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## CONCEPCION, ILOILO: BEST PRACTICE MODEL OF AN INTEGRATED POPULATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

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*This case was written by  
Lydia Isip Alvez of IMDM  
under the supervision of  
Prof. Jaime delos Santos,  
for the Philippine Center for  
Population and Development*

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*“Population policies and programs are reoriented from the narrow focus on family planning aimed at slowing population growth to a reproductive health approach that addresses a broad range of reproductive and sexual health needs of women and men. This shift is rooted in the human rights focus of ICPD, which gives individuals and their needs priority over demographic imperatives.”*

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Sept 1994, Cairo

*“Any attempt or efforts at poverty alleviation will be negated if the rapid growth of the population is not addressed as this will stretch and further deplete our resources and put more pressure on the already degraded environment.”*

Mayor Raul N. Baniyas (1999)

**T**he date was October 2, 2007, just eight days after Dr. Raul Baniyas took his oath of office as Presidential Assistant for Panay and Guimaras Islands<sup>1</sup>. Seated inside his office in Iloilo City which adjoins the Regional Office of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) - Region 6, Dr. Baniyas appeared not to feel the discomfort of the searing heat outside, as he was deep in thought.

With his appointment as Presidential Assistant, his new task – how to replicate what he has done for his municipality of Concepcion, Iloilo and its other neighboring eight (8) municipalities on a wider scale, to already include provinces that comprise Panay Island and Guimaras in Western Visayas, was both herculean and daunting. Looking at the map of Western Visayas, he cannot help but compare the size and area of coverage of his new area of responsibility to the municipality of Concepcion.

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<sup>1</sup> Panay Island is composed of 4 provinces – Iloilo, Antique, Capiz & Aklan. Together with Guimaras Island, these 2 islands comprise the 1<sup>st</sup> half of Western Visayas.

The map and table below show the provinces that comprise Panay Island and the Guimaras Island.

**Map 1: Western Visayas**



**Table 1: Administrative Features of Panay Island and Guimaras**

Province/ City	Capital	Population (2000)	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Pop. density (per km <sup>2</sup> )
Aklan	Kalibo	451,314	1,817.9	248.3
Antique	San Jose	471,088	2,522.0	186.8
Capiz	Roxas City	654,156	2,633.2	248.4
Guimaras	Jordan	141,450	604.7	233.9
Iloilo	Iloilo City	1,925,002	4,719.4	407.9
Iloilo City <sup>1</sup>	—	365,820	56.0	6,533.0

*At first there was only one ...*

Dr. Banias noted that Panay Island comprises of four (4) provinces (Aklan, Antique, Capiz & Iloilo) of Panay Island and including the island of Guimaras, cover a total of approximately 12,353.2 kilometers. On the other hand, the municipality of Concepcion which is located in the province of Iloilo<sup>2</sup> is only one of the 11 municipalities of the 5<sup>th</sup> district of Iloilo and of the total 43 municipalities of the entire province of Iloilo, as shown in the Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Administrative Districts of Iloilo**

1st District	2nd District	3rd District	4th District	5th District
Igbaras	Alimodian	Badiangan	Anilao	Ajuy
Guimbal	Leganes	Bingawan	Banate	Balasan
Miag-ao	Leon	Cabatuan	Btac. Nuevo	Btac. Viejo
Oton	New Lucena	Calinog	Dingle	Batad
Tigbauan	Pavia	Janiuay	Duenas	Carles
Tubungan	San Miguel	Lambunao	Dumangas	<b>Concepcion</b>
San Joaquin	Sta. Barbara	Maasin	Passi	Estancia
	Zarraga	Mina	San Enrique	Lemery
		Pototan		San Dionisio
				San Rafael
				Sara

<sup>2</sup> The province of Iloilo occupies the southern and northeastern portion of Panay Island.

The Municipality of C10ncepcion<sup>3</sup> lies east of Panay Island and northeast of the Province of Iloilo. It has 25 *barangays*, 11 of which are found on small islands. It is bounded on the east and south by the Visayan Sea, on the north by the Municipality of San Dionisio and west by the Municipality of Ajuy. A considerable portion of the Municipality of Concepcion includes 17 islands<sup>4</sup>. Nearest to the mainland is Tago Island whose southern cape is not more than 200 meters away from the mainland. The farthest island is Baliguian, which is 22 kilometers away from the Poblacion.

