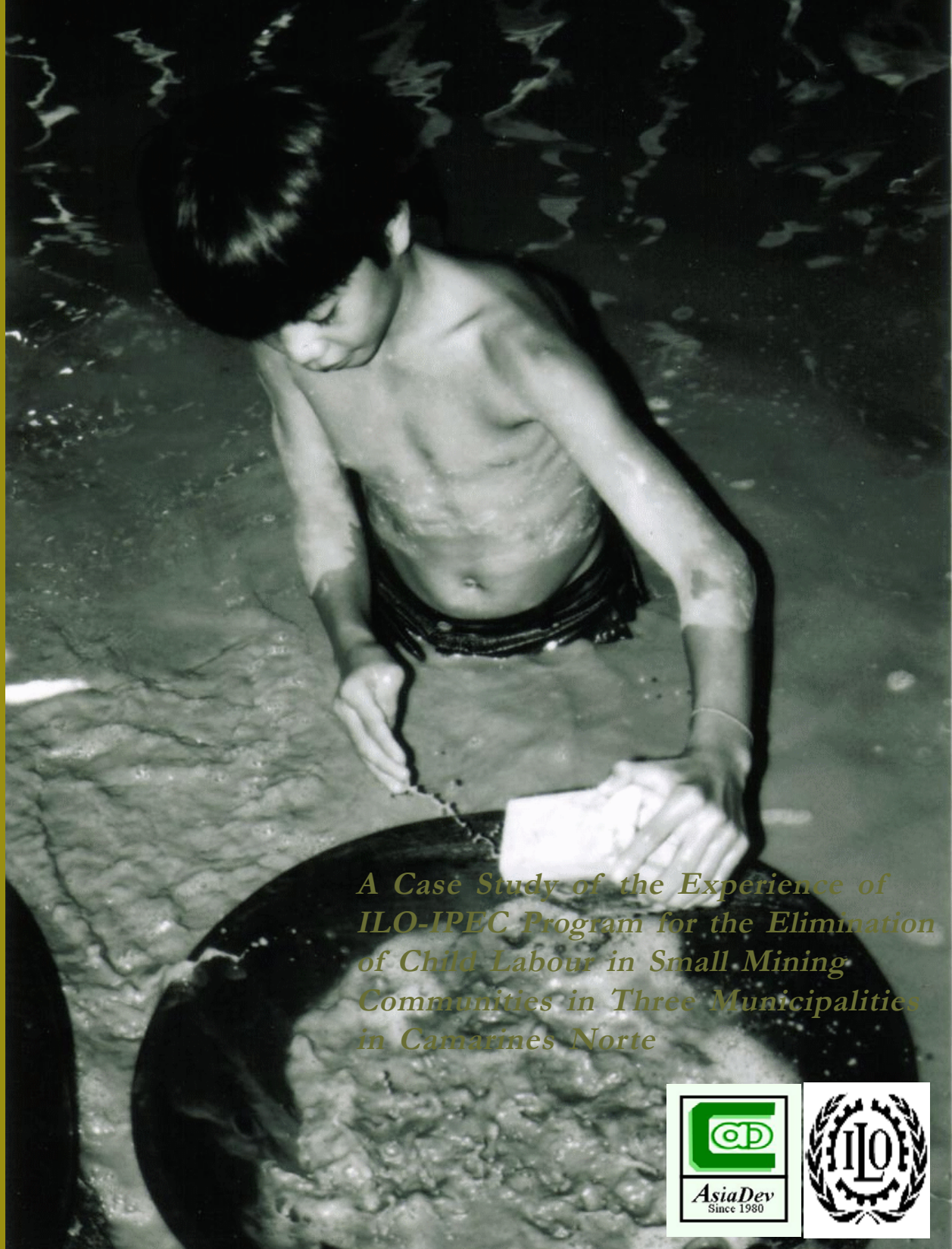


In Search for the Pot of Gold



*A Case Study of the Experience of
ILO-IPEC Program for the Elimination
of Child Labour in Small Mining
Communities in Three Municipalities
in Camarines Norte*



IN SEARCH FOR THE POT OF GOLD

*A Case Study of the Experiences of the ILO-IPEC Program
on the Elimination of Child Labour in
Small Mining Communities in the
Province of Camarines Norte, Philippines*

*ILO-IPEC
ASLADEV
July 2003*

Foreword



The Provincial Programme to Combat Child Labour in Small Scale Mining was launched in June 2000 targeting three municipalities in Camarines Norte – Labo, Paracale, and Jose Panganiban. It was a three-year multi-bilateral technical undertaking involving the governments of Finland and the Philippines, and the International Labour Organization’s International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour. The programme focused on small-scale mining, where one of the most hazardous forms of child labour could be found.

