planned and developed as part of the Build, Build, Build program of the current administration. Three professors from the UP College of Architecture, all practicing urban planners, outlined the plans for Butuan City, New Clark City, and Ormoc City. Master planning for sustainable urban infrastructure and design was the common focus of the three presentations. Prof. Michael Tomeldan presented the Butuan City plan highlighting cultural



heritage projects. Prof. Vic Dul-loop introduced the plans for New Clark City emphasizing the blue-green infrastructure features of the massive development. Prof. Danilo Silvestre presented the plans for developing Metro Ormoc as a key regional center by upgrading its airport and cargo facility and urban redevelopment of the poblacion as a “smart city” core.

Reactor presentations from Ormoc City Mayor Richard Gomez and Atty. Mary Sebastian of the PPP Center discussed some of the infrastructure projects in the pipeline in Ormoc City and how government plans to finance the infrastructure projects. There was actually not much of a rich discussion into the inclusivity aspect of the master plans. Some generalizations were expressed that there was



stakeholder participation in project identification and that there are more opportunities to be inclusive in next wave cities with more land and budget allocation for housing programs. (Geraldine Matabang)



The emergence of community pantries is a testament to community-driven generosity and the Filipino bayanihan spirit. But it is also a sign of ordinary Filipinos bearing the brunt of government incompetence and failure to address hunger and unemployment. Is it possible to keep these community pantries running? How do you think can we make these grassroot initiatives sustainable?

“Sponsors maybe?”

Chico Macorol, 27, Male, Freelance Musician

“As long as we keep moving forward, no matter how little, we will progress.”

Glenn Aquias, 24, Male, Freelance Musician

“I understand na voluntary yung pagbibigay ng mga donations sa community pantries pero, para maging sustainable, I think kailangan mayroon pa ring magmanage. It can be a group of volunteers or organizations na willing magsetup and mag-ayos ng mga logistics ng mga community pantries. May mga taong willing magvolunteer ng oras nila pero takot magcommit sa mga responsibilities. Siguro mas maganda kung maging volunteering activity yung mga logistics ng mga community pantry such as pagsetup at pagbalot, pagrefill or pagbantay ng mga donations. Ang alam ko may website na pwedeng magpost ng mga “CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS”, pwede sigurong magamit iyon. Then, since social media yung driving force ng mga community pantries, dapat siguro mayroong Facebook group for community pantry volunteers and mga donors”

Emmanuel Innocencio, 25, Male,
Architectural Designer

“Para sakin, hindi meant maging sustainable dahil reaksiyon lamang ang mga community pantry sa kakulangan ng gobyerno sa pagtugon sa nararanasang pandemiya. Subalit, ang dapat masustain ay ang diwa ng pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan ng mga miyembro ng pamayanan. Halimbawa, imbes na ang porma ng community pantry ang masustain, maaring i-promote ang pagkakaroon ng mga community garden. at isa-batas para maging sustainable.”

Joseph Emmanuel Hernandez, 24, Male, Freelance Musician

“Need ng “support” sa mga local initiatives tulad ng food pantries na pinapangunahan ng mga locals (private individuals, local CSOs, POs, church, etc.).”

Ivy Shella Pagute, 38, Female

Disclaimer: The views and opinions presented do not necessarily reflect the views of TAO-Pilipinas, Inc.



Solidarity and Unity: Reflections on internship experiences with the Masagana community

by Luna Salanio

Luna Salanio is a graduate of the UP College of Social Work and Community Development under their undergraduate program for Social Work. She joined the YP Internship program in 2020 to assist Masagana HOA in their organizational development activities. Her internship work in Masagana is part of her curriculum requirement to earn her bachelor's degree.

In times of great peril, when our vulnerabilities due to existing social ills are further exacerbated, our communities serve at the frontline to provide for our needs in order to remain steadfast as a society. Nevertheless, it is not only about how the community responds to our individual needs that should be noted. It is also important to look and examine how the members continuously create, develop and re-define the community especially in present-day context. This dynamics of the community and its individual members is what I have seen and experienced first hand with the community of Masagana in Angat, Bulacan.

I had my first visit and formal engagement with the community on January 2020. As a final requirement for my degree in Bachelor of Science in Social Work at the University of the Philippines, I needed to experience community organizing and learn from the process together with the community. Before I can proceed with community organizing, it was necessary to know the community in-depth: the individual members, challenges facing the community and its strengths and weaknesses, and existing knowledge-base which are all vital to the progress of Masagana.