In the year 2000, the municipality of Concepcion, was ranked as the poorest municipality in Iloilo due to surveys which showed that 5,598 households (87 percent of households) in Concepcion lived below the poverty threshold. At that time, Concepcion was experiencing poor delivery and very little access to basic health services. The rural health centers in the barangays did not have adequate supply of family planning paraphernalia, and there were low numbers of family planning users due to lack of information and understanding. As a result, the population growth rate in Concepcion was quite high. Added to this was widespread overfishing as well as destructive fishing practices among Concepcion fisherfolks. These fishermen experienced severe decrease in their fish catch, from a high of 10.0 kilos per fisherman a day in 1995 to a low of 0.2 kilos per fisherman per day in 2000.

Two years before, Dr. Bantias, as Mayor of Concepcion, already crafted his vision: to eliminate poverty in Concepcion by the year 2020. While he was still searching for a means to realize this ambitious plan, an organization called Save the Children (SC) which earlier received a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation to implement an integrated PHE program in the Philippines, was already looking for a local recipient for its program.

The aim of this program, called the “People and Environment Co-Existence Development Project” (PESCO-Dev), was to improve the health of families and communities through measures that address population growth in consideration of environmental issues, such as the degradation of coastal resources. The project was based on the premise that couples who have an unmet need for family planning are likely to take action to address their needs if reproductive health services are available to them and if they understand the links between a growing population, the local environment, and the quality of life. With one of the highest population growth rates in Southeast Asia (currently at 2 percent per year), the Philippines is projected to grow from its current population of 83.7 million to 147.3 million in 2050<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Concepcion lies 123 degrees 64' longitude of the Meridian Greenwich and 11 degrees 13'52" North Latitude.

<sup>4</sup> The biggest of these islands is the Pan de Azucar with an area of 18.4 square kilometer. The smallest is (not considering the islets some of which are submerged during high tides) Bocot Island which is uninhabited. The aggregate area of all these islands are 34.97 square kilometer which comprises 40% of the total land area of Concepcion.

<sup>5</sup> This growth can be attributed to the country's relatively high total fertility rate and to population momentum. While surveys indicate that the average desired total fertility rate in the country is 2.7 children per woman, the actual total fertility rate in the Philippines is currently 3.5 children per woman. In addition, maternal mortality in the Philippines is still common: Approximately 10 women die every 24 hours from pregnancy-related causes.

### *A choice was finally made ...*

Unknown to Dr. Baniyas, Save the Children has decided to tap local communities for their PESCO-Dev project, to include Concepcion, Iloilo. The Save the Children staff was tasked to search for LGUs with a setting that both presented reproductive health and environmental challenges and where the organization could test approaches that integrate population-health-environment (PHE)<sup>6</sup> activities. It was felt that the integrated model would broaden acceptance for reproductive health and coastal resource management (CRM) activities. Despite the fact that Save the Children was not specifically focusing on poverty alleviation, it was believed that in the case of Concepcion, Iloilo, achieving PESCO-Dev reproductive health and environment objectives could help Mayor Baniyas achieve his goal of eradicating poverty in his municipality.

There were several factors that led Save the Children to choose Concepcion, Iloilo as one of its recipients for the project. One was Concepcion's membership in the Northern Iloilo Alliance of Coastal Municipalities which has a history of commitment and leadership in solving problems affecting its members as well as its unique capability to serve as a forum where experiences among LGUs are shared. Another attractive aspect of Concepcion is its geographic significance - it has concentrated populations located on the Visayan Sea, a rich ecosystem and one of the most important fishing grounds in the Philippines.

From February 2000 onwards, the PESCO-Dev team from Save the Children held several meetings and workshops with the LGU and even barangay leaders of Concepcion to ensure "the success of the PESCO-Dev Project" through the "acceptance of the project by the barangay leaders and community residents". The workshops were designed to strengthen the skills of barangay leaders in mobilizing community members, development planning, and project decision-making. At the same time, it was thought that working directly with municipal leaders will likewise ensure that PHE plans would get budgetary and policy support and would be aligned with the annual municipal development plan. The outcome was that both levels of the local government units (LGUs)—the barangay and the municipality—held each other accountable, creating mutual and sustained support and commitment. Further, couples of reproductive age as well as adolescents, fisher folks, and farmers were involved at the outset to get their cooperation.

