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# LIVELIHOOD INITIATIVES FOR FAMILY EMPOWERMENT (LIFE) of

Barangay Lower Quirino Hill  
City of Baguio  
Cordillera Administrative Region



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## Summary

**“To sustain socio economic growth and development through cooperation and maximum use of resources”** is the millennium goal of Barangay Lower Quirino Hill which is presently confronted with difficulties during this era of rapid changes and technological advancement. Barangay Lower Quirino Hill, though beset with social and economic maladjustments and crucial problems challenge the talents and abilities of barangay leadership to improve the living conditions for its constituents. Increase in population due to migration and increase in transients resulted to clamors for additional basic services in the barangays.

Although the barangay has no agricultural activity to support its economy, backyard gardening which consist of small pots behind residences of lot owners served the family’s home consumption problems. Some enterprising residents resulted to backyard piggery while others cultivated areas for planting native products such as sayote and other native grown vegetables which resulted to augmentation in the income of family residents belonging to the poor sector of the barangay.

In the barangay, very limited commercial or industrial activity exists owing to its limited land area. In fact, only neighborhood *sari-sari* stores are the only visible sign of commerce that is prevalent in the barangay. Some self-employed individuals engage in some form of commerce like repair shops. Other than this, commercial activity is basically non-existent in the barangay.

With this present condition, government has interceded in solving problems in the grassroots level by employing RA 8425 otherwise known as the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act. This directive adopts area-based sectors and focuses interventions for poverty alleviation through empowering every Filipino family to meet its minimum basic needs.

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The Department of the Interior and Local Government, in exercising its power as the extended arm of the president, guided the barangays in the City of Baguio, particularly Lower Quirino Hill on the benefits that would be derived from the Bayanihan Savings Replication Project. These information paved way for the organization of officers, marketing of the program, series of stakeholders meetings' in plan formulation and implementation which formed the program's major activities.

Key stakeholders who took active part in program implementation consist of barangay residents who agreed to take active part in the program. From among them were elected BSRP officers who lead the group into contributing a minimal amount per person as agreed upon by the members for collection by the BSRP treasurer every week to be collected by the BSRP treasurer for credit financing to the needy members at interest rates and premium amortizations approved by the body.

Applying the principle of resourcefulness, the BSRP officers together with barangay officials remedied their problem on financing the said project.

The project's total estimated cost of P350,000.00 which comprises the satellite market's cost of construction in the amount of P50,000.00 and financial assistance to various livelihood projects in the amount of P300,000.00.

Expected recurring costs to maintain the project are the utilities expenses such as electricity, general repairs and maintenance and honorarium or salaries of sales clerks to man the satellite structures.

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## **Poverty alleviation through Livelihood Initiatives for Family Empowerment (LIFE), a Bayanihan Savings Replication project**

### **Prevailing Conditions for the Specific Project**

Barangay Lower Quirino Hill barangay officials and their constituents were committed to the idea of bayanihan savings to improve their family's quality of life. Punong Barangay Peter O. Wasing, led his constituents into a paradigm shift by actively taking part in establishing a savings program in the barangay, thus uplifting the economic and financial and environmental situation with guidance and motivation into sustaining the program. Judicious planning and use of its limited resources for maximum development was promoted to suit the well being of each and every member in the barangay.

The leadership track record of the previous and present administration of said barangay was outstanding. Former Punong Barangay Roberto M. Cruz and incumbent Punong Barangay Peter O. Wasing were both awarded as one of the ten (10) most outstanding Punong Barangays by the Rotary Club of Baguio.

Needless to say, programs are not far from being realized especially when support from partner agencies are employed.

### **Support to Implementation**

Barangay Lower Quirino Hill residents are resourceful enough to find solutions to problems that hamper the full development of their barangay programs and projects. Given such situation, the BSRP officers together with the support from the barangay officials lobbied for fund support from members of the Sanggunian Panlungsod in the City of Baguio through the Hon. Rufino M. Panagan, President, Liga ng mga Barangay, Baguio City contributed the amount of P50,000.00 for the Satellite Market Construction and Hon. Rocky Thomas A. Balisong, City Councilor, with the amount of P300,000.00 as capacity building fund for target beneficiaries and financial assistance for various livelihood projects.

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Spearheaded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the organization of the officers to implement LIFE project was conducted through the help of the Punong Barangay in his supervisory function over the BSRP, by ensuring that the project is managed accordingly, while the Philippine Postal Bank serves established BSRP centers in their acting capacities as the trustee bank.

The City government together with the Barangay is undergoing deliberations in appropriating an amount for the training of the BSRP officers in order for them to be equipped in handling financial records and subsequent improvement in managerial skills and competencies.

The pledge of the barangay members for a united effort to ensure a dynamic economic development has become an inspiration to the barangay leadership to persevere in the noble undertaking that would offer the opportunity for a healthful, productive and fruitful life.

