



For resilient and cohesive communities

LGU-LED INITIATIVES ON SOCIAL COHESION AND RESILIENCE





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This document is a compilation of the various approaches and initiatives employed by Local Government Fellows under the LGU Fellowship Program on Social Cohesion and Resilience (Fellowship Program). The Fellowship Program aims to build a community of practice among local governments to foster cohesion, inclusion, and resilience in communities affected by violence and conflict.

This document will not be possible without the commitment of the Local Chief Executives and LGU Technical Staff from the cities of Cotabato and Lamitan; municipalities of Butig and Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur; municipalities of Maluso, Sumisip, Tipo- Tipo, and Tuburan in Basilan; and municipalities of Datu Abdullah Sangki and Datu Salibo in Maguindanao del Sur.

The pioneer batch of the Fellowship Program was implemented by The Asia Foundation and Galing Pook Foundation as part of Project CIRCLE, through the support of the Australian Government and in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government. The views expressed in this publication are the authors' alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government.



ABOUT PROJECT CIRCLE

Project CIRCLE aims to support locally led and ownership-focused efforts toward building community cohesion and resilience to address communities' vulnerabilities to violent extremism and conflict.



ABOUT THE ASIA FOUNDATION

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives and expanding opportunities across Asia and the Pacific. Informed by decades of experience and deep local expertise, the Foundation's work across the region is focused on good governance, women's empowerment and gender equality, inclusive economic growth, environment and climate action, and regional and international relations.



ABOUT GALING POOK

Galing Pook is a leading resource institution that recognizes, capacitates, and promotes innovation, sustainability, citizen empowerment, and excellence in local governance. In its 30 years, it has empowered hundreds of local government units to develop programs and social innovations through the Galing Pook Awards, Galing Pook Academy, and Galing Pook Advocacies.

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LGU Fellowship Program on Social Cohesion and Resilience

Project CIRCLE (Communities of Inclusion and Resilience through Collaborative Local Engagements), in collaboration with the Galing Pook Foundation and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, will pilot the LGU Fellowship Program on Social Cohesion and Resilience. The Fellowship Program aims to strengthen and expand the community of practice among LGUs to foster shared learning and strengthen cohesion, inclusion, and resilience in communities affected by violence and conflict.

Recognizing the capacity of LGUs and local stakeholders to implement initiatives to address the drivers of violent extremism and conflict, the program intends to support the LGUs led by Governors and Mayors in gaining knowledge from the different local and international best practices on peace and security efforts, as well as initiatives to enable cohesive, inclusive, and resilient communities.



LGU Fellows

Provincial Track

1. Province of Maguindanao del Sur
2. Province of Basilan

Mayors' Fellowship

1. Datu Abdullah Sangki, Magui
2. Datu Salibo, Maguindanao del Sur
3. Cotabato City
4. Lamitan City, Basilan
5. Maluso, Basilan
6. Tuburan, Basilan
7. Sumisip, Basilan
8. Tipo-Tipo, Basilan
9. Marawi City, Lanao del Sur
10. Pagayawan, Lanao del Sur
11. Butig, Lanao del Sur

The Fellowship Program features a two-track design composed of technical assistance to the Provincial LGUs (Provincial Track) and hybrid learning activities for Mayors (Mayors' Fellowship).

The Provincial Track provided technical assistance and policy recommendations to strengthen provincial peace and community development programs in Maguindanao del Sur and Basilan.

The Mayors' Fellowship centered on local governance lessons in engaging partners and stakeholders and leading initiatives to build cohesive and resilient communities in areas affected by violence and conflict.

2023

Training Needs Assessment

 Provincial Track

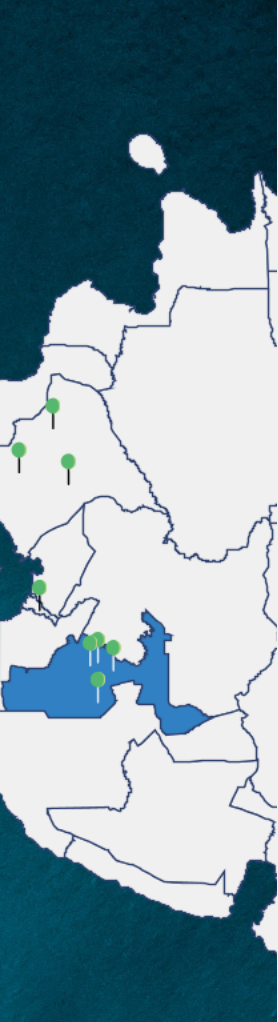
Basilan

Strengthening partnership engagements in accessing government programs and resources

Maguindanao del Sur

Supporting the creation of a policy document and strategic plan for AGILA CARES

 Mayors'



Strengthen and expand the community of practice by focusing on Local Chief Executives (LCEs) for community inclusion, cohesion, and resilience through the fellowship program to foster shared learning amongst LGUs.



