PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPARENCY FUND
Philippines – Governance Camp for Emerging Anti-Corruption Scout Crusaders
Project Completion Assessment

On 6 October 2006, the Ten Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines Association (TOBSPA) requested PTF for financial assistance for a project to increase corruption awareness and prevention among the youth in the Philippines. The main vehicle for the project would be a Governance Camp that would train scout crusaders who would then initiate anti-corruption activities in their own communities.

On 23 February 2007 PTF approved a grant of $19,660 for the program to be disbursed in three tranches. A completion report on the program, prepared by TOBSPA was submitted on 24 November 2007.

The purpose of this report is to assess whether the purposes of the grant were achieved and to draw out lessons. The report is based on a review of available reports and on meetings with Joseph Lumanog, TOBSPA project officer, and Scouts John Carlo Reyes and John Carlo Zabala, both GovCamp participants.

In this report the following questions will be addressed:

1. Has the project achieved its objectives?
2. What lessons can be learned from the project? Can the project be replicated elsewhere?
3. How sustainable are project achievements?
4. What follow-up actions are needed?

1. Achievement of Project objectives

The project document does not contain a clear statement of objectives and no logical framework linking objectives, inputs and outputs. This makes it difficult to determine whether the project has achieved its objectives.

From the original project proposal two broad *goals* can be deduced: to increase participation of the youth in anti-corruption activities, and to raise the level of community awareness of anti-corruption and good governance issues. However these are so broadly worded that no judgment is possible on their achievement.

This reviewer suggests that at the level of *objectives*, the following could have been specified: the creation of the start of a youth network to initiate anti-corruption activities at the community level.

At the level of *outputs*, the following could have been specified:

1. The development of a training module for the training of scout crusaders
2. The conduct of a governance camp to train a first batch of crusaders

3. The formation of a first group of 'crusader units' to initiate anti-corruption activities (no target was set for the number of units to be formed).

4. The setting up of a support system for the crusader units.

At the goal level, the project has established 26 crusader units with an average of 40 to 50 members with a focus on the Central Luzon region.

At the level of outputs, the following assessment can be made, taking each of the above four outputs in turn:

Ad 1. The period leading up to the Governance Camp was used to develop the training module. The Camp itself was used to test the module and make modifications as necessary. The module is now available for use in future camps or other training opportunities.

Ad 2. The Governance Camp was held on 8-13 July 2007. The Camp was attended by 51 scouts and 46 completed the training successfully. The extensive reports available on the conduct of the Camp suggest that it was a well-managed effort that succeeded in actively engaging the trainees. Since the Camp was held, two reunions have been organized, both on the occasion of a jamboree.

Ad 3. Following their successful completion of the training at the Governance Camp, the 'crusaders' went back to their own communities. These are primarily their high school communities although some units were set up at the local (barangay) level. As of May 2008, 26 units had been formed. Achievements vary a great deal. Generally the crusaders have found it easier to deal with those in the same age group and dealing with school and barangay administrations has not always been easy.

Ad 4. The support system comprises two part-time volunteers who have been provided office accommodation in the national offices of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. The support provided consists of documentation and other materials that the units can use and the mentoring of unit leaders. There is no reporting system between units and the central support system, which makes it difficult to know exactly what is happening on the ground. This is even more serious as there is a natural turnover of crusaders as they graduate from high school and move elsewhere.

2.   Lessons learned and Replicability

A project of this type can quite easily be replicated by the setting up of more crusader units. Indeed, PTF has a pending request to finance the Youth Network for Social Action that seeks to widen the kernel that was created through the present project. The network would be expanded both geographically across the country, and beyond the current focus on scouts.

However, an important lesson from the project is that, without greater clarity ex ante about what is to be achieved, it is very difficult to judge whether an expansion is realistic.

A second lesson is that the focus on 'community-level anti-corruption activities' is not specific enough. Unless it is better known what the local crusader units are capable of, and what sort of activities have a good chance of being sustained, there is a serious risk that initiatives will be ad hoc, one-off and not sustained.

Another important lesson is that more institutional support for such an effort is needed for it to succeed. At the community level there were several reports of uncooperative school administrations. At the central level, the provision of free office accommodation to two volunteers, who are otherwise on their own in carrying this program forward, appears to be quite insufficient.

3.   How Sustainable are Project Achievements?

In the current situation I believe there are serious threats to sustainability. The youth who started the crusader units will move on and there is no central support to ensure that others take over. Without better guidance as to the type of activities to initiate, without some form of regular contact between the units themselves and with the center, and without more substantial support to units, what has been achieved could easily collapse.

A very positive step would be to formally recognize the unit level work towards receiving a 'governance badge' in the boy scouts movement. The introduction of such a badge has been talked about for quite some time now. Its introduction, and the recognition of the crusaders' work as contributing towards earning such a badge, would provide a strong impetus within the scout movement to carry this work forward. It is understood that there is some opposition to this as governance is perceived to be a somewhat controversial topic.

Finally, support from the Boy Scout Association would be greatly strengthened if a directive were to go to the local levels of the organization to extend support for this work.

4.   Follow-up Actions and Conclusion

There are three important follow-up actions that follow from the preceding assessment:

The Boy Scout Association should make a greater institutional commitment to the project by (i) providing more resources for the support system, including payments to the volunteers to enable them to provide more active support to the crusader units; (ii) creation of the governance badge, and recognizing the work in

the crusader units as counting toward earning the badge; and (iii) issuing a directive to local levels to extend support to the crusader units.

The linkages amongst the units and between the units and the center should be strengthened, including the introduction of regular reporting.

Linkages should be established with other organizations, including the Girl Scout Association and some of the larger youth group, to enable an expansion of the network.

Overall, in the absence of well-defined project objectives it is not possible to say whether the project has been a success. An overall judgment is that the achievements have been modest in relation to the efforts made and funds provided, and that there are serious doubts about the sustainability of the achievements.

Geert van der Linden

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