A health and environment assessment by Save the Children was completed in 2001, the results of which were integrated into the ACM outputs into crafting the final proposals submitted to the group of stakeholders, i.e. the mayor, the council members, department heads, reproductive-health and environment specialists and the Save the Children manager for the Philippines.

A core group of community members were trained by the Save the Children team to become family planning volunteers and adolescent peer facilitators on adolescent reproductive and sexual health as well as marine conservation. As a result, community members became more engaged when the barangay officials pushed the municipal government to become responsive to barangay needs. For his part, then Mayor Baniyas made sure that the LGUs—both the municipality and the barangay—opened up dialogues with community members, especially the women and religious sectors. As PESCO-Dev progressed, more and more LGU staff and mayoral appointees became actively involved. Many of those people previously skeptical of the project became the ones on the front line.

One of the incumbent Municipal Councilors at that time, Val Bracamonte who was the concurrent committee chair on health for Concepcion remarked that "We got meaningful policies developed,

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<sup>6</sup> See Exhibit A: PHE in the Philippines

both in health and the environment”. He added that the municipality was able to formulate a comprehensive development plan, which made it unique compared to other LGUs. Other distinctive features of the development assistance project for Concepcion included educating the community in analysis and planning, the preparation of project proposals, methods of resource mobilization as well as increasing their level of awareness about PHE as a development intervention and an empowerment tool. At the same time, the community members learned about Appreciative Community Mobilization (ACM)<sup>1</sup> to help them understand and analyze the interaction of PHE issues within their communities. ACM is a capacity-building process that is also a strategy used by the Save the Children to ensure project sustainability. ACM engages and mobilizes the community members to actively involve themselves in different phases of development intervention. The participation of the local officials also provided legitimacy to the project activities.

### ***Partnerships were born...***

Dr. Baniás could only smile as he recalled the first few months after the project has taken off. These were the most difficult times as his constituents were the primary beneficiaries and the expected prime movers of the program strategies which basically hinged on LGU bureaucracy reengineering, program redirection, decentralized and shared management, strategic partnerships with institutions, strategic networking and resource mobilization, and community empowerment.

One of the initial moves that Dr. Baniás undertook to ensure the success of his program was the use of an approach called the minimum basic needs (MBN), which had helped him address the basic problems of poverty and malnutrition in Concepcion. “The local officials would have easy alibi for not being able to implement projects, but once they are presented with incidence of poverty, they should have no choice but address the situation,” Dr. Baniás said. He added that pertinent information, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), enabled the local officials to gain insights, formulate policies and take action on the problems of their localities.

It was likewise part of the strategy to involve local government officials down to the barangay level in data generation and appreciation. Core data were made conspicuous in barangays through bulletin boards placed in public places for the people to see and learn from, he added. Baniás said when people are empowered through an understanding of basic economic indicators; they can participate in decision-making for projects to be implemented in their areas.

Among the multifarious activities undertaken by the LGU with the support of various sectors of the community were human-resource development, micro-enterprise development, livelihood enhancement, and housing and shelter improvement, resource management (people and environment coexistence, Bantay Dagat or Coastal Security, agrarian reform, community development, and community-based eco-tourism), health initiatives (social health insurance, rural health unit upgrade, and Project COPE [Integrated Reproductive Health Program]), education (early childhood development and Project RAUL [Reform in Accelerated and Unified Learning]), and infrastructure development (Kalahi-CIDSS).

In order to serve as an effective agent of change, the LGU must be highly competent and dynamic and must work closely with the community. Dr. Baniás believed that, more important than financial logistics (which amounted to a total of more than Php62 million for the Zero Poverty 2020 program component and more than Php63 million for the Harnessing Synergy in Integrated

PHE program component)<sup>7</sup>, would be a team of committed and responsive LGU personnel. Hence, the first step to ensure their project's success was to require LGU personnel to undergo a paradigm shift in public service, to one that is responsive to the community's needs and to poverty eradication. Just as critical as logistics, commitment and involvement of the beneficiaries were the partnerships that were developed with international funding organizations as well as local and national government agencies. Below is the list of funding organizations and national government agencies which developed a type of partnership with the LGU of Concepcion which went beyond project implementation and maintenance, as follows:

**International Funding Sources:**

1. Save the Children of the United States
2. World Bank
3. For Foundation
4. Asian Development Bank
5. Singapore International Forum
6. Philippines – Canada Development Fund
7. German Technological Cooperation
8. Canadian International Development Agency