All throughout my stay, I lived with a family who welcomed my presence in their community from the very beginning. However, due to my status as a community organizing intern and an “outsider”, it was challenging to introduce myself and socialize with the rest of the community. I felt unsure about my interactions; I had to re-examine the responses I got whenever I talk to the people. There was a clear gap between the community and I which was evident during my participation in community gatherings and, even, in my interactions in their day-to-day lives.

In order to address the challenges I was facing in the beginning, it was deemed necessary to acknowledge and examine my status as an “outsider” which could guide me on how to better communicate and socialize with the people of Masagana. Such endeavor serves as basis for awareness and deep understanding of the existing power dynamics that is crucial for any social work. Armed with the such, any endeavor towards social equality, empowerment and validation of human rights remains genuine, especially for the people of Masagana. Eventually, my relationship and interaction with the community



Luna (standing at extreme left, in yellow shirt) with community members at the Masagana community-based resource center in Angat, Bulacan.

improved. The community started to be at ease when sharing their stories and insights with me. I began to know better the persevering members of Masagana as they expressed their struggles and aspirations for a better life and community.

Among the lessons I learned from working with Masagana, the value of “pakikipagkapwa”—of treating others with equal respect and dignity — resonates with me the most. Through “pakikipagkapwa”, trust is built among members of the community which fosters an environment that is freeing and open for meaningful relationships. The spirit of unity and collective action manifest as well from “pakikipagkapwa” especially among women and the youth of Masagana. In general, women and children are left with the responsibility to take care of the household as men often leave for work outside the community. Women and children alike do most of the household chores albeit other personal matters they need to attend to. Unfortunately, their work and contribution in the community are not well recognized and valued. Nevertheless, the women and the youth members of Masagana remain active in community initiatives. They translate the same level of diligence and care in their household work to community work. This ethics of care valued by the women and the youth in service for the community strengthens Masagana which I had the privilege to experience at firsthand.

When March came of the same year, the world seemed to have stopped due to the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. This meant that, as a student of social work, I would have to postpone my current living arrangement within Masagana. I would have to balance my community work and my household work at the same time. This posed a great challenge for me as I had to balance my responsibilities at school and at home, especially taking care of my grandmother who is ill. It was a quite a struggle to communicate with the community of Masagana which was limited to Facebook and Messenger. Despite the setbacks and limitations, the community and I were able to continue with our interaction through perseverance.

My community work and internship with Masagana proved to be a meaningful and fruitful endeavor even though it was for only a short amount of time. Amidst all the challenges I have seen, the power of unity and collective action remains a beacon of hope for the betterment of the community. Even more notable is that the women and the youth, who are the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the community, carry this beacon of hope. This only shows the potential and capability of the community to grow and improve the lives of its members. ([Read March-April 2021 YP Enewsletter for the original Filipino version](#))

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR VOTER'S REGISTRATION THRU IREHISTRO WEBSITE



**ELEKSYON 2022:
KABATAAN
MAGPAREHISTRO!**
BOOTO MO, BOSEB MO, PAKI-SAKOPANUSODAN MO



STEP 1: VISIT [HTTPS://IREHISTRO.COMELEC.GOV.PH/CEF1](https://irehistro.comelec.gov.ph/cef1)

STEP 2: SELECT TYPE OF APPLICATION AND FILL OUT THE REQUIRED PERSONAL INFORMATION

FOR NEW REGISTRANTS WHO
RECENTLY TURNED 18
YEARS OLD OR WHO HAVE
NEVER REGISTERED BEFORE

REGISTRATION

FOR REGISTERED VOTERS WHO
TRANSFERRED RESIDENCE
WITHIN OR TO ANOTHER CITY/
MUNICIPALITY

**TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION
RECORD**

FOR REGISTERED VOTERS WITH
DEACTIVATED REGISTRATION
STATUS

**REACTIVATION OF
REGISTRATION RECORD**

FOR REGISTERED VOTERS WHO
CHANGED NAME OR HAS
CORRECTION IN THE ENTRIES

**CHANGE OF NAME DUE TO MARRIAGE OR
COURT ORDER /
CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE VOTERS'
REGISTRATION RECORD**