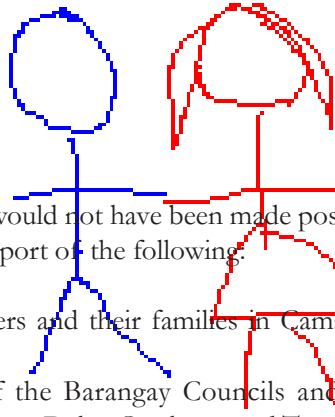
The idea of coming out with a study on how alliances of committed partners are capacitated to plan and implement child labour programmes utilizing practical strategies is commendable.

The case study describes the lessons learned from the process, how the alliance has been formed, and the varied responses employed to combat child labour. It is hoped that lessons generated from the project will help local advocates and project implementers improve on their work. Likewise, fellow development workers around the world will be able to use the information when facing similar situations and take into consideration challenges encountered by the small scale mining communities.

The children in the mining communities dream of a better future for them and their families. Let us work together in helping them, and millions of other child laborers, achieve their dreams.

Werner Konrad Blenk
Director

Acknowledgments



This case study would not have been made possible without the help and valuable support of the following:

- the child labourers and their families in Camarines Norte, who inspired us
- the members of the Barangay Councils and community leaders of Barangays Dalas, Casalugan and Tugos who shared vital information and insights
- the members of the Provincial Advisory Committee on Child Labor and Program Implementing Teams for their cooperation during the interviews
- the staff and volunteers of the ILO-IPEC Project Management in Daet, Camarines Norte – Ronnie, Liza, Alex, Kuya Narcing, whose facilitating and coordinating efforts led us to the key informants and sources
- Jed Guinto of POMCAT, ILO-IPEC Project Management Team and Ludovic Lataste for the photos which gave meaning to what have been said and done
- the ILO Sub Regional Office headed by Werner Konrad Blenk for the financial and technical support, most especially Concepcion Sardaña, Tuomo Poutiainen and Anh Nguyet Ly
- to all who have in one way or another helped us be a part in making a difference in the lives of the child labourers in the small scale mining communities

Thank you.

Asia Development Consultants, Inc.
2003

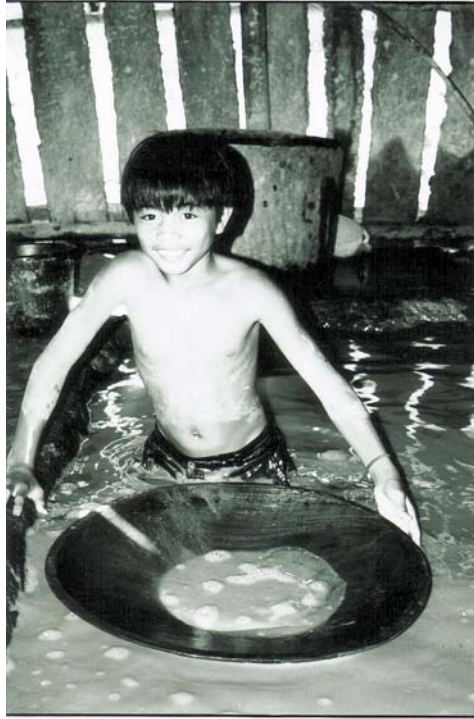


Photo: L. Lataste/ILO-IPEC ©

PREFACE

“In Search for the Pot of Gold” is both the title and subject of this case study. It revolves around the struggle of small mining communities in search for alternative development approaches that will eradicate poverty in their midst, in partnership with the alliance of NGOs, NGAs, LGUs and the Academe through the ILO-IPEC program and with funding assistance from the Finnish Government.

Figuratively, the “pot of gold” is the symbol of an elusive dream and struggle of child workers and labourers and their families to get out from their poor conditions to see a better future. Literally, it also describes the small mining activities where communities are faced with a deadly adventure of boys as young as 10 years of age, engaged in mining, digging up to the depth of 62 feet underground looking for ores of gold. In the more dangerous compressor type of mining, the boys swim in a pool of mud as they go deeper underground. Protected only by gears for the eyes, nose and ears, they breath through a compressor which supplies oxygen, and makes them stay longer as they dig deeper or move sideways in the drifts. These they go through despite the uncertainty of mining harvest or the volume of gold yield for every digging expedition.