**National Government Agencies/Other Local & Private Entities:**

1. Department of Health
2. Department of Trade and Industry
3. Department of Labor and Employment
4. Department of Social Welfare and Development
5. Department of Agriculture
6. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
7. Department of Tourism
8. Department of Education
9. Department of Agrarian Reform
10. Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
11. Food and Agriculture Organization
12. University of the Philippines
13. Family Planning Organization of the Philippines
14. Population Commission
15. Provincial Government of Iloilo
16. Iloilo Caucus of Development NGOs
17. Gerry Roxas Foundation
18. Green Forum Western Visayas
19. Alliance of Northern Iloilo for Health Development
20. Northern Iloilo Alliance for Coastal Development
21. Couples for Christ/Gawad Kalinga
22. Sangguniang Kabataan Federation
23. Women's Federation of Concepcion

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<sup>7</sup> Exhibit C: FUNDING SOURCES

*The outcomes speak for themselves ...*

During its first year of implementation, the PESCO-Dev project already provided 55% of 98 households with sustainable alternative livelihood that added 35% to their income. 499 households were able to obtain loans for their micro-enterprises which resulted in a 25% increase in income. 59 households likewise accessed micro-finance for housing purposes while 175 beneficiaries had savings mobilization and capital buildup.

In terms of ecological development, Concepcion established seven (7) Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), in order to regulate fish catch and replenish marine and fishery resources in six barangays in five islands, resulting in an increase of five kilos in the daily catch of small fisher folks, equivalent to P200. The regular monitoring of municipal waters netted 1,152 apprehensions that generated PhP3,300,500 in penalty fees from 2004-2007, giving the town additional income. Moreover, the creation of the MPAs necessitated the setting up of seven barangay and municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils which managed the coastal cleanup drives and coastal law enforcement.

At the same time, farmers in three barangays adopted alternative farming technologies designed for sustainable agriculture. Also, the Tampusaw Festival that promotes community-based tourism in four island-barangays provided additional economic opportunities to 5,710 residents while it emphasized the protection and enhancement of natural resources.

The Tables below show the improved poverty and health indicators in Concepcion.

**Table 3: IMPROVED INDICATORS FOR 2000 – 2004**

INDICATOR	2000	2004
POVERTY RATE	87%	47%
ELEMENTARY LEVEL SURVIVAL RATE	67.28%	85.20%
SECONDARY LEVEL SURVIVAL RATE	86%	87%
COMPLETION RATE FOR ELEMENTARY PUPILS	68.65%	92.20%
COMPLETION RATE FOR SECONDARY LEVEL	92%	86%

**Table 4: IMPROVED HEALTH INDICATORS FOR 2001 – 2003**

INDICATOR	2001	2002	2003
MORBIDITY RATE		14.6%	10.7%
MORTALITY RATE		3.53 per 1,000 population	3.43 per 1,000 population
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Number of pregnancy-related deaths)	240	128	0
WATER-BORNE DISEASES		5.34%	3.92%
FAMILY PLANNING ACCEPTORS		1,280	1,550

**Table 5: IMPROVED EDUCATION INDICATORS FOR 2003 & 2005**

INDICATOR	2003	2005
LITERACY RATE		92.69%
PUPIL-TEXTBOOK RATIO		1:5
DAY CARE CENTERS	47	52
NO. OF PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS		18
NO. OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS		18
NO. OF PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS		2
FEMALE COLLEGE STUDENTS	350	413
MALE COLLEGE STUDENTS	206	199

Meanwhile, other improved indicators included the following:

