

National Anti-Poverty Commission

1st Semester CY 2009 Physical Accomplishment Report

This report provides information concerning the key accomplishments of the National Anti-Poverty Commission Secretariat for the first semester of 2009. The accomplishments are presented by Major Final Output.

MAJOR FINAL OUTPUT #1: PLANS/POLICY FORMULATION AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

1.1 Development of pro-poor policies, guidelines, and issuances, necessary measures, i.e. resource mobilization, research, IEC development, publication and dissemination

1.1.1 Conduct of Technical Consultation on the Review of National Government Agencies' Anti-Poverty Programs and Projects and Proposed Measures Towards a More Effective and Focused Pro-Poor Programs by Dr. Leonardo Gonzales

The NAPC Macro policy Unit (MPU) led the Technical Consultation on the Review of the paper, "National Government Agencies' Anti-Poverty Programs and Projects and Proposed Measures Towards a More Effective and Focused Pro-Poor Programs" by Dr. Leonardo Gonzales. The consultation was held on 26 February 2009 in Linden Suites, Pasig City.

Dr. Gonzales' study aims to develop more effective, more focused MDG programs. Specifically, it seeks to (a) identify and classify on-going anti-poverty efforts for asset reform, participatory governance, livelihood and employment, social protection, and human development; (b) analyze these programs and determine which should be continued or terminated; (c) define institutional arrangements for program management, specifically with regards to the role of NAPC in their implementation; (e) identify gaps; and (f) recommend new pro-poor programs and projects.

The technical consultation was funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and was designed to gather inputs and comments from various National Government Agencies, the academe, and NGOs to help improve the paper.

The paper is due for publication after the inputs and recommendations gathered during the consultation are incorporated into the final draft.

1.1.2 Researched/Reviewed and provided technical inputs and comments on policy papers and other documents

The agency provided comments and technical inputs on the study, "Monitoring of Implementation and Early Impacts of the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program (AHMP), Comprehensive Livelihood and

Emergency Employment Program (CLEEP), and the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)".

NAPC likewise provided assistance in the research work for other policy papers, such as the Guidelines for RA 9509 and the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) based on AO 163, among others.

1.1.3 *Development of Micro Insurance Regulatory Framework*

Micro Insurance is an activity that provides specific insurance and other similar products and services that meet the needs of people in the low income sector for risk protection and relief against distress, misfortune and other contingent events.

The micro insurance regulatory framework outlines the government's policy thrusts and directions for the establishment of a policy and regulatory environment that will encourage the private sector to enhance and facilitate the safe and sound provision of micro insurance products and services for the poor. It will also identify and promote a system that will protect the rights and privileges of those who are insured.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded a series of Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings to draft the micro insurance regulatory framework from March to May of this year. The group was composed of the following agencies: the Department of Finance (DOF), the Insurance Commission (IC), the Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas (BSP), the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). The private sector was represented by the Life and Non-life Insurance Companies, Cooperative Insurance Societies, the Microfinance Council of the Philippines (MCP) and the Mutual Benefit Association (MBAs).

The draft of the Micro Insurance Regulatory Framework was presented and approved by the Steering Committee last June 16, 2009 at Stotsenberg Hotel, Clarkfield.

1.1.4 *Conduct of Change Management Team (CMT) Meetings*

The meetings of the reconstituted NAPC Change Management Team were held to finalize the Rationalization Plan for approval of the Lead Convenor, and develop an appropriate organizational structure for the NAPC Secretariat; arrive at a common understanding regarding pertinent guidelines, resolutions and documents relative to the process of preparing the rationalization plan of the NAPC Secretariat; and update the members of the reconstituted CMT on the previous processes and outputs achieved by CMT Phase I.

The Office of the Asst. Sec. for Policy and Planning took the lead in the said activities, beginning with a workshop on March 11-12 at the Matabungkay Beach Resort and Hotel in Lian, Batangas.