Facilitate a learning process among local government and civil society to co-develop social cohesion and resilience policies and local action plans to prevent, mitigate and respond to violent conflict.



Promote upward linkages by linking efforts from municipalities to province to region to national levels of government to support holistic development and strengthening of spaces for democratic participation, especially at the local level.



Project CIRCLE aims to support locally-led and ownership-focused efforts toward building community cohesion and resilience to address communities' vulnerabilities to violent extremism and conflict.

The Asia Foundation, with the support of the Australian Government, builds on the gains of the first three years of Project CIRCLE implementation (January 2019 - May 2022) and years of partnership with stakeholders on locally-led and ownership-focused efforts toward building community cohesion and resilience in areas affected by violence and conflict. The approach is built around the understanding that LGUs and local stakeholders are best placed to address context-specific challenges faced by their communities and reduce the vulnerabilities of communities to violent extremism and conflict.

May 9-10

Fellowship



Local Policy Development Workshop

May 28 to June 2



Indonesia Study Visit

June 19

Fellows Colloquium

June 20

Media Roundtable: Introduction of Social Cohesion and Resilience Fellows and Launch of ResilientLGUs.ph

Building the Community of Practice



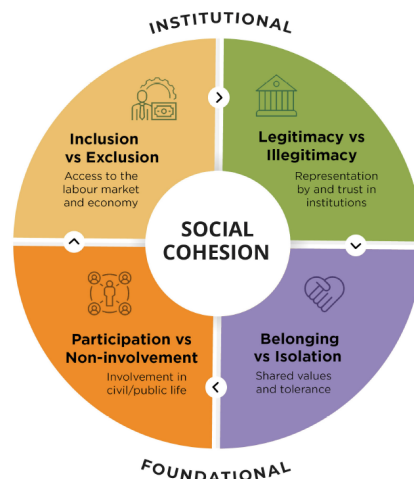
The importance of incorporating Gender, Equity, Disability/Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in the fellows' social cohesion and resilience measures were likewise discussed during the learning session with Bans Alqaseer of the UP Center for Women and Gender Studies. The discussion highlighted the concepts of equity and justice which absence typically leads to conflicts.

The fellows also had the opportunity to exchange ideas with representatives from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU) on how national government agencies and local government units can help each other in fulfilling their respective mandates. Officials from DILG and the Australian Embassy also graced the Local Policy Development Workshop.

Apart from the learning sessions, several group activities were also implemented during the workshop that was anchored on the Framework of Social Cohesion. The activities aimed to surface ideas and

inputs from the fellows on factors that affect the implementation of their social cohesion and resilience measures, both in the institutional and foundational levels. With the framework in mind, fellows were guided in crafting their own policies institutionalizing social cohesion and resilience measures, review their current plans and programs, and strategize how to ensure that their initiatives are inclusive and participatory.

As a result of the workshop, some participating LGUs already filed ordinances that focus on social cohesion and resilience as discussed in this document.



Social Cohesion Framework in the Bangsamoro, The Asia Foundation 2022



KEY INSIGHTS

Citizens' participation is key to good local governance

LGUs should involve all key sectors to ensure that policies, plans, programs, and activities are fit for the needs of the community. Participative governance also provides space for shared power and accountability that promotes social cohesiveness.

Existing initiatives may need a little innovation and creativity

Social cohesion and resilience somehow already exist in the LGU's policies and programs but may need some updating to make them more adaptive, accessible, and responsive. There is space for social cohesion to be mainstreamed as a framework and an approach to existing initiatives.

Social cohesion is more than just preventing conflict

It is not only connected to preventing violent extremism but it flows into different parts of community life - it is also connected to health, education, and other social services. Social cohesion and resilience contribute to the overall well-being of communities.