- a. the rate of under-five mortality was pegged to eight deaths in 1990 to 2004;
- b. a 17% increase in access to reproductive health services by 2004, with about 70% of the town's population or more than 23,900 people benefiting from the program component that was promoted under the slogan "With Family Planning, Your Health is Ensured, Your Environment is Saved";
- c. the contraceptive prevalence rate increased from 28% in 2001 to 45% in 2005;
- d. zero incidence of HIV, AIDS, TB, malaria and other major diseases, with continuous conduct of AIDS-prevention services through counseling and education and information campaign on STI-HIV/AIDS by support groups and advocacy organizations, such as barangay health workers, women's organization, BSPO and family planning volunteers;
- e. mortality rate of pulmonary tuberculosis decreased from 9.6% in 2001 to 3.4% in 2005;
- f. social health insurance was distributed to 1,333 beneficiaries;
- g. the housing data showed a 12% decrease in households who are informal settlers and a 1% decrease in households with makeshift housing as of 2004;
- h. in education, 750 preschool children benefited from the construction of 20 day-care centers since 2001, eight elementary and primary schools were constructed since 2003, 3,111 pupils were provided with workbooks and textbooks, resulting in a 15-percent increase in reading proficiency;
- i. through the establishment of Gulayan sa Eskwelahan (Vegetable Farm in the School) in 34 schools, additional food was provided;
- j. The construction of a modern children's playground, a reading center and a training center in Barangay Loong benefited more than 2,000 residents;
- k. The construction of 23 infrastructure projects benefited more than 16,000 constituents or 60% of the population in 22 barangays in the municipality;
- l. There were a total of about 19,600 beneficiaries of the program, constituting 60% of the more than 34,000 population of Concepcion. These beneficiaries include the fisherfolks, farmers, rural women, micro-entrepreneurs, unemployed residents and public school children.

The program beneficiaries in Concepcion recalled that ...

*“The program helped our village a lot. We learned how to rehabilitate our degraded natural resources. A big help to us was the conduct of family planning action sessions because couples realized the need to accept family planning methods to help their families and the community for the future of the children. We have experienced so many difficulties but we have seen the good results of PHE.”* (Ofelia Navarro, Family Planning volunteer of Brgy Nipa, Concepcion)

*“We attended one session and we were convinced because of the situation shown to us about our environment and the natural resources. Right there, we decided to accept a permanent method so we can help improve our environment and protect our natural resources by not having more children.” We decided to accept the permanent method. We have three children and we planned not to have children anymore.”* (Husband and wife, Edsel and Gemma Moquete of Brgy Nipa, Concepcion, Iloilo)

*“We learned things that are happening to adolescents, especially about pre-marital sex and teenage pregnancy... One should not rush into marriage and should know that to be a parent is not a joke. One should be prepared for this.”* (Janice Mosqueda, President, Concepcion ARSH/Youth Butlak)

Even local government officials had to admit that the PHE program implemented in Concepcion did their community a lot of good:

*“Through the project and our municipal government, we declared a marine protected area in our municipal waters. We had experienced many problems in declaring this marine protected area but we continued to educate our people and they were able to accept this and now their fish catch has increased and this helped them. We are now fishing at the nearby area and we need not go two hours away to fish.”* (Remy Navarro, Chairman, Brgy Nipa BFARMC)

*“With the establishment of the marine protected area, people can buy their daily needs such as rice because they spend little money on fishing. Also their lives have become easier because of lower birth rate as they are educated about this.”* (Rodolfo Villaruz, Punong Barangay, Nipa, Concepcion)

The project's accomplishments were so significant that the municipality of Concepcion became a working PHE model within the province of Iloilo and the entire Western Visayas region. The program was adopted as a model for reproductive health and environment programming by LGUs in the Northern Iloilo Alliance for Coastal Development and in the Alliance of Northern Iloilo for Health and Development.

One of the program features that was considered a best practice was the championing of people empowerment that resulted in the beneficiaries' very high degree of program ownership. This was achieved by making the community members, to include the parish and the laity of the local churches, participate in every stage of the projects—from assessment, enforcement of policies to monitoring—using indigenous and scientific approaches.

Other innovative features of the PHE program included the LGU's deliberate effort—through ordinances, human resource development and other measures—to institutionalize the sustainability of its components beyond the term of the implementing administration and project funding.

The components of the Zero Poverty 2020 Program have already been proven to be replicable when these were adopted as working models by other LGUs. Some of the projects were adjudged as best models for similar programs or projects by government agencies in other areas. For example, the PESCO-Dev Project, which established links between population and environment in the fight against poverty, became the model for nine other neighboring municipalities of Concepcion and forged a multi-LGU partnership in the flagship program on coastal resource management.

The same program was chosen as the pilot for KALAHI-CIDDS-KBB, a community-based poverty-reduction project of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The pilot project called "Poverty-Free Zone" was also used as model by the Department of Labor and Employment in eradicating poverty and as replication area of "Good Practices in Local Governance: Facility for Adaptation and Replication" (GOFAR) for the child-friendly program.