The outputs of the workshop were as follows:

1. Revised guidelines relative to the process of preparing the NAPC Secretariat Rationalization Plan;
2. Tasks, staffing requirements, competencies, and estimated budgetary requirements of the Rationalization Plan; and
3. Proposed NAPC Secretariat organizational structure

1.2 Policy and Program Oversight

1.2.1 Convening of the NAPC Cabinet Group Meeting to address major concerns in the implementation of the government's development (poverty reduction) and social reform agenda

The MPU provided technical and administrative support for the Cabinet Secretariat during two (2) NAPC Cabinet Group Meetings, two (2) Joint NAPC-NEDA Cabinet Group Meeting, and seven (10) Cabinet Assistance System (CAS). Two Special Cabinet Meetings on the Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (CLEEP) were held last 11 and 12 June 2009. The unit prepared necessary documents and supported the secretary during the said special meetings.

1.2.2 Prepared updates on the NAPC Secretariat's compliance to 2007, 2008 and 2009 Presidential directives during Cabinet and/or En banc meetings

NAPC submits regular to the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) reports on the progress of Presidential Directives issued during Cabinet Assistance System Meetings. The agency also monitors the agency's commitments to the objectives outlined in the President's SONA. The agency submitted reports on presidential directives issued on the years 2007, 2008, and 2009 to the PMS during the period covered.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) requested oversight agencies like NAPC to prepare a narrative report on policy development, technical assistance, facilitation, advocacy, and monitoring activities relative to budget allocations and expenditures of on MDG-related PAPs,

NAPC's pro-poor PAPs include advocacy efforts for the promotion, adoption and nationwide implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) as the monitoring tool for the localization and achievement of the MDGs; the coordination and monitoring of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI) Program as the country's focused, accelerated, convergent, expanded strategic program to

reduce poverty; and coordinative work during the formulation of the CLEEP.

1.2.3 Endorsement of grant proposal to People's Development Trust Fund (PDTF) Secretariat

PDTF was established primarily for the development and strengthening of institutions that provide microfinance services to the poor. It also extends necessary support services to prepare marginalized sectors to manage their finances. The PDTF is used to finance grants to improve the capacities of microfinance institutions and their beneficiaries.

For the first quarter of 2009, NAPC endorsed proposals the Local Government Unit of DARAM and the Paracellis San Gabriel Multi Purpose Cooperative and Pharmacy. These proposals will undergo processing and evaluation based on the guidelines and procedures issued by the PDTF Executive Committee (ExeCom).

1.3 Poverty data collection, analysis and utilization in aid of policy-making

1.3.1 Participation in meetings with statistical bodies (e.g. TCPS)

NAPC participated in three (3) meetings of the the NEDA Social Development Committee Technical Board (SDC-TB) during the period covered. SDC-TB meetings provide a venue for the discussion of relevant social reform initiatives for endorsement to the SDC-Cabinet Level Committee.

1.4 Formulation and consolidation of Annual Work plan, Accomplishment Reports and Plan and Budget Proposal

The units within the NAPC Secretariat are actively engaged in the completion of annual work plans, accomplishment reports, and budget proposals.

The activities related thereto include the following:

- Crafting of Physical Accomplishment Report of NAPC
- Consolidation and finalization of the 2009 NAPC Annual and Financial Plan
- Participation in the NAPC Secretariat Planning Workshop for 2009
- Preparation of matrices for the 2010 budget proposal
- Attendance to meetings/forum/hearing on budget
- Conduct of PDTF Annual Planning and Assessment Workshop

2.1 Institutionalization, mainstreaming and localization of convergence approaches at the regional and local government systems

2.1.1 *Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)*

The NAPC Secretariat, in cooperation with CBMS Network Team, continues to instruct and guide local governments on the use of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS). The system is an organized process of data collection and processing at the local level. The data collected through CBMS is then integrated into local planning, program implementation and impact-monitoring.

For the first semester, trainers from NAPC and the Angelo King Institute (AKI) were able to complete the last instructional module in Zamboanga del Norte. The training exercise was held from 31 March to 3 April 2009. The province committed to utilize the CBMS and submit their provincial data before the end of July 2009.

The agency also took part in the Luzon leg of the Nationwide Advocacy Forum for the Installation of the CBMS in Local Planning Systems.