Indonesia Study Visit

May 28 - June 02, 2023



LGU Fellowship Program on **Social Cohesion and Resilience**
Indonesia Study Visit | May 28 - June 2, 2023

The Indonesia Study Visit is part of the hybrid learning activities of the Fellowship Program. It sought to provide a balance of theoretical and pragmatic inputs that may be useful to Local Chief Executives (LCEs). The visit was held from 28 May to 1 June 2023 in Jakarta and Bogor City, Indonesia. It was designed as a two-way learning exchange between the Philippine LCE fellows and their counterparts in Indonesia.

The Study Visit included conversations with the Association of Indonesia Municipalities, Indonesian National Counter-Terrorism Agency, Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta (Islamic State University), PUSAD Paramadina, SETARA Institute for Democracy and Peace, and Mayor Bima Arya Sugiarto of Bogor City.

These conversations resulted in a wide-ranging discussion of the various approaches used to prevent and address violent extremism and local conflict and strategies for streamlining the mechanism between the national to local government, non-government institutions, the academe, and think-tank organizations.

The discussions also provided a safe space for the participants to have a cordial exchange on local governance in the context of past and present local conflict and violence. Key lessons learned and recommendations from the visit include:

Meaningful understanding of the context specificity of the communities as well as the realities of political and local power dynamics in addressing local violence and conflict and building social and cohesion

The more widely known causes of local conflict differ between the Philippines and Indonesia, with the former being influenced more by historical identity-based armed violence and clan feuds (rido) and the latter by inter- and intra-religious intolerance. Nonetheless, the discussions brought to light the multifaceted and overlapping realities that influence the occurrence and recurrence of local conflict in communities, such as economic inequality, inadequate provision of services, religious discrimination, forced displacement, clan politics, and intercommunal tensions.

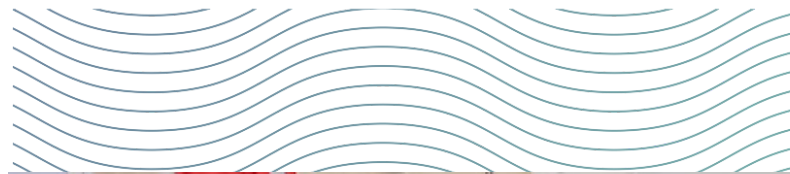
Bringing together formal and informal avenues for inter- and intra-faith councils and traditional leaders to participate in conflict mediation and resolution

The session with Mayor Bima Arya Sugiarto of Bogor City enabled a peer-to-peer discussion among Mayors on local governance in the context of past and present local conflicts and violence. The discussion focused on how building social cohesion and resilience translates in practical terms for the Local Chief Executives.

Mayor Sugiarto and H. Hasbulloh, SE., MA.Ek. from the Inter-Religious Harmony Forum shared how the government, religious leaders, and civil society organization partners worked together to resolve a 15-year dispute over the construction of the new Yasmin Indonesian Christian Church building in Bogor City. The dispute which has become a case study of Indonesia's struggle with religious intolerance, revealed strong evidence that local conflict should be addressed in the light of, and with respect to, the different parties' contexts and beliefs, and emphasizing the importance of participatory processes in conflict resolution

Maximizing the value of associations, baseline data and information, and performance assessment metrics to develop champions and mentors for local governance

The discussion with the Association of Indonesia Municipalities (Asosiasi Pemerintah Kota Seluruh Indonesia or APEKSI) focused on leveraging government associations such as the League of Municipalities in the Philippines, their inherent roles in providing proactive technical support for local governments toward improved development outcomes and maximizing performance assessment metrics to develop champions and mentors for local governance, thereby creating a community of practice with its member municipalities and cities.



APEKSI developed evidence-based references for their member cities, such as the Learn Tolerance Practice from Cities in Indonesia, in collaboration with stakeholders such as NGOs, media, and researchers.

Learn Tolerance Practice from Cities in Indonesia consists of four pillars, each with two governance benchmarks toward a more tolerant city. Member cities can share knowledge and expertise with one another through APEKSI to strengthen their efforts to meet the benchmark.

The Tolerant City Index (TCI), which was conducted annually with 94 of 98 Indonesian cities, was shared in a separate session with the SETARA Institute for Democracy and Peace. TCI was designed to encourage local governments to create and maintain tolerance spaces in cities. Since the publication of the annual index, cities in Indonesia have found a basis for developing local initiatives and demonstrated a greater willingness to implement policies and programs that promote tolerance and civic engagement.



