Selahuddin Yu Hashim

Proponent

International Training Office, Northern Illinois University

June 17, 2010
The Conflict in Mindanao

1. Fear dominates in many communities throughout the conflict-affected areas.
2. Lack of livelihood programs also dominates the areas.
3. The lack of education is also serious in these areas and ought to be prioritized. Illiteracy and a general lack of knowledge is a dangerous impediment to economic and political progress.
4. Resources are damaged and wasted.
5. Malnutrition is higher especially among women and children.
6. Health is at risk with the widespread of disease due to poor sanitation and limited medicine.
Condition of ‘Bakwits’

1. More than 80% of the displaced population currently face food insecurity;
2. Internally displaced persons experienced the loss of assets (LAND) and loss of, or sharp reductions in, their primary livelihoods;
3. Displacement has caused higher expenditure for displaced families;
4. Displaced persons resorted to “frequent and excessive borrowing to meet their basic needs”.

Situation of Women

• Women are expected to take care of their children and protect family property during times of conflict.
• They suffer most in taking care of their families in evacuation camps – with inhumane conditions and almost no resources.
Human Rights Violation Against Women

1. Warrantless arrests
2. Illegal detention
3. Harassment
4. Disappearances
5. Killings

The Commission on Human Rights and the Women Lawyer’s Circle (WILOCI) has documented rampant abuse of human rights among law enforcement agencies as evidenced by reports of torture, illegal arrests, and violation of the right to due processed by the accused.
What can we do?

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that ‘

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control;’ and, ‘(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.’

Article “29 of UDHR states that

Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.’
MR$^2$ Project:
Empowering Women as Agents of Change in Community Building
The MR² Project

Realizing the important role of women in community building, the project seeks to empower the conflict-affected women through providing venues for sharing experiences and best practices, capacity building training cum workshops and enhancing their skills on:

1. parenting,  
2. human rights,  
3. conflict resolution,  
4. peace,  
5. health and sanitation,  
6. entrepreneurship,  
7. education.
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT TITLE
MR² Project (My Rights, My Responsibility):
Empowering Women as Agents of Change in Community Building

PROJECT PROPONENT
Selahuddin Yu Hashim, Iranon-Maguindanaon, Islam

PROJECT LOCATION
Barangay Darapanan, Simuay, Maguindanao

WHO WILL BENEFIT
Conflict-affected Communities in Maguindanao Province

HOW MANY WILL BENEFIT
The project will train 20 conflict-affected women as agents of change from different barangays in Maguindanao province.

PROJECT COST
PhP 163, 500.00 or US$ 3,700.00

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION
25 June 2010 – 20 September 2010

TOTAL BUDGET
PhP 163, 500.00 or US$ 3,700.00
IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION

Advocacy for Advancement and Development of Mindanao (AFADMin)

Kamela Women Development Center, Inc. (KWDCI)

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<td>International Funding Organization</td>
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Community Partners

• The project will focus on empowering women from the conflict-affected areas of Maguindanao Province. As of July 2009 report, There are 155,434 families or 745,763 persons who are displaced.
  • Inside 586 evacuation centers: 65,092 families or 312,767 persons
  • Outside (home-based): 90,342 families or 432,996 persons

Of the above figure, 20 women from both evacuation centre and home-based centers will be part of the project. Their age varies from 15-50 year old and are coming from various religion and ethnicity.
**SWOT Analysis**

**Strength:** The project can provide the necessary services of training which is expected to enhance the skills of the participants and become engaged in civic activities.

**Weakness:** Limited financial resources that can sustain implementation of activities.

**Opportunity:** Have strong networks and links with international and local funding organizations and other civic organizations that works for advancing peace and development in the community.