2.1.2 *Advocacy Forum for the Operationalization of the CBMS National Repository*

The agency led the advocacy forum for the establishment of the CBMS national repository. The forum was held last 25 March 2009 in Astoria Plaza, Ortigas Center.

This activity was undertaken to familiarize NGAs on the concept and design of the CBMS National Repository; present and explain the policies and procedures of accessing and using CBMS data in their own planning, monitoring, and evaluation endeavors; and generate comments/suggestions to enhance CBMS National Repository concept and operating policies.

2.1.3 *RKCG Meeting/ Consultation*

The Regional KALAHI Convergence Groups (RKCGs) are the Commission's representation mechanism at the regional level. In the first semester of 2009, the NAPC Secretariat, through its Localization Unit, facilitated two RKCG meetings. Consequently, 10 regional convergence groups were able to conduct their respective first quarter meetings. Only eight (8) regions were able to conduct RKCG meetings in the second quarter. The agency assisted five (5) regions in the conduct of RKCG and TWG meetings.

The Localization Unit assisted NEDA Regional Offices and OPARDs in the formulation of their respective agendas. The said agendas included the Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (CLEEP), the RKCG's roles in the monitoring of the CLEEP, the concept and operations of the People's Development Trust Fund (PDTF), and the participation of the Basic Sectors in local development.

2.1.4 Conduct of *Ugnayan Laban sa Kahirapan*

The *Ugnayan Laban sa Kahirapan* Program is designed to provide assistance to communities in the country's 15 poorest provinces. Such assistance involves rapid participatory community diagnosis, facilitation of identified critical needs through the convergence approach, organizational development, skills training projects, and microfinance education.

In the first semester of 2009, the Localization Unit conducted four (4) community consultations in four areas in the NCR. It also monitored the delivery of services to NCR *Ugnayan* areas (Smokey Mountain, Payatas, Navotas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Marikina, Parañaque, Valenzuela) that were also initially covered in 2008.

To enhance the implementation of the program, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed in February 2009 between the NAPC Secretariat, the Office of External Affairs under the Office of the President, TESDA, and the DSWD. The MOA detailed the institutional roles and responsibilities of each agency in implementing the program. Initial results of this collaboration included the allocation of 85 training scholarships from the TESDA. Twelve (12) of these scholarships were awarded to beneficiaries coming from five (5) of the eight (8) *Ugnayan* areas in the NCR. The scholarships granted account for 24 percent of the targeted beneficiaries in the first semester of the year.

2.1.5 Conduct of *Quarterly Basic Sector Council (BSC) Meetings*

The NAPC Secretariat, through the Basic Sector Unit, oversees the quarterly meetings of the Basic Sector Council. There are 14 such basic sector councils, namely: Farmers and Landless Rural Workers, Artisanal Fisherfolk, Urban Poor, Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Communities, Workers in the Formal Sector and Migrant Workers, Workers in the Informal Sector, Women, Youth and Students, Persons with Disabilities, Victims of Disasters and Calamities, Senior Citizens, Non-Government Organizations, Children, and Cooperatives.

The meetings gather the BSC members and government agencies, allied civil society organizations, and other development partners to discuss pressing problems and agree on measures to address them, including the formulation and advocacy of policies and programs. Consistent with the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan (KALAHI) framework, the thematic foci of the agenda are asset reform, human

development services and social protection, livelihood and employment, and governance and institutional capacity building.

From January to June this year, the agency oversaw the conduct of eighteen (18) council meetings. These were conducted by the Farmers and Landless Rural Workers on April 20-23 in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija; Artisanal Fisherfolk on March 25-28 in Binangonan, Rizal; Indigenous Peoples on March 22-25 in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato; Urban Poor on May 5-8 in Mandaluyong; Formal Labor and Migrant Workers on May 13-15 in Makati; Workers in the Informal Sector on April 30 to May 4 in Manila and on June 14-17 in Mandaluyong; Women sector on April 27-30 in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan; Children sector on March 27-30 in Mandaluyong City and on May 24-28 in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan; Persons with Disabilities on March 23 and 24 in Davao City and on June 2 in Quezon City; Senior Citizens on April 14-17 in Cebu City; Youth and Students on May 8-10 in Rizal; Cooperatives on May 4-6 in Cagayan de Oro City; Non-Government Organizations on April 14-16 in Mandaluyong and on June 16 in Quezon City; and the Victims of Disasters and Calamities on April 14-16 in Iloilo City. Considering that a total of 28 regular meetings are expected of the 14 councils for each semester, the meetings constituted a low 64% (18/28) of the target.