Bogor City, which has been publicly known for its poor tolerance trends, was dropped from the list of Indonesia's ten most intolerant cities in 2020, with civil society participation playing a critical role in improving the city's status.

Reflecting on the presentation, the Philippine Fellows were curious about the indicative means of verification for the TCI indicators, as well as how the data was gathered. There was a strong desire to replicate the healthy competition the TCI fostered among Indonesian cities in the Philippines, whether by developing a contextualized index or maximizing the value of performance assessments such as DILG's Seal of Good Local Governance.

Strategic collaborations between local governments, academic institutions, and think tanks to translate evidence-based research into practical learning materials and initiatives

The conversation with the Islamic State University has centered on three points: educational institutions have

a significant role to play in preventing violent extremism; evidence-based programming is required to address issues and concerns related to local conflict and violent extremism; and the need for a positive approach to strengthen tolerance. State universities, for example, could provide a safe space for religious and cultural groups to engage in meaningful social interactions.

Currently, the university collaborates with the local and national governments through religious gatherings, providing sermon topics, and working with civil society organizations to empower the next generation of leaders. The Philippine fellows also shared their insights into working with educational institutions, such as the Municipality of Pagayawan's experience in implementing the Madrasah Education Curriculum in local schools. The rich exchange of different approaches implemented in both countries called for a need to continue discussions on how best to optimize strategic collaborations between local governments, academic institutions, and think tanks.

MUNICIPALITY OF BUTIG

PROVINCE: LANA DEL SUR
INCOME CLASS: 6TH CLASS MUNICIPALITY
POPULATION: 22,768 (PSA 2020 CENSUS)

Improve agricultural productivity, boost agro-ecotourism, and strengthen community empowerment—the local government of Butig banks on its human, cultural, social, environmental, and economic capital in its holistic approach to address the high poverty incidence and improve the security and public order are essential elements in building the foundation for inclusive growth, security, public order, and safety in the municipality.

Having been caught up in the middle of countless violent conflicts that affected its economy, Butig has been ranked among the poorest municipalities in Lanao del Sur. With this, the local government is now working with the organization Peace Crops in transforming the municipality as a potential agro-ecotourism destination.



Maximizing its vast farmlands and forest landscape, as well as its existing irrigation systems surrounded by rivers and lakes, the municipality aims to promote sustainable farming by introducing modern agricultural techniques and adopting organic farming methods, which in turn will improve crop yields and boost the livelihood of farmers in Butig. Through this initiative, the local government also aims to establish value chains that will enhance market access and increase income opportunities for farmers.



This does not only boost food security for the municipality but also attracts potential tourists to explore its biodiversity, vast natural resources, and cultural heritage.

At the heart of this program is the involvement of the local community. Capacitating them with skills on entrepreneurship, financial management, and organizational development, the program empowers the residents to own their progress and make decisions that will benefit the community.

Among its initial beneficiaries are representatives from the Office of the Municipal Mayor, 15 municipal department heads or personnel, 30 rice farmers, 15 coffee farmers, 30 women, 30 youths, and 30 bamboo growers, extending indirectly to an estimate of 4,000 farm producers within Butig.

Through this agro-ecotourism program, the local government yearns to improve the livelihood of its people and the overall socio-economic status of the municipality, to finally be able to reclaim the status as the “cradle of the Maranao civilization.”

MUNICIPALITY OF PAGAYAWAN

PROVINCE: LANA DEL SUR
INCOME CLASS: 5th CLASS MUNICIPALITY
POPULATION: 15,057 (PSA 2020 CENSUS)

Situated in the coastal province of Lanao del Sur in BARMM, the Municipality of Pagayawan has long been stereotyped as a major den of terrorist recruitment and a hideout for armed groups.

In this context, the lack of proof of identification and up-to-date data on its constituents posed limitations to local government service delivery, leading to unaddressed causes of vulnerability to violent extremism and conflict, such as: deteriorating general welfare (increasing unemployment rate, lack of access to basic needs, lack of access to livelihood opportunities and financial support, etc.), violent extremism-related incidents in the area for the past year, reported cases of youth showing signs of radicalization to violent extremism, community learning centers are not regulated by the government, and appearance of extremist discourse from local religious figures

In its continuous effort to battle threats to safety and security within the municipality, the local government of Pagayawan under the leadership of Mayor Khalida Polao-Sanguila launched the Municipal Identification Card initiative known as “One Name, One Identity: Walang Maiwan, Pagayawan.”