While aware of the dangers of the small mining activity and its negative effects to the ecological and environmental conditions, the communities continue to hang on to their mining activities for the lack of economic opportunities and other things to do.

The sharing arrangements between the groups of miners and their financiers are deemed exploitative and unjust, ranging from 60-40%, with the financiers getting the lion's share. P8,000 for a two-week work for one child worker may appear small considering the risks involved, but to the child workers and their families, it means a lot because the cash allows them to meet their basic needs and other requirements. Herein lies the challenge of the Provincial Network of Camarines Norte that attempted to change the course of life and conditions among these mining communities. This case study vividly accounts the process of how each of the partner organizations responded to the perceived socio-economic conditions of the intended beneficiaries under the ILO-IPEC program. It also pictures the package of assistance meant to improve the welfare of the child workers/labourers and their families, and how each of these strategies changed their outlook and perception and the impact on their lives and communities.

The learnings and insights which are valuable to the implementors for future interventions are also documented in this case study.

Given the program outputs and impact that have been achieved so far, the Provincial Network intends to move on and continue to search for more appropriate approaches and strategies. Thus, the search for the "pot of gold" continues with renewed vision and hope for the children... that someday, the dream would become a reality.



Acronyms

A&E Test	Accreditation and Equivalency Test
ACT	Alliance of Concerned Teachers
BAKAS	Balik Kalikasan ng Kasalugan
BCPC	Barangay Committee for the Protection of Children
BDP	Barangay Development Planning
BEE	Bureau of Elementary Education
BHNP	Barangay Health and Nutrition Post
BHW	Barangay Health Worker
BMG	Buklod ng mga Manggagawa ng Gumaus
BNFE	Bureau of Non-Formal Education
CBRM	Community-Based Resource Management
CCC	Chinese Chamber of Commerce
CELD	Center for Environment and Livelihood Development, Inc.
CL	Child Labour
CWC	Council for the Welfare of Children
DCLA	Dalas Child Labour Association
DENR-MGSB	Department of Environmental and Natural Resources – Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau
DepEd-DHNS	Department of Education – Division of Health and Nutrition Section
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOLE	Department of Labour and Environment
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
DYWO	Dalas Youth Working Organization
ECOP	Employers' Confederation of the Philippines
ERDA	Education and Research Development Assistance Foundation
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ILO-IPEC	International Labour Organization – International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour
IM	Instructional Manager
LACC	Labour Advisory and Coordinating Council
LGU	Local Government Unit
MCPC	Municipal Council for the Protection of Children
MHO	Municipal Health Office
MSWD	Municipal Social Welfare and Development

Acronyms

MTWG	Municipal Technical Working Group
NAMAWU	National Alliance of Mining and Allied Workers Union
NATOW	National Alliance of Teachers and Office Workers
NCLC	National Child Labour Committee
NCSD	National Council for Social Development
NFE	Non-Formal Education
NGA	National Government Agency/ies
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NMLS	Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Luklukan Sur (United Workers of Luklukan Sur)
OSHC	Occupational Safety and Health Center
OSY	Out of School Youth
PAC	Project Advisory Committee
PACCL	Provincial Advisory Committee on Child Labour
PCPC	Provincial Council for the Protection of Children
PHO	Provincial Health Office
PIA	Philippine Information Agency
PIC	Program Implementation Committee
PIT	Programme Implementing Team
PNP	Philippine National Police
PO	People's Organization
POMCAT	Pook Mirasol Center for Appropriate Technology
PPDO	Provincial Planning and Development Office
PPO	Provincial Prosecutors Office
PRRM	Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
PSWD	Provincial Social Welfare and Development
PTA	Parent Teachers Association
PTWG	Provincial Technical Working Group
RHU	Rural Health Unit
RSMT	Rapid Savings Mobilization Technique

Acronyms

SAMAKANA	Samahan ng mga Magulang at Kabataang Nagkakaisa sa Tawig
SEA-K	Self-Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran
SK	Sangguniang Kabataan
SKCN	Samahan ng Kabataan ng Camarines Norte
SKMD	Samahan ng mga Kababaihang Manggagawa ng Dalas
SKMG	Samahan ng mga Kabataang Manggagawang Gumaos
SPACFI	Socio-Pastoral Action Center Foundation, Inc.
SSGM	Small-Scale Gold Mining
SSM	Small Scale Mining
SSRC	Social Science and Research Center
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TUCLAS	Tugos Child Labor Parent's Association
TUCP	Trade Union Congress of the Philippines
UCYPDA	United Casalugan Youth and Parent Development Association
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

