

## Final Report

### Project Details

National Organisation	:	German National Organization (GNO)
Country Office	:	Plan Philippines
Project Name	:	<b>Boats for Daram Communities</b>
GAD Number	:	PHL0172
PU covered by the project:		Samar West Program Unit
Donor	:	AG Munchen (Mrs. Licht)
Project start and end date:		August 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006
Type of report	:	<b>Final Report</b>
Date of this report	:	December 12, 2006
Report author/s	:	<u>Ma. Glynn Rosales/ Ronald Talaogon/Elisa Barrantes</u> Project Officers

### Objectives of the project:

To improve access and mobility of children and families from the barangays (villages) of Pondang, Mongolbongol, Mayabay, Buenavista and Cagbubuto in the island municipality of Daram through the provision of motorized boats to the barangays.

Specifically, the project intends to:

- 1.1 Provide transportation for school-children in going to their schools and back to their homes;
- 1.2 Provide transportation for the communities' emergency health cases from the barangay to the municipality (Rural Health Unit) or at the province (Provincial Hospital);
- 1.3 Provide transportation facility in other activities that support child rights promotion; and
- 1.4 Enhance the capacity of local councils in project management.



### Project achievements:

The boats benefit around 150 school-children of 500 families in five barangays. They are the primary beneficiaries of the project as they are provided with transportation in going to

school. It was reported that with these available transportation, it motivated the children to go to school and not miss classes.

A typical scene on Monday mornings will see the boats going around the barangays and fetching the children (at twenty children per travel) who are already waiting in the village wharf. From there, they will be transported to their schools. Pick-up of the children will be in the afternoon of Fridays and bring them back to their barangays. Most of the students in high school stayed in boarding houses during school days and choose not to go home everyday because of the larger expense they will incur.



The boats have contributed to the success of the Targeted School Assistance Project as the identified children who are at risk of dropping out of school do not worry now of how they can go to school. This also facilitated a good school outreach in the communities. School enrolment has significantly increased by 23% and 18% for primary and secondary level respectively in the five barangays.

The barangay councils were instrumental in the building of the boats and are taking care of its management now. Rules and regulations were agreed upon by the members of the communities so that the boats are properly used, maximized, and maintained. The barangay councils allocate 1,000 pesos (US\$20) monthly for the maintenance of the boats while the families contribute 20 pesos (US\$0.40) regularly for the fuel expenses. Safekeeping of the boats during bad weather is ensured by the community. There is a designated boatman for each unit to make certain of its proper handling and maintenance. The boats are again being repainted as part of their regularly maintenance.

These boats are also important especially during emergency period when a sick patient needs to be brought to the hospital. When the boats are free from transporting school-children, they are used by barangay leaders and other community members when they go to the town proper for training or meetings. They pay for the fuel cost on these occasions.

### **Lessons learned**

- The local councils recognize that the skills honed by managing the project translate into leadership skills in the larger community. This has helped them recognize that many of the struggles they face in sustaining projects are rooted in leadership capability.
- Inability of some families to provide counterpart for the daily operations and maintenance (due to low income) would hinder project sustainability hence, a need for additional resource mobilization activities.
- Regularly monitoring of the project as well as assessments on the part of the communities (local councils, parents, students and the school) and Plan should be done to check on the project's sustainability.

### **Challenges faced**

- There are some families of children beneficiaries who have difficulty in providing contributions for the daily operations of the boats. This is being addressed by the provision of subsidy by the barangay council of the daily operation of the baots;
- The boats are still limited in capacity as it can only transport 20 children at one time. The boats have to make more than one trip to transport all the children but make children late from school. Other children just take the regular boat ride to their schools.

### **Comments from the beneficiaries, project implementers**

*“During Mondays and Fridays, I excitedly wait for our service boat to pick me up at the wharf together with some of my friends and then bring us to our school. It is always an exciting and enjoyable trip for us because we are able to share with my friends the activities we have during weekends as well as to share our assignments and lessons in school while we are on travel. Sometimes my parents do not have money to pay for my contribution (for the boat) but still I am able to ride on it. My parents just ask permission from the boatman and they will pay our obligation the next time that we have money.”*

Jimmydy Malinao  
High school student  
Parasan High School

*“The service boat for the children is very helpful because our children have less difficulty in looking for transportation facility in going to school, less burden on transportation expenses for parents. And, we are assured of the safety of our children in going to school and in going home after classes on Friday. Children also reach the school on time. I, as parent can easily monitor my child if she really gets to school or not. What I just need to do is check with the boatman.”*

Ansinona Lanada  
Parent/Community  
Volunteer  
Barangay Mongolbongol

*“I am very much grateful for the boats that Plan has supported us. It has helped a lot here in our barangay especially to students studying in nearby barangays. During emergency cases, we easily transport the patient to nearby health facilities or hospital for medical attention. Whenever there are activities at the municipal level like the regular Municipal Development Council Meetings, the boat hops from one barangay to the another to pick up the Punong Barangays (Barangay Chairpersons) in our cluster and transport us to the town center where the municipal hall is located. Regarding the maintenance, our barangay allocates an amount (a maximum of PhP1,000) for the repair.*

Hon. Juanita Casiano  
Punong Barangay

*“The boats’ project encourages students especially the out-of-school to go back to school. Specifically for those families who do not own boats, the children really has difficulty in going to and from school and this is aside from the financial difficulties in supporting children in school projects. But now, with Plan’s scholarship program and with the boats available to transport the children, at least these will lessen the burden of families in providing basic education to children.”*

Ma. Glynn R. Rosales  
Plan staff