One Name, One Identity: Walang Maiwan, Pagayawan

The municipal-wide digital ID system aims to address problems of peace and security, secure accurate demographic data of bonafide residents of Pagayawan, improve accessibility to services, ease of doing business and transactions within the municipality, and minimize the risk of identity theft and fraud. The digital Municipal ID system is under the program Siyap Ko Pagtaw, among the three major pioneering programs of the Municipality of Pagayawan, including Kaisa-isa Ko Kalilintad (Unity for Peace) and Tanim Ko, Pag-asa Ko.

Phase 1 of the project started in 2019, with the local government conducting a series of profiling among its residents aged 18 years and above. In coordination with the Barangay Chairperson, designated Barangay Health Workers visited each residence and validated the identification of each individual. The Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Office Personnel then conducted barangay visitation for data validation and for the ID picture taking. The individual then receives a notification once the ID has been processed.

The profiling allowed the local government to identify and prioritize vulnerable sectors such as senior citizens, persons with disabilities, solo parents, and people residing in Geographically Isolated Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA).

The Municipal ID card offers various services to residents, including free registration for vital records, prenatal care,

financial aid for bereaved families (Unong Program), and grocery and rice assistance. Additionally, it serves as valid documentation for accessing basic social services.

The program also encouraged taxpayers to register their businesses and properties on time, thus, providing an economic boost to the municipality. In turn, business and property owners get to enjoy free initial payment for real property tax registration, tax declaration, and business permits.

Most importantly, the digital Municipal ID system has empowered the Pagayawanens, with the local government being able to recognize bonafide residents of the municipality and unlink them with any allegations of involvement in terrorism. This, indeed, has strengthened peace and security within the municipality.



LAMITAN CITY

PROVINCE: BASILAN
INCOME CLASS: 6TH CLASS CITY
POPULATION: 100,150 (PSA 2020 CENSUS)

The City of Lamitan aims to empower its people and foster social cohesion and resilience through active citizen participation in local governance. To achieve this, the city focuses on institutionalizing a culture of peace, strengthening social protection mechanisms, and promoting wealth creation. The Reaching Out Serving Everyone (ROSE) Caravan, initiated by the City of Lamitan, plays a key role in achieving these goals by providing essential services in health, agriculture, and social welfare.

To oversee the ROSE Caravan program, the Lamitan City Social Cohesion and Resilience Board was established. This board is responsible for formulating policies and ensuring the successful implementation of the program.

Several committees were formed to address specific areas, including laws and governance, health and welfare, cooperatives and marginalized sectors, gender and equality, public safety, infrastructure, and social services for women, children, and vulnerable groups.

Additionally, a separate committee was created to oversee the implementation of ROSE special projects. These projects include:



- **ROSE Electrification Projects:** The city prioritizes the electrification of Lamitan to enhance peace and order and boost the local economy. Efforts are being made to work with relevant national agencies to gain legal authorization for the City Owned Power Plant, which would provide 24/7 electricity to all 45 barangays. Additionally, the city plans to explore solar-powered electrification as a cost-efficient and sustainable alternative for street lighting and local government facilities.
- **Potable Water Projects:** Lamitan continues its Spring Development projects, aiming to provide clean and potable water to rural communities through gravity-based systems.



By implementing these initiatives, the City of Lamitan seeks to create an inclusive and resilient community, where the welfare and participation of its residents are valued and prioritized.

MUNICIPALITY OF MALUSO

PROVINCE: BASILAN
INCOME CLASS: 4TH CLASS MUNICIPALITY
POPULATION: 45,730 (PSA 2020 CENSUS)

The local government strengthens its efforts in institutionalizing a culture of peace, reinforcing its social protection mechanisms, and promoting wealth creation through evidenced-based planning and decision-making as they believe these will contribute significantly to the promotion of social cohesion and resilience within their LGU.

The Ordinance Institutionalizing Social Cohesion and Resilience in Maluso Municipality establishes a framework based on key principles: respecting diversity, recognizing citizen rights, promoting inclusiveness and participation, evidence-based planning, strengthening social protection, fostering wealth creation, and empowering the citizenry.