Glossary of Terms

Bahay Kalinga	-	(House for the Care of Children) <i>Established by the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office of Camarines Norte</i>
BAKAS	-	(Balik Kalikasan ng Kasalugan (Paracale) <i>Bring Back Nature in Kasalugan</i> <i>A Community Organization in Barangay Kasalugan involved in Environmental Protection</i>
BMG	-	(Buklod ng mga Manggagawa ng Gumaus) <i>Network of Workers in Gumaus</i>
LLFI	-	(Libro ni Loren Foundation, Inc.) <i>Book of Loren is a non-profit, non-stock organization organized by Senator Loren Legarda, a strong advocate of children issues in the Philippine Senate</i>
NMLS	-	Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Luklukan Sur <i>United Workers of Luklukan Sur</i>
SAMAKANA	-	(Samahan ng mga Magulang at Kabataang Nagkakaisa sa Tawig) <i>Association of United Parents and Children in Tawig</i>
SEA-K	-	(Self-Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran) <i>Self-Employment Assistance for Progress</i>
SK	-	(Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council) <i>Based on Local Government Code, it is the Council that governs the assembly of the youth in every barangay that is responsible in planning and implementing program to enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, spiritual and physical development of the youth in the country</i>
SKCN		(Samahan ng Kabataan ng Camarines Norte) <i>Association of Children in Camarines Norte</i>
SKMD		(Samahan ng mga Kababaihang Manggagawa ng Dalas) <i>(Association of Women Labourers in Dalas)</i>
SKMG		(Samahan ng mga Kabataang Manggagawa ng Gumaus) <i>Association of Child Labourer in Gumaus</i>
Teatro Salamin		(Mirror Theatre), <i>is a group of stage performers of the Ateneo de Naga University</i>

Table of Contents

<i>Foreword</i>		<i>i</i>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>		<i>ii</i>
<i>Preface</i>		<i>iii</i>
<i>Acronyms</i>		<i>v</i>
<i>Glossary of Terms</i>		<i>viii</i>
I.	SMALL SCALE MINING INDUSTRY REALITIES	1-19
	□ Small Scale Mining: Global Picture	2
	○ <i>Emerging Issues and Problems in SSM</i>	3
	○ <i>Role of Central Government/Agencies</i>	3
	○ <i>Private Sector/International Development Organizations Responses on the Issue of SSM</i>	4
	□ Small Scale Mining in the Philippines	5
	○ <i>Mineral Resources and the Mining Industry</i>	5
	○ <i>Small Scale Mining Areas</i>	6
	○ <i>Regulatory Framework</i>	7
	○ <i>Child Labour in SSM in the Philippines</i>	8
	□ Small Scale Mining and Child Labour in Camarines Norte	9
	○ <i>Small Scale Mining Activities</i>	9
	○ <i>Child Labour in the Project Site</i>	11
	○ <i>Their Socio-Economic Profile</i>	11
	○ <i>Their Working Conditions</i>	14
	○ <i>Various Methods Used in SSM</i>	15
	○ <i>Hazards in the Work Place</i>	18
	□ The Challenges that the Families and Communities Have to Face	19

II.	WHICH WAY TO GO?	20-32
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The Child Labour Programme and its Strategies 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Milestones and Progress Achieved Thus Far</i> 22 □ Project Beginnings and Approaches 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The First Phase : Benchmarking and Creation of Structures ad Mechanisms for Implementation</i> 23 ○ <i>The Second Phase: Community Organizing and Capability Building</i> 25 ○ <i>The Third Phase: Bringing the Comprehensive Package to the Child Labourers and their Communities</i> 29 	
III.	TOWARDS WORKING TOGETHER MORE EFFECTIVELY AND MEANINGFULLY	33-37
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Capability Building Efforts for Advisory Committee, Implementing Partners, Various Sectors and Communities 34 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>PACCL and PITs</i> 34 □ Gender Awareness 37 □ Some Thoughts About Capacity Building 37 	
IV.	MOVING ON... ACHIEVING SMALL SUCCESSES BUT BIG GAINS	38-99
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Organizing and Empowering Associations/ Cooperatives Toward Sustainability 39 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Barangay Structures Display Efforts in Fighting Against Child Labour</i> 39 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Barangay Dalas, Determined and Committed</i> 39 ○ <i>Barangay Casalugan Happy of its Achievements</i> 42 ○ <i>Barangay Tugos Gradually Implements Some Projects</i> 42 ○ <i>Barangay Tawig's Noodle Making Business</i> 45 ○ <i>Barangay Gumaus Picks the Challenge</i> 45 ○ <i>Barangay Luklukan Sur Looks at Golden Opportunity</i> 46 ○ <i>Child Labourers and their Right for Recreation</i> 48 ○ <i>Establishing Child Council Linkages – A Crucial Attempt</i> 50 	