As a consequence of the increased absorptive capacity of Concepcion and the enhanced capability of the program implementers, many of the town's initiatives were jointly implemented with national agencies<sup>8</sup>. The table on funding sources showed the continuity of funds, especially the commitment of the LGU of Concepcion which ensured the sustainability of the project. More importantly, the projects were also piloted for replication nationwide, earning the municipality of Concepcion the distinction of being considered a "living university" and a "laboratory for replication" of pioneering initiatives by the national government, international NGOs and funding institutions.

The municipal health officer of Concepcion, Dr. Helen Minguez, even noted that the project "changed the way we design and implement population, health, and environment programs", for example, barangay health workers shifted from their traditional tasks and became effective communicators for family planning and environmental resource management. Thus, when Save the Children officially ended its PHE project in Concepcion, it assisted Mayor Bantias and his team to prepare a technical proposal which was approved by the Philippine-Canadian Development Fund and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to continue the program linking PHE with poverty alleviation in Concepcion, Iloilo and this time including the other member-municipalities of the Alliance of Northern Iloilo for Health Development, Inc. (ANIHEAD). The UNFPA project sustained the two initiatives of Mayor Bantias to achieve his dream of eradicating poverty in Concepcion by 2020, viz: "Zero Poverty 2020" and "Harnessing Synergy in Integrated Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) Programming," in a new project called ReCAPHE or Replicating Convergence Approach on Population, health and Environment (which could be the subject of a new case study). Since the PESCO-Dev and ReCAPHE programs were launched eight years ago, there was remarkable progress in halving the incidence of poverty throughout the province and increasing the general income among the residents.

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<sup>8</sup> Exhibit C: Funding Sources

### *In Conclusion ...*

Many studies have shown that while community concerns such as population, health, and the environment in the Philippines are complex, these are intricately interconnected. Likewise, collaborative efforts that were undertaken to address the complexity of these interconnections have been proven to improve the Filipinos' health, their economic conditions and their environment. On the other hand, the challenge lies in ensuring that all Filipinos will be able to count on health and well-being for their families, their communities, and the natural resources upon which they depend.

This was the experience of the municipality of Concepcion as it directly tackled the varied and yet intricately linked issues of population, health and the environment. Through its integrated PHE program, the municipality was able to enhance the quality of life of around 70 percent of its population through improved reproductive health and environment.

The various barangay folks learned the necessary skills on how to plan their lives and were empowered to decide on the size of their families and to be actively involved in governance, working on community projects to improve health care services and preserve mangrove areas and fishing grounds for better livelihood among the townsfolk. Moreover, the program increased accessibility to better family planning and reproductive health services, expanded the community support systems and created a sound policy environment, leading to positive coastal resource management.

Such was the thought that played in Dr. Baniás's mind, as he mulled over his immediate plans for Panay Island and the Guimaras. Dr. Baniás thought of the quickest and most acceptable ways to ensure the involvement of the stakeholders in his two program initiatives of Zero Poverty 2020 and Harnessing Synergy in Integrated PHE programming in a larger environment – that is, in all the provinces and islands that constitute his new area of responsibility. One such approach includes the convening of the Regional KALAHÍ Convergence Group<sup>9</sup>. Necessarily, he has to discuss with the local government executives in these provinces their priority development programs and other critical social services projects in order to address poverty alleviation issues.

With this initiative foremost in his mind, he hurriedly left his office to call his staff for a brainstorming session regarding his new plan.

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<sup>9</sup> The Regional KALAHÍ Convergence Group is composed of national government agencies in-charge of implementing anti-poverty programs in the most marginalized areas, including those affected by insurgency problems in the region.

