



<b>Title of Good Practice</b>	:	<b>“GUNDAWAY”: Mobilization of Barangay Population Coordinators during the pandemic.</b>
<b>Main PPMP Component</b>	:	<b>Population and Development</b>

## 1. CONTEXT/RATIONALE

The disruptive impacts brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in the country are broad and varied. People in all walks of life have felt its ravaging effects, posing threats to humanity’s socio-economic pillars.

The majority of the world population has been forced to dramatically change their patterns of behavior concerning the number of daily activities they had previously thought of as automatic or common.

In the period of the COVID-19 pandemic culmination, many countries issued various measures and stay-at-home instructions. They did so in an attempt to minimize further the spread of the disease by reducing people’s mobility. In addition, it can be stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted both the physical and the virtual environment.

Since the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic, governments have been implementing containment measures aimed at mitigating the spread of the virus. Several policies restricted human mobility, intending to increase social distance, travel restriction, and among others that slowed transmission of the virus but it also resulted in difficult access to the government programs and projects affecting population and development programs.

In response to the challenges, the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) through the Population and Development Integration Program, as articulated in the 2017-2022 strategic plan for PPMP, is ready to enable LGUs to establish and analyze the demographic and socio-economic database for the plan or program development.

Various national policies have been passed supporting the need to create a local demographic and socio-economic database to support plans and program development. UDHA Law mandates local government units (LGUs) in collaboration with relevant agencies such as POPCOM, NEDA, NSO (PSA), etc. to set up an effective mechanism to monitor movements of the population, from rural to urban, urban to urban and urban to rural areas that are accurate, relevant and timely.

Meanwhile, the delivery of public goods and services in Tabuk City, Kalinga was affected by internal migration ever since the pandemic occurred. The City of Tabuk



has the highest population count of 103,912 persons. This is because Tabuk City is the capital of the province and is the center of commerce, trade, and industry, making the city a migration area resulting in a gradual increase in population.

With the scenario of Tabuk City, there is a need to produce a data bank of complete households and migrants in all barangay including advocacy and ground working. This data bank will serve as the baseline of the Tabuk City LGUs in crafting policies and directing programs and projects that are suitable and timely to the residents of the city.

*Gundaway* in Ilocano dialects means a chance to be given. This mobilization depicts the chance of the government and the community to work and unite together to achieve one common goal for the people.

This also ensures the continuity of government public services to the communities. The Local Government Units is expected to keep the delivery of their public serves unhampered while the country grapples with the ramifications of the pandemic.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The general objective of the project is to mobilize Barangay Population Coordinators (BPCs) to map and locate couples and other individuals for population-related activities and projects amidst the pandemic.

Specifically, it aims to:

1. Assist the City Population Office to produce a complete data bank of complete households and migrants in all barangays and update their data bank for program operations, development planning, and educational program;
2. Assist in the conduct of survey and profiling of the barangay population;
3. Submit monthly reporting of RBIM and other necessary population data;
4. Assist in the tracking of UNMET-Needs for Modern Family Planning Services;
5. Provide and sustain training and capacity-building activities for recruitment and deployment of BPC; and,
6. Provide monetary or non-monetary incentives to BPC.

## 3. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES OR INTERVENTIONS

The Tabuk City Population Development Office is tasked to formulate measures for the consideration of the Sangguniang Panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support the Executive Mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of services and provision of adequate facilities relative to the integration of the



population development principles and in providing access to said services and facilities.

With the travel restrictions and immobility brought about by the pandemic, the continuity of the completion of the databank of household residents and migrants is very essential for the delivery service of the local government unit. With this, a total of 40 Barangay Population Coordinators (BPC) were selected from the barangays of Tabuk City. These BPCs were individuals endorsed by the barangays to conduct household profiling and encoding in the Registry of Barangay Inhabitants and Migrants (RBIM).

BPCs were very efficient and effective in locating and mapping out couples and others in the gathering of the data in and entry in the RBIM including the updating of the household survey.

To further support the BPCs, the City Population Office procured supplies such as bond papers, computers, inks, pencils, writing pens, and correctional tapes and among others to be used in the groundworks.

Monthly incentives were given to the BPCs amounting to Php1,500 per month as long as they submit the validated and signed monthly reporting tool. The Php 1,000 was funded by the Local Government of Tabuk City and the Php500 was the counterpart of the Barangay Council. A total of Php600,000 was allotted by the LGU Tabuk for this matter.

Capability-building activities and semesterly meetings were also conducted by the LGU, POPCOM-CAR, and other related agencies to boost the skills and critical thinking of the BPCs.

The population database drafted from the reporting tool of the BPCs will be available for all the programs in the Tabuk-CLGU and will serve as a basis in program formulation, policymaking and will project the population picture of the barangay and the City as a whole.

Likewise, the CPDO will maintain the monitoring and profiling of the migration of all Barangays of Tabuk City and other population-related data with the help of the BPCs.



## 4. RESULTS OF THE GOOD PRACTICE

Despite the challenges of lockdowns and restrictions, the BPCs worked hand in hand with the City Population Development Office of Tabuk City and have reached a total of 24,294 households registered and encoded in the RBIM system at 100 % accomplishment with 24,579 households profiled as of December 2021. This was higher compared to last year's accomplishment of 2020.

The mechanism for establishing and updating the baseline for the RBIM unlocks the interfacing of other local demographic and socio-economic databases for the Tabuk City LGU for the policy direction and decision making especially in placing a target for the COVID-19 vaccination and gauging the exact impact of a situation, of COVID-19 in the community.

## 5. LESSONS LEARNED

### Boosting Self-esteem

The program allowed the BPCs to build confidence and self-esteem and to learn new skills and produce more critical thinking. It has also been suggested that working as a coordinator can affirm one's social identity, important when other roles have diminished.

### Building linkages and partnerships

Also, the program strengthens the linkages between the barangay leaders and volunteers such as BHWs, BPV, BSPOs, BNS, BPSO, Purok Leaders, Parent Leaders for reporting of in- and out-migrants in their area and profiling migrants or assisting them to register in the barangay. It also includes the camaraderie among the level of LGUs.

### Initiatives

It also allows the LGU through the City Population and Development Office to explore and utilize its very own resources to reach out to the people to deliver government services to the community and draw informed decisions that are continuously formed amidst the difficulties and challenges of the COVID-19.

### Timeliness

The availability and accessibility of data in making decisions on time contribute to smart decisions and a better understanding of what to expect in the future. The



BPCs' timeliness of submission of reports to the LGUs for processing and encoding to the system was very efficient.

### Reliability

The data that came from the direct respondents can be easily verified and confirmed. The BPCs' data gathering depicts the trust of the respondents in giving accurate data because they were a resident of the area.

### Issues and problems encountered

Bad cell phone reception was one of the problems of the BPCs due to the localized poor signal due to building materials or destructive interference, and geographical distance or obstacles from the nearest cell tower.

Also, overlapping of activities was one of the issues since some unexpected events or activities affect the schedule of the BPCs in data gathering, thereby affecting some of their targets.

## 6. FURTHER READINGS

**Annex A:** Project Proposal on encoding and updating Registry of Barangay inhabitants and Migrants (RBIM)

**Annex B:** Project Proposal on the incentives for Barangay Population Coordinators

**Annex C:** List of BPCs in Tabuk City, Kalinga

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