2.1.6 *Conduct of Quarterly Sectoral Representative Council (SRC) / Basic Sector Forum (BSF) Meetings*

The Sectoral Representatives Council (SRC) is composed of all 14 Sectoral Representatives, or the appointed (presidential) heads of the BSCs. The SRC: a) serves as a venue for consolidating the basic sectors' positions on problems, issues, needs and concerns that affect them; b) provides support to cross-sectoral concerns and linkage with national NGAs and LGUs; c) initiates, formulates and develops cross-sectoral programs; d) consolidates the basic sectors' position and agenda for presentation to the NAPC En Banc; e) formulates common/united stand on issues affecting the basic sectors that require immediate and urgent action; f) deals with the government and the private sector as a solid official body; and, g) assists in accessing resources for the program and activities of the sectoral councils. The SRC conducts its regular meeting at least two days before every scheduled NAPC En Banc meeting.

Because only 9 of 14 sectoral councils have appointed Sectoral Representatives, the SRC cannot be convened. In its place, the sectoral council heads constituted themselves into the Basic Sector Forum (BSF), vested with the same functions as the SRC.

During the first semester, the BSF met thrice in special sessions.

The first meeting was conducted on February 10, 2009, at the Maria Orosa Hall of the Agricultural Training Institute. All sectoral councils were represented during the meeting. Ten sectoral representatives and officers-in-charge (designated council head without presidential

appointments) attended the meeting. Four SRs and OICs were absent, but were nonetheless represented.

Discussed during the meeting were the CLEEP, the global financial crisis, the newly formed AFP National Development Support Command, and the Land Administration Reform Act, now pending in Congress.

The second meeting was convened on February 24 at the Max's Restaurant where the following issues were discussed: updates on key legislative advocacies; the reactivation of the NAPC's Executive Committee to be composed of the NAPC Secretary, the DSWD Secretary, and the Fisherfolk Sectoral Representative Rogelio Amatorio; and the convening of the NAPC en banc. These agreements were to be transmitted to Malacanang through a letter to the President, copy furnished the NAPC Secretary. All but the Formal Labor sector were represented by the SRs/OICs in this meeting.

The third meeting was conducted on June 21-24 at the Kuhala Bay Resort in Cardona, Rizal, where nine of the fourteen councils were represented. The issues discussed include the cross-sectoral agenda of the basic sectors (LARA bill, local sectoral representation, creation of the Department of Fisheries, National Land and Water-use Code, BMBE Law, Review of RA 8425, Responsible Parenthood, and CARPER), PDTF, NKCG-KALAHÍ, BS operational plans, CLEEP, and the proposed BS-LGU Forum.

2.1.7 *Conduct of Basic Sector Area Monitoring with RKCG and Other Local Bodies*

Members of the BSCs, who are region-based, are tasked as development information intermediaries to the grassroots by NAPC, the BSC and national government, and vice versa, by their basic sector constituents. Specifically, the BSC members ensure the free flow of information regarding issues that affect their respective sectors. This task includes collaborations with community-based organizations and sector-related local bodies, especially local development councils. It also includes attending, reporting and feed-backing to the Regional Kalahi Convergence Group's quarterly meetings. The NAPC Secretariat supports up to four monitoring travels of the BSC members every month.

At the current level of active membership of the 14 councils, the monitoring travels for the semester should have reached 7,008. Only 4,612 travels and meetings, or 66% of target, were reported.

The travels involved policy and program concerns related to the various sectors.

2.1.8 *Inter-agency cooperation and partnership through participation in the 111TH Independence Day Celebration*

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Operations headed the Awarding Ceremonies and Program rites at the Luneta Park during the 111TH Philippine Independence Day Celebration. Some 3,775 Filipinos were awarded job and training certificates, livelihood funding checks and job contracts.