The policy also provides the guidance for the creation of a Culture for Peace Commission which shall oversee the development of policies, plans, and programs that will promote a culture of peace and non-violent conflict resolution in the LGU. The Commission will be composed of officials from the LGU led by the Mayor and representatives from the PNP, Local School Board, CSOs, religious leaders, indigenous peoples, and the youth.



Two other bodies are prescribed in the Ordinance - first, the Social Protection Unit/Committee which will focus on addressing the social risks and vulnerabilities of the marginalized individuals in the LGU.

Second, the Local Economic Development Council which will focus on entrepreneurship and other forms of economic development in the municipality. For the Municipality of Tuburan, entrepreneurship is important not only to people engaging in business but for the whole community. When individuals start their own businesses, they are able to create jobs and provide goods and services that can benefit the LGU and the people which can help to reduce poverty, increase economic growth, and create a sense of pride and ownership in their community.

Apart from ensuring that planning and decision-making should be evidenced-based, the Ordinance also gives importance to ensuring that programs, policies, and plans in the LGU are responsive to gender and youth-sensitive as well. Moreover, The LGU follows the KALASAHANS Model - a comprehensive framework for delivering public services at the local level. This model is designed to foster unity, inclusivity, and collaboration among all stakeholders involved in the delivery of public services. By recognizing the diverse needs and aspirations of their community members, the LGU wishes to create an environment where everyone feels valued and has a sense of belonging.

The LGU is hopeful that the Ordinance will set the course for better implementation of their programs that contribute to social cohesion and resilience in their community.

MUNICIPALITY OF SUMISIP

PROVINCE: BASILAN
INCOME CLASS: 1ST CLASS MUNICIPALITY
POPULATION: 47,345 (PSA 2020 CENSUS)

To make the government closer to the people—this is the ultimate priority of the local government of Sumisip under the leadership of Mayor Jul Adnan Hataman. Recognizing that access to basic social services is the right of the constituents, the local chief executive believes that the government should be the one to reach out to the community, not the other way around.

Thus, the birth of Sumisip CARES, which stands for Community Assistance Reforms through Emerging Synergy, is the flagship program of the Municipality of Sumisip. Launched in 2019, the program was packaged into community assistance reforms to make basic social services accessible to all.

Under this program, the local government literally and figuratively reaches out to its people by visiting different barangays where the locals can avail of the different basic social services provided by the municipality.

These include free medical and dental services from the Sumisip Rural Health Unit, where municipal doctors get to visit barangays to conduct face-to-face consultations and provide medicines for the sick. They also conduct free Tuli and conduct different laboratory tests that the people may need in the community.



The Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office also brings its services to the barangays, where residents get to avail of the free registration and application for Senior Citizen ID, PDW ID, and Solo Parent ID. The Local Civil Registrar also assists the residents in the free registration of birth certificates, marriage licenses, and other pertinent documents.



In coordination also with the Department of Education, gifts, loot bags, and meals were given to the Sumisip children. Even the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Army take part in the program by providing free medical and haircut services. Drug and Abu Sayyaf Group surrenderees also take part in the program, as members of the PNP visit them in the barangays as part of the monitoring procedure.

This whole-of-government approach was only possible through the cooperation and coordination of the LGU, other local government agencies, as well as the participation of the youth.

Because of its success, the provincial government of Basilan hopes to replicate this approach within other municipalities in the province.

MUNICIPALITY OF TIPO-TIPO

PROVINCE: BASILAN
INCOME CLASS: 3RD CLASS MUNICIPALITY
POPULATION: 25,531 (PSA 2020 CENSUS)

Recognizing the importance of children in Tipo-Tipo's future, their health is a top priority for the municipality. To achieve zero malnutrition, the Local Government of Tipo-Tipo, led by the Rural Health Unit, Dr. Nurkhan Istarul (Physician), Nutrition Officer, and barangay health workers, focused on treating children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) during the COVID-19 pandemic, when children were particularly vulnerable.

The municipality's health force, along with various stakeholders, collaboratively conducts immunization and deworming activities, nutrition education classes for mothers, promotes exclusive breastfeeding, reactivates barangay nutrition committees, and rehabilitates malnourished children.