## GUIDE QUESTIONS:

1. *Compared to Concepcion and the surrounding nine municipalities of Iloilo, the entire Panay Island and Guimaras cover a wider area and a larger number of constituents with varied population, health and environmental concerns. Among the four additional provinces that are under the purview of responsibility of Presidential Assistant Baniyas, i.e. Aklan, Antique, Capiz and Guimaras, how would prioritization in terms of implementing the twin programs of Zero Poverty 2020 and the Harnessing Synergy in an Integrated PHE be done? What should be the bases for prioritization?*
2. *What experiences of Concepcion and its surrounding municipalities can be replicated in each of the additional provinces?*
3. *What sectors of the civil society in each of the provinces may be tapped to facilitate the implementation of the twin programs? What agencies of government, aside from the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Western Visayas, should be involved to ensure the successful implementation of these programs?*
4. *The farmers, fisher folks and other municipal residents of Concepcion embraced the PHE program when this was introduced in the municipality after the conduct of the Appreciative Community Mobilization (ACM) workshops. Aside from the ACM, what other approaches may be utilized to ensure commitment and involvement of the people of Aklan, Antique, Capiz and Guimaras?*
5. *Resource mobilization and funding are critical to the success of any PHE program. How can funding be assured in Panay Island and Guimaras, especially considering that US AID is scheduled to end its PHE support to the Philippines within the year?*
6. *Is there a need for the involvement of regional government bodies in pushing for the implementation of the twin programs?*
7. *What role can the NGOs play to fast track the implementation of the twin programs?*
8. *Aside from PHE concerns, Panay Island is beset with other peace and order issues. How can the twin programs help alleviate these issues?*

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**Exhibit A: Population, Health and Environment in the Philippines**

Fact Sheet (Population Reference Bureau)

<b>POPULATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (2004)</b>	<b>83.7M</b>
PROJECTED POPULATION (2050)	147.3 M
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION UNDER 15 YRS OLD (2004)	37 %
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (DESIRED)	2.7 children per woman
TOTAL FERTILITY RATE (ACTUAL)	3.5 children per woman
PERCENTAGE OF COUPLES USING FAMILY PLANNING METHOD	49 %
NUMBER OF DEATHS PER DAY FROM PREGNANCY-RELATED CAUSES	10
PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN AREAS	48 %
PERCENTAGE OF ILLNESSES CAUSED BY WATER-BORNE SOURCES	31%
PERCENTAGE OF ORIGINAL LOWLAND FOREST STILL INTACT	7 %
HECTARES OF FOREST LOST (1990-2000)	88,000 / year
NUMBER OF SPECIES THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION	400
NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN HUNTING, AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING	11 M
NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS LIVING BELOW POVERTY THRESHOLD	4.3 M
PERCENTAGE OF UNDERWEIGHT CHILDREN	28 %

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**<sup>i</sup> Exhibit B: Appreciative Community Mobilization (ACM)**

ACM allows its participants to :

- Discover their assets and strengths (the discovery phase);
- Create a community vision of their future that reflects people's aspirations and hopes (the dream phase);
- Formulate goals and objectives that outline what the community feels would be a desirable future (the design phase); and
- Implement activities (the delivery phase).

By building on the assets and positive strengths of the community, the ACM process helps to motivate community members to participate in development planning and develops accountability for creating a better future.

**Exhibit C: Funding Sources (Foreign & local) in pesos (approximate)**

INSTITUTION	2001		2002		2003		2004		TOTAL	
	Poverty Project	Synergy Project								
SAVE THE CHILDREN	650K	--	750K	750K	500K	500K	End	200K	P1.9M	P1.3M
WORLD BANK	2.44M	--	2.3M	--	8.4M	7.6M	--	4.1M	P13.075M	P13.8M
FORD FNDRN	--	--	4.09M	4.10M	1.8M	1.8M	--	--	P5.91M	P5.92M
SINGAPORE Int'l Forum	--	--	100K	--	700K	--	--	--	P800K	--
PHILS-CANADA Dev't Fund	--	--	--	--	1.5M	--	--	210K	P1.5M	P210K
GERMAN Techno Coop	--	--	350K	120K	380K	--	--	380K	P730K	P500K
ASIAN Dev't Bank	--	--	--	300K	13.6M	13.6M	--	--	P13.6M	P13.9M
CANADIAN Int'l Dev't Agency	200K	--	790K	190K	1.1M	--	--	--	P2.09M	P190K
DOH	1M	--	1.76M	100K	1.5M	100K	--	23,850	P4.26M	P224K
DSWD	500K	--	500K	--	750K	--	--	--	P1.75M	--
DA	500K	--	500K	--	500K	--	--	--	P1.5M	--
DTI	--	--	--	--	1M	--	--	--	P1M	--
DOLE	--	--	500K	500K	480K	490K	--	--	P980K	P990K
DENR	--	--	--	--	500K	500K	--	--	P500K	P500K
CONCEPCION	1.4M	8.7M	4.2M	10.95M	7.3M	6.3M	--	--	P128M	25.96M