2.1.9 *Conduct of Financial Literacy Training in Ugnayan Communities*

The Financial Literacy Program aims to institutionalize the delivery of financial education for the poor in *Ugnayan* communities in the National Capital Region. BASECO and Parola were the two areas already visited and conducted the Financial Literacy training. It was attended by forty (40) participants, whom were currently microfinance clients with livelihood projects in the area.

2.1.10 *Conduct of PDTF Orientations to LGUs, Basic Sectors and other networks*

The PDTF orientation is a continuous activity of information dissemination among Local Government Units (LGUs), the Basic Sectors (BS) and other community networks which further promote and call for proposals to all eligible grantees for capacity building efforts for institutions involved in microfinance. The agency conducted fourteen (14) PDTF orientations for eleven (11) Basic Sectors. A non-government organization (NGO) in Mandaluyong also received instruction, as were three (3) Regional KALAHI Convergence Groups in Regions VII, I and IV-A.

2.2 Strengthening of institutional arrangements and partnerships among stakeholders, as well as organizational capacities in social reform and poverty reduction

2.2.1 *ASEAN Networking and dialogue*

The NAPC Secretariat continues to provide staff support for the NAPC Secretary in his dialogues and meetings on the ASEAN. The agency prepared the Secretary's materials and briefing kits for the recent High-Level Forum on Reducing Vulnerability in the High Face of Crisis held in Jakarta, Indonesia last 19-20 February 2009.

On the "Understanding and Developing the Systems for Monitoring What's Happening to Vulnerability", Sec. Domingo Panganiban provided a country presentation on "Measures to Protect and Monitor the Vulnerable Sectors of the Philippine Society". The secretary gave emphasis on the Philippine Economic Resiliency Plan and other social protection safety nets for vulnerable sectors. The secretary also made mention of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) as a tool for monitoring social indicators for health, nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation, basic education, income, employment and peace and order.

The agency participated in a workshop on ASEAN Community Building 2015: The 2010 International Commitment Fund Budget (ICF). The ICF, which is appropriated for in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA), is the source of Philippine contributions to international organizations (IOs) and funding for hosting international conferences.

The agency also prepared proposals for the Secretary for the Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting for the 6th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication (AMRDPE) last 25-26 May 2009 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. The Secretary forwarded a proposal under Agenda Item 6: Status of Follow-Up Actions Since the 5th AMRDPE in Bangkok, specifically the programme to alleviate poverty among socially vulnerable groups. Sec. Panganiban proposed a two-day high level meeting to share and discuss the measures taken by ASEAN member nations to alleviate poverty. The proposal also aims to provide a venue for consultation that would result in the preparation of a recommendation paper.

2.2.2 *Networking and coordination meetings with religious groups, business groups, the academe, civil society, and NGAs*

To maintain a continuing partnership with the private sector, religious groups, civil society, the academe, and NGOs, the agency actively participated in various workshops, conferences and meetings.

In the first semester alone, the various units under the NAPC Secretariat have been actively engaged towards networking and coordination meetings with different sectors in the society towards mainly the attainment anti-poverty efforts. This also included coordination meetings spearheaded by the NAPC Secretariat itself, such as the Gender and Development Orientation for its staff.

2.2.3 *Networking and coordination with the legislative sector*

The NAPC Secretariat undertakes legislative liaison work as part of its monitoring and evaluation operations. As such, it has closely followed the progress of legislative measures issued by both the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines.

The NAPC legislative agenda includes:

- Land administration reform;
- Establishment of a Department of Fisheries;
- National land use;
- Strengthening of the country's disaster risk management capability;
- Scholarship program for youth students;
- Greater awareness on international humanitarian law;
- Amendments on the Social Security Law;
- Amendments to the Local Government Code;

- o Magna Carta for Women;
- o Basic Sector representation at the LGU level; and
- o Magna Carta for the Poor.

The NAPC Secretariat also participated in committee hearings and technical meetings on House Bills 420, 3435, 3954, 2786; and technical meetings for House Bills No. 562, 746, 937, 942, 1939, 2477, 2877 and 5606 on the Establishment of Handicraft and Cottage Industry Training Centers/Research and Development Centers in Various Municipalities and Districts.