Nutrition interventions include Ready to Use Therapeutic Food, a globally proven method for treating malnutrition. Severely malnourished children participate in a nutrition care program, monitored weekly by Barangay Health Workers. They receive rice and a weekly food pack, along with nutrition counseling. These interventions have resulted in the successful recovery of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition.



Through these health initiatives, Tipo-Tipo has been recognized as the municipality with the lowest percentage of malnourished children and as the most improved in terms of Infants and Children's Survival. Percentage of stunted children has decreased from 34.9% in 2020, down to just 11.2% in 2021. Wasted children were at 3.9% in 2021, coming from 6.6% back in 2020. Data on overweight and obese children was also cut into half, with 5.3% recorded in 2020, down to 2.5% in 2021.

Families have also been educated on the importance of immunization for children. In 2020, only 21% of the children's population was recorded but after conducting the nutrition interventions, a surprising 86% were fully immunized.

For the indigenous people in the municipality, the local government has likewise introduced the Sahaya Day, a social cohesion mechanism for bringing the social services to the grass-roots level. This is to highlight the significance of ensuring that all constituents, regardless of their contrasting ethnological descents, enjoy their "rights to live and be happy".

The Sahaya Day is annual program that started in 2018 to uplift the social and moral aspects of the thriving Sama- Badjau community of Tipo-Tipo, and eradicate the stereotypical biases against them.. Apart from the delivery of health and other social services, the participating Sama-Badjaus also received legal services and other educational activities on their rights as indigenous people.

These initiatives of the local government's health department, with the cooperation of the parents, donors, and other stakeholders, prove to be successful not only in achieving zero malnutrition but also in securing our children's future.

MUNICIPALITY OF TUBURAN

PROVINCE: BASILAN
INCOME CLASS: 2ND CLASS MUNICIPALITY
POPULATION: 24,742 (PSA 2020 CENSUS)

The Municipality of Tuburan recognizes that investing in its people is a crucial step towards poverty alleviation and in preventing violent extremism. The local government is also guided by the principle that efforts to reduce, if not eliminate, conflicts and violence does not end by laying down arms but in providing opportunities for everyone including educational opportunities. For this reason, the current mayor not only continued but even enhanced the program of the previous administration in ending violence and conflicts.

LGU-Tuburan in Basilan welcomed the surrender of violent extremists and provided incentives and support for their safe integration into the communities. Additionally, 20 to 30 surrenderees were trained and given the opportunity to join the Barangay Police Auxiliary Team (BPAT), transforming them from former extremists to peacekeepers.

As an initiative with a long term impact, the Municipal Government, in partnership with the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation of Tuburan, established the Aku Scholar Tuburan Program – an initiative that provides tertiary education scholarship grants to deserving students from the poorest of the poor sector including the children of former violent extremists. The objective, aside from ensuring the sustainability of peace efforts, is to ensure that at least one family member's college education will not only improve their lives but will also be vital for the municipality's economic growth.

Applicants should be a Filipino citizen and a registered voter of the Municipality of Tuburan; with good moral character and without any derogatory record; not more than twenty-five (25) years old at the time of the filing of application; a high school graduate with 75% percentile rank or above in the National Secondary

Achievement Test or at least 85% average with no failing grade in any subject or has not yet completed a tertiary course; with weighted average of at least 85% in the last semester in college, if attended any; has passed the entrance examination, if required, of the school where he or she intends to enroll on; and are not presently enjoying any scholarship or study grant.

Qualified candidates may receive up to P10,000 per school year to cover school fees, should they meet the required semestral average. And to further motivate grantees to prioritize their education, the municipality also gives incentives of up to P3,000 per semester, provided they maintain the required average grade.

Upon college graduation, the municipality supports scholars in finding employment in local government or other public/private entities. This program ensures both degree completion and secure job opportunities for family members. It contributes to maintaining an educated and skilled workforce, benefiting the municipality's economic growth.

The implementation of the ordinance is headed by the Scholarship Board. The local government aims to sponsor 20 scholars, with the Sangguniang Kabataan to pool their resources and sponsor 10 more scholars.



LGU Fellowship Program on Social Cohesion and Resilience



For more information, scan the QR code
or visit www.linktr.ee/fellowscolloquium



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LGU-LED INITIATIVES ON SOCIAL COHESION AND RESILIENCE

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