○	<i>The Community Based Child Labour Monitoring System (CBLMS)</i>	51
□	Promoting Attitude and Value Change Against Child Labour	53
○	<i>The Process of Building Appropriate Values</i>	53
○	<i>Problems and Issues</i>	55
○	<i>Initial Effects of Trainings</i>	55
□	Enabling Out-of-School-Youth to Achieve Higher Level of Literacy and Education	57
○	<i>Significant Output</i>	58
○	<i>The Implementation Process</i>	58
○	<i>Learning Process Made Flexible and Interesting</i>	
○	<i>Counterpart Contributions from the LGUs, NGOs and other Organizations Tapped</i>	60
○	<i>Difficulties and Problems</i>	62
○	<i>The Learners from the Perspective of the IMs</i>	62
□	Providing Basic Education to Child Labourers and Capacity Building for Teachers	65
○	<i>Small Victories, Big Breakthroughs</i>	66
○	<i>Integration of Child Labour Issues and Concerns into the Division Curriculum</i>	68
○	<i>The BEE Scholars Speak of Big Gains</i>	68
○	<i>A Barangay Captain also Speaks-up</i>	69
○	<i>Students Scholars who are Child Labourers: Start to Dream</i>	66
○	<i>Milestones... but more has to be done</i>	71
□	Enhancing Employment and Self-Employment Opportunities Thru Vocational Skills Training	73
○	<i>Courses Conducted</i>	73
○	<i>The Challenging Issue</i>	75
○	<i>Coming to Terms with Reality</i>	75
○	<i>Pursuing a Bigger Dream: The Jewelry Training and Production Center</i>	76
□	Creating Alternative Community-based Livelihood Enterprises Using Appropriate/ Environment Friendly Technologies	77
○	<i>The APROTEK Garden School in Dalas</i>	78
○	<i>Sustaining the APROTEK Garden School</i>	80
○	<i>APROTEK Farm School in Barangay Casalugan</i>	82
○	<i>Looking Back... Some difficulties and Problems</i>	86
○	<i>Growing Opportunities: POMCAT moves ahead</i>	87
○	<i>A Crucial Step – Earning while Learning</i>	87

□	Enabling Communities to Save and Establishing Ground Work for Community Enterprise	88
○	<i>Strategies/Activities Conducted</i>	89
○	<i>Benefits and Impact</i>	93
○	<i>Moving On and Gaining Grounds</i>	93
□	Improving Health Situation of the Small Mining Communities	94
○	<i>Project Strategy</i>	95
○	<i>Enhancing the Capacity of Local Partners</i>	96
○	<i>The Preparatory Activities: Establishment of the BHNP and BOTIKA BINHI</i>	97
○	<i>Barangay Casalugan Health and Nutrition Post Construction: In Process</i>	98
○	<i>Ensuring Service Delivery Thru the Establishment of BHNP and Botika Binhi</i>	98
○	<i>Fostering Community Participation in Health and Nutrition Activities for Sustainability</i>	99
V.	ALMOST THERE	100-104
□	Looking From the Outside for Changes in the Lives of Beneficiaries and their Communities	101
○	The Child Labourers	101
○	The Parents and their Families	102
○	Their Communities	103
○	The Alliance Partners	103
○	Sectoral Impact	104
VI.	SUSTAINING PROJECT ACTIVITIES ON THEIR OWN – ARE THEY READY FOR IT?	108-116
□	Community-Based Structures/Associations	109
□	The Youth/Child Labour Associations	110
□	The Child Laborers’ Parent Groups	112
□	The Women’s Groups	113
□	Savings/Livelihood Groups	113
□	The Provincial Network and Linkages	114