2.2.4 *Conduct of Gender and Development (GAD) orientation for NAPC Secretariat*

Gender and Development (GAD) Orientation is among the activities under the Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT) Women Project funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and implemented by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW). The activity aims to promote awareness GAD Policies and Concepts and their application. This event was held on 15 March 2009 in Quezon City.

2.2.5 *Strengthening the NAPC Public Affairs and Social Marketing Program*

The agency issued some forty-eight (48) press releases during the period covering January to June this year. All these releases saw extensive publication in the major broadsheets and tabloids. The subjects of the releases ranged from the CLEEP and food security to social protection and the President's Priority Program on Water (P3W). Some of the stories prompted further coverage through the broadcast media, affording the agency valuable air time in television and radio news programs.

The Bureau also facilitated the conduct of seven (7) press conferences during the period covered. An average fifty (50) members of the news media attended each of the conferences.

In line with its advocacy efforts for the CLEEP, the agency produced of a five-minute audio-video presentation (AVP) for the emergency program. First launched during the Independence Day ceremonies held Manila, the AVP is now used for the agency's advocacy and public information purposes.

In addition, the agency arranged some thirteen (13) radio and television interviews for the NAPC Secretary throughout the first semester, encouraging wider public interest and support for crucial NAPC led -- or initiated -- programs.

In April, the agency saw to the placement and publication of a special newspaper supplement regarding the poverty alleviation programs

and accomplishments of the national government. The supplement was published in the Manila Bulletin. The Bureau began work on four (4) more special placements during the period covered, all of which saw publication in July of this year.

MAJOR FINAL OUTPUT #3. COORDINATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION SERVICES

3.1 Programs and projects implementation monitoring and evaluation

3.1.1 Monitoring of Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (CLEEP)

The NAPC Secretariat performs overall coordinating and monitoring functions for the implementation of the various programs and projects under CLEEP. The agency reviews and validates the reports submitted by CLEEP stewards, and consolidates these for submission to the President.

NAPC established implementing guidelines for the program, partly to ensure proper monitoring. For the first semester, the NAPC Secretariat conducted three (3) inter-agency meetings on CLEEP. These meetings became a venue for resolving issues and concerns of the stewards as well as clarifications on the role of each concerned body. Orientations on CLEEP were also conducted to allow partner agencies and institutions a clearer perspective of the program.

To further the dissemination of information concerning the program, the agency produced a CLEEP brochure containing basic information such as component programs and activities and the contact details of their respective point persons.

3.1.2 Provision of Information Technology related services through the Management Information System (MIS)

Apart from regularly updating news items on its website, the agency, in coordination with the National Computer Center (NCC), submitted an official Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP) to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

3.1.3 Regular updating of the CBMS National Repository

Focal persons from the NAPC MIS Unit and other CBMS trainers continue to attend learning sessions in "Improving Targeting of National Poverty Reduction Programs Using the CBMS National Repository" conducted by the Angelo King Institute (AKI). The session involves updates on the NAPC-CBMS National Repository and the utilization of its data in government anti-poverty programs.

To help provincial authorities build their own provincial repositories, the agency held a *Provincial Consolidation and CBMS Database Building Seminar* on 19-20 May 2009 at the Angelo King International Center.

3.1.4 *Monitoring of PDTF Funded Projects*

The agency conducted a monitoring visit to the Samar Center for Rural Education (SACRED) and field validation activity for the Cooperative Bank in Palawan, both of which were granted PDTF funding in 2007.

The said operations revealed that beneficiaries had acquired an increased knowledge on business management; widened their opportunities for learning and positive group dynamics; encouraged the payment of debts, financial independence, and increased incomes and savings.

3.1.5 *Conduct of Exposure Visits on Microfinance Operations*

The above activity was designed to familiarize NAPC personnel with the actual microfinance operations of the Claveria Agri-Based Multipurpose Cooperative in Cagayan. The cooperative had received various awards for excellence in microfinance and cooperative services from 1992 to 2006.

3.1.6 *Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program (AHMP)*

NAPC participated in three technical meetings of the President's Anti-Hunger Task Force (AHTF).