### **LIFE-PROJECT Objectives**

1. Generates employment for the unemployed household wives and youth
2. Instills confidence of the general public with the government's role in protecting the general welfare of the barangay inhabitants
3. Increases income that will empower people to address their minimum basic needs
4. Enhances organizational transparency and public accountability

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## LIFE-PROJECT Key Strategies

1. Enhancing barangay technical planning and advocacy in implementing the LIFE project
2. Establishment and maintenance of a functional satellite market to support livelihood activities in the barangay
3. Strengthening LIFE project policies, mechanisms and program enforcement

## Sustainability Mechanisms

Since 2004, the Punong Barangay together with the DILG, motivated and assisted the newly elected BSRP officers in their technical preparation of resolutions seeking for seed money to Sanggunian Panlalawigan members. Series of follow-ups for funding were conducted for the realization of the Bayanihan Center's component programs. At present, the BSRP officers



have released the amount of P50,000.00 for the initial phase of the satellite market construction while continuous credit financing to members are taking place.

Monitoring monthly contributions of members reflected in BSRP ledgers were regularly submitted together with accomplishment reports to the DILG. The BSRP officers however rendered regular presentations of financial status to their members during their regular meetings held at the Daycare Center, Barangay Lower Quirino Hill.

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## **Capacity Building**

Essentially, the officers of said Bayanihan Center took part in related financial training courses to keep abreast with new trends in accounting systems and procedures to properly implement the program. With such expertise, the project would be efficiently handled and thus create income that would generate employment opportunities for the community and youth sector; promote cooperation and harmonious relationship between and among the constituents and strengthen the time honored bayanihan spirit within the community.

## **Key Results**

### **1. LIFE convergence in the barangay**

Project LIFE is a convergence of all livelihood endeavors in the barangay, through providing members of the BSRP a satellite market and seed money as capitalization for the enterprises that will be engaged by the members. The project components are a) satellite market and b) financial support and assistance for the target beneficiaries in form of capitalization for business enterprises.

### **2. Greater access to market**

The residents can reach out to market outlets without the need to commute to the central business district thereby cutting cost, time and family expenses with this season of spiraling fare and price increases.

### **3. General improvement of family livelihood**

Saleable products of the residents themselves can be sold in satellite markets found in the confines of the barangay. For those, residing in nearby barangays, this would also serve as product outlets. However, the residents may take the opportunity to

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augment existing income through selling their backyard animals or vegetable products.

#### **4. People empowerment**

To achieve success of the program, improved and sustained camaraderie to every endeavor is necessary. Residents need to take active part in making themselves self-reliant and assets to society.

### **REPLICATING LIFE PROJECT**

#### **Key Implementation Steps**

1. Initiate the preparatory work for setting up the program :  
Initial Planning and Conceptualization
  - Conduct of intensive information campaign on the BSRP program benefits, requirements,
  - Conduct of a basic needs assessment in the barangay
  - Conduct of a re-assessment of accomplishments vis a viz targets for the barangay medium term plan
  - Development of an action plan for the initial activities in project development
  
2. Conduct a series of capability building activities that will equip the BSRP officers and implementors
  - Training on financial recording and analysis for BSRP officers
  - Advocacy on the LIFE project
  - Social Marketing
  
3. Facilitate the enactment of appropriate ordinances and issuance of appropriate administrative orders
  - Barangay Resolution No. requesting for a certain fund to support implementation of the project

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4. Reinforce present BSRP structure of officers

- Integrating moral recovery or values undertaking during regular BSRP meetings
- Conduct of teamwork enhancement activities

5. Constructions of a satellite market

- Site development
- Extension of technical assistance in records preparation and financial systems
- Building construction

6. Set up a monitoring and evaluation system to regularly evaluate progress in implementing the LIFE project



Regular Meeting of BSRP members and policy formulation on credit financing

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## Reference Matrix for Project Implementation

Schedule of implementation consists of three phases starting May of 2006 to December of 2006 as follows:

PHASES	Activity Requirement	Estimated Budget Required	Time Frame	Fund Source
1	Planning/Conceptualization	Php 2,500-3,000	2 weeks	Barangay Fund
2	Capability Building (training of BSRP officers, financial workshops and facilitation skills)	Php8,000	3-4 weeks	Barangay Fund
3	Organization of BSRP officers to handle LIFE Project	Php1,500	1 week	DILG
4	Enactment of Barangay Resolutions seeking for fund assistance	None Required	3 weeks	N/A
5	Advocacy	Php 5,000	4 months	Barangay Fund
6	Construction of the satellite market	P50,000.00	3 mos	Councilor Panagan
7	Capacity building on the management of the Project	P50,000.00	6 weeks	Barangay Funds
8	Financial Assistance to the target beneficiaries and full operation of the Project	P300,000.00	2 mos	Councilor Balisong
9	Monitoring and Evaluation		Semi-annual	DILG

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## **Impact on Citizens**

Generally, LIFE project would enhance organizational transparency and public accountability, improve the standard of living of the barangay constituents, contribute a more self-reliant and empowered barangay citizenry to address problems on unemployment, environment and peace and order. The program instilled the bayanihan spirit between and among the constituents.

## **What are the lessons learned in implementing the project?**

Success Factors of LIFE project were attributed to the following interventions:

1. Improved relationships and camaraderie between and among adjacent barangays
2. Bayanihan spirit, transparency, dedication of officers implementing the program positive moral values of barangay stakeholders
3. Strong political will of barangay and city officials to support funding of said project
4. Participatory process of all stakeholders involved in the implementation
5. Support and motivation of partner agencies that are taking part in project implementation and monitoring.
6. Realization of proper time management.