	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Issues and Concerns	115
VII.	EMERGING GOOD PRACTICES AND LEARNINGS FROM PROJECT EXPERIENCES	117-123
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Savings Mobilization Effort	118
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Community Structures Support and Ownership of the Project	118
	<input type="checkbox"/> Integration of Child Labour Issues in the Legislative and Development Agenda of the LGU Development Plans and Budget	119
	<input type="checkbox"/> Integration into the Curriculum of the DECS in Region 5, Child Labour Issues and Concepts in Specific Subjects	120
	<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption of the Appropriate Technology	120
	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilization of Village Workers and Technicians	121
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Barangay Health and Nutrition Post and Botika Binhi	121
	<input type="checkbox"/> Continuous Participatory Planning, Assessment Workshops and Capability Building	122
	<input type="checkbox"/> Installation of a Community-Based Information System on Child Labour	122
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Broad Alliance of Partners	123
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Learnings and Insights	123
VIII.	TOWARDS A RENEWED HOPE: THE SEARCH FOR THE POT OF GOLD CONTINUES	124-127
	<input type="checkbox"/> Bridging Gaps and Moving Forward	125
	<input type="checkbox"/> Picking Up the Opportunities... the Search for the Pot of Gold Continues	125

I. SMALL SCALE MINING INDUSTRY REALITIES

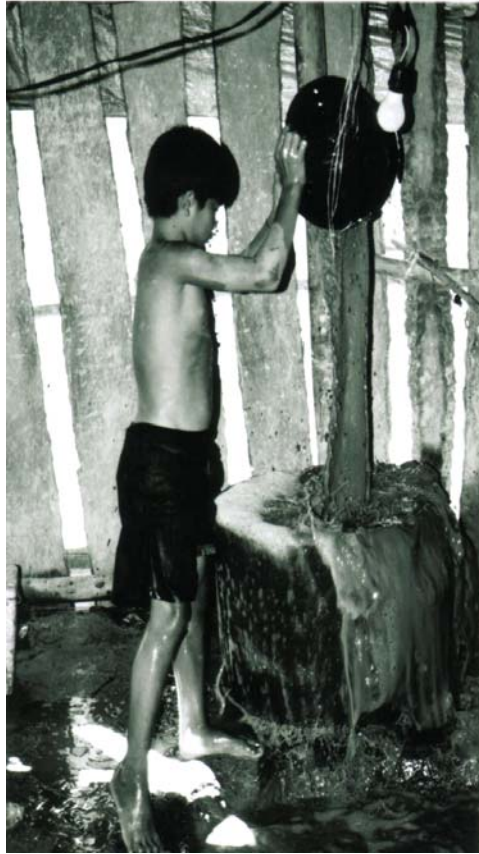


Photo: L. Lataste/ILO-IPEC ©

The issues and challenges brought about by small scale mining activities, by and large, are similar globally and locally. Poverty, lack of economic opportunities and limited education contribute to poor rural people's on-and-off involvement and exploitation in the small-scale mining activities that are mostly family-based and involve young children.

SMALL SCALE MINING: GLOBAL PICTURE

From the estimated 6 million workers engaged in small scale mining activities, 4 million are found to be in Asia, mostly in China, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia.

Small-Scale Mining (SSM) is characterized as predominantly a family business where a family or a group of families pool resources together and seek to find gold or other precious metals from known mineral deposits or excavated mining areas abandoned by bigger mining companies.

The SSM provides a significant number of employment to people usually in rural areas. The miners are mostly poorly educated and unskilled and rely on informal and artisanal mining methods. The estimates on the number of people working in SSM ranges from 6 million to over 30 million depending on whether one includes extended family members involved in mining in one way or the other. A large number of this workforce are women who, beside being involved in cooking and child bearing also take part in many of the activities involved in the process of SSM.

Besides gold, other precious metals are also produced such as chromate ore and non-metallic deposits used for construction purposes such as clay and marble.

In many countries the upsurge of SSM as a sub-industry of large-scale mining is due to the downturn of large mining operations in the late 1970's and 1980's. One of the problems in regulating SSM is its informality and thus, lack of any legal entity answerable to the mining operations. This, coupled with the mobility of the mining operations, make it a difficult sector to bring under administrative control in terms of occupational health, environmental protection or tax collection.

In many cases, SSM areas are found within large mining concessions granted to big international