During the 7 January meeting, Health Secretary and Lead of the AHTF Francisco T. Duque III gave instructions on the conduct of Program Implementation Reviews (PIR) with the following objectives: 1) To identify best practices that can be sustained and replicated by agencies and provinces for 2009 and beyond; (2) To agree on program adjustments that will address problems encountered; and (3) Identify key policy actions for approval.

ASec. Castillo of NAPC participated in two (2) AHMP PIRs. The first PIR was held on March 25 – 27, 2009 in Cebu City covering the AHMP Priority One provinces. The second PIR was held in Davao City on April 2-4, 2009.

NAPC also participated in AHMP project site visitations in Sariaya and Tayabas, Quezon on May 14, 2009. The objectives of the project site visitation are as follows:

1. To observe the implementation of some of the AHMP component programs and related provincial initiatives;
2. To touch base with implementers and beneficiaries on the effects of hunger-mitigation programs in their lives;

3. To determine the extent of complementation of national and local hunger mitigation programs;
4. To identify good practices applied by LGUs or national government agencies in implementing AHMP component programs; and
5. To provide technical assistance on managing the AHMP component programs

3.1.7 *Rural Micro-Enterprise Promotion Program (RuMEPP)*

RuMEPP aims to reduce rural poverty through increased economic development, job creation and better incomes for poor rural households by promoting profitable and sustainable micro enterprises (MEs). RuMEPP uses a two-pronged approach, providing both financial and technical assistance. While the supply of microfinance resources is essential in poverty alleviation, the program will ensure the sustainability of the gains achieved by providing business development services for poor rural micro entrepreneurs. These services will help existing micro entrepreneurs attain the full potential of their enterprise investments through capacity building, market linkages and policy improvements.

For the 1st Semester of 2009, the OASecPP participated in three (3) meetings of the RuMEPP Steering Committee. These were on January 14, January 19 and March 27. It also participated in the project site visits in Region V on January 21-23, 2009

3.1.8 *Harmonizing Approaches to Poverty Reduction, Population Management and Environment Resource Sustainability (HAPP*IER) Project*

A Forum on Hunger Mitigation, Population Management and Poverty Reduction was held under the project at the UP-ISSI in January of this year.

The project also conducted a field validation session with the LGUs in Masbate in February to further assess the conditions that impinge on the implementation of pro-poor efforts under the UNFPA 6th Country Program. The overall goal of the assessment was to identify best practices at the local level.

Specifically, the field monitoring activity was designed to:

1. Validate the projects and attendant policies and local ordinances that local LGUs have implemented or are currently implementing;
2. Assess the extent and reach by which LGUs have undertaken the strategies and thrusts of the enhanced HAPP*IER framework;
3. Identify the enabling and hindering factors in the implementation of the projects, policies, activities and local ordinances; and
4. Distinguish the best practices in the LGUs in addressing the issues of poverty reduction, population management and environmental resource sustainability.

In line with the goals of the Project, the HAPP*IER Project regularly conducts workshops in its target areas.

One such workshop was held on March 31 to April 2, 2009 at Estosan Garden Hotel in Cotabato City. Participants to the workshop were able to validate the situational analyses of their municipalities; identify current local government issuances pertaining to poverty, population and environment; confirm of the effectiveness and efficiency of the identified issuances in addressing poverty, population and environment issues; and propose a plausible harmonized solution to address poverty, population and environment issues at the local level.

3.1.9 *President's Priority Program on Water (P3W)*

In September last year, NAPC received a letter from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) informing the office that the amount of P 1.5 Billion for the continued implementation of the President's Priority Program on Water (P³W) had been transferred to the Department of Health (DOH) as indicated in the FY 2009 National Expenditure Program.

Under current arrangements, the DOH serves as the funding agency while the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) is the designated implementing agency. Local Government Units (LGUs) are assigned to implement water supply projects for waterless areas without water districts. NAPC, in turn, oversees the monitoring and inspection of on-going projects.

The agency continues to monitor the situation in 432 waterless municipalities. As of 30 June 2009, the agency had inspected some 117 water projects, validated ten (10) of them, and endorsed another 142 projects for funding under the P³W.