**Threat:** Unstable peace and order condition due to conflict.
The project envisions an empowered tri-people and conflict-affected women in selected barangays to serve as agents of change committed for the attainment of a peaceful, diverse and socio-economically vibrant community.
The project provide capacity building services which are designed to enhance leadership and entrepreneurial skills of the tri-people and conflict-affected women in selected barangays of Maguindanao Province and Cotabato City which advances mutual understanding, respect and appreciation to cultural diversity and values and peace and development.
The significant and unique role of women in community building must be enhanced and instilled to the mind of women especially those who are conflict-affected through conduct of trainings and workshops which will enhances their understanding and skills in participating meaningfully in the advancement of peace and development in their community.
Specifically, the project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Generate and provide baseline data on the condition of the conflict-affected women and children residing in selected barangays of Maguindanao province and Cotabato city;
- Provide a venue for women of various ethnicity, religion, gender and age for sharing of experiences, learnings and best practices and enhances interfaith relationships;
- Promote understanding, respect and trust among the tri-people (Muslim, Christian and Indigenous People) in the community;
- Empower women as agents of change by giving them the skills they need in parenting, leadership, entrepreneurship and as active community volunteer;
- Assist the women to integrate or collaborate with the civil society organizations for sustained efforts in the fashioning of peace and development in their community.
Below are the expected outputs of the project:

1. Documentation on the socio-demographic profile of the conflict-affected women in the selected barangays of Maguindanao province and Cotabato City;
2. Conduct of one (1) Women’s forum with at least 20 women participants made aware of the imperatives of the project;
3. A Narrative Report on the shared experiences, learnings and best practices of women on their previous and current condition;
4. Development of Information and Education Campaign Materials as well as a Training Module;
6. At least 25 women participants will be empowered;
7. Responding to the major challenges that women are facing today, women shall identify their priority activities including specific activities on enhancing parent-children relationship, peace, access to financial and economic resources, and health and education. (Formulated Community Action Plan)
8. Establish partnerships with different organizations and agencies to encourage women to participate in the affairs of the society, in fostering culture of peace, justice and prosperity.
OUTCOMES

• Change their attitude from being hopeless into strong, skilful and productive women;
• Women to become more creative in organizing a community-based women’s forum as a venue for sharing experiences and best practices;
• Promote understanding, respect and trust among the tri-people (Muslim, Christian and Indigenous People) in the community;
• Enhanced understanding on the role of women in the family and in community – building;
• Enhanced understanding on human rights and the need to protect it;
• Enable them to initiate income-generating activities which in the process help eradicate poverty in their community;
• Engage them in civic activities that promotes peace and development in their community;
• Instil with them the values of volunteerism and on how to get ahead and overcome problems.
• Promote the spirit of “bayanihan” or helping one another and adopt a pro-active existence.
STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1. Participatory and Self-Reflection based Approach.
3. Civic Participation.
Major Activities

1. **Women’s Forum**: Harnessing the Role of Women in Community Building

2. **Capacity Building Workshops** on:
   a) Gender, Leadership, Parenting and Women Empowerment;
   b) Health and Sanitation;
   c) Entrepreneurship,
   d) Education and Values Formation, and;
   e) Conflict Resolution, Peace Advocacy and Civic Participation;
## OVERALL TIME-FRAME

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BUDGET PROPOSAL

TOTAL BUDGET:
PhP 163,500.00
Or US$ 3,700

Amount requested from NIU:
PhP 35,000.00
Or US$ 760.00

KWDCI-AFAD Counterpart
Php 30,000.00
Or US$ 652.00

Other Source:
PhP 99,000.00
Or US$ 2,152.00
OUTPUT INDICATORS

The following are the major outputs that serves as main indicators of the success of the project;

• Development of IEC materials and training module.

• Documentation of the Challenges, Lessons learned and Best Practices.

• Formulated Action Plan.
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

• NETWORKING. One major focus of the project is the establishment of a strong support and network among women leaders, peace advocates, and women organizations to effectively mobilize the women sector in advancing the desired peace and development. Networking is a key in providing and promoting a reflective space for reviving and re-energizing women’s movement as well as nurturing inter-relations hence ensuring continuity.

• CIVIC PARTICIPATION. Given their acquired knowledge and skills, established network and formulated action plan, the women can initiate activities that can benefit their family, community and promote growth of personal well-being.
Thank You!

Selahuddin Yu Hashim