**STEP 3: CHOOSE AN APPOINTMENT DATE AND TIME, IF AVAILABLE.
OR
YOU MAY SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION FORM ANYTIME AS WALK IN**



**STEP 4: REVIEW THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDED AND PRINT TRIPPLICATE
COPIES OF THE PDF APPLICATION FORM ON A LONG BOND PAPER (BACK TO
BACK) AND A HEALTH DECLARATION FORM**

**DO NOT SIGN OR AFFIX YOUR THUMBPRINT ON THE PRINTED APPLICATION FORM YET. IT
SHOULD ONLY BE DONE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ELECTION OFFICER OR AN AUTHORIZED
REPRESENTATIVE AT THE COMELEC OFFICE.**

**STEP 5: GO TO THE OFFICE OF THE ELECTION
OFFICER IN YOUR DISTRICT/CITY/MUNICIPALITY
WHERE YOU RESIDE OR INTENDING TO REGISTER TO
SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION FORM TOGETHER WITH
PHOTOCOPIES OF YOUR VALID IDS/DOCUMENTS
AND HAVE YOUR BIOMETRICS CAPTURED**



Haven't registered yet for the upcoming 2022 Elections? Not sure how? Check out these infographics from Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. showing step-by step guide on voter's registration.

YPs, exercise our right to vote and have a say on the people who would represent and lead us to a better future.

CONTINUATION ON PAGE 14



Follow PMPI Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/philmisereor> and know more about the upcoming 2022 elections and processes for voter's registration.



COMELEC-APPROVED DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

1. EMPLOYEE'S ID
2. POSTAL ID
3. PWD ID
4. STUDENT'S ID
5. SENIOR CITIZEN'S ID
6. DRIVER'S LICENSE
7. NBI CLEARANCE
8. BIRTH CERTIFICATE
9. PASSPORT
10. SSS/GSIS ID;
11. IBP ID;
12. PRC ID;
13. NCIP CERTIFICATE OF CONFIRMATION
14. ANY OTHER VALID ID EXCEPT COMMUNITY TAX CERTIFICATE (CEDULA) AND POLICE CLEARANCE



BRING AS MANY IDS AND DOCUMENTS WITH PHOTOCOPIES TO ESTABLISH YOUR IDENTITY AND RESIDENCE UPON FILING YOUR APPLICATION FORM.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE FOLLOWING BEFORE GOING TO THE OFFICE OF THE ELECTION OFFICER:

1. ACCOMPLISHED APPLICATION FORM (3 COPIES)
2. COMELEC-APPROVED VALID IDS AND DOCUMENTS (WITH PHOTOCOPIES)
3. ACCOMPLISHED HEALTH DECLARATION FORM
4. PEN
5. FACE MASK AND FACE SHIELD



FOR TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION RECORDS: Ensure that the address in your COMELEC-approved IDS and documents indicates your new address or place of residence when you file your application form.

FOR REACTIVATION OF REGISTRATION RECORDS: For reasons other than failure to vote in two (2) consecutive elections, please bring certification/order of the court to prove such ground no longer exists when you file your application form.

FOR CHANGE OF NAME DUE TO MARRIAGE OR COURT ORDER / CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE VOTERS' REGISTRATION RECORD: Ensure to bring the appropriate supporting documents such as Certified Copy or Certificate of Court Order or Certificate of Live Birth or Certificate of Marriage, etc, when you file your application form.

GENERAL ADVISORY

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, COMELEC Offices can only accommodate certain number of people per day and operating days and hours may vary depending on the quarantine status of your area. We advise you to contact your local COMELEC Office where you are registered or intending to register to inquire of their operating schedule or accommodate walk-in applications.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Follow PMPI Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/philmisereor> and know more about the upcoming 2022 elections and processes for voter's registration.

MORE eNEWSLETTERS

Check out our previous issues.

Subscribe [here](#) to get notified of our new releases. If you have any comments and suggestions for our eNewsletters, please feel free to send your feedback at <https://tao-pilipinas.org/contact-us/>



January - February 2018



March - May 2018



June - July 2018



August - September 2018



October - December 2018



January - March 2019



April - June 2019



July - September 2019



February - September 2020



October - December 2020



January - February 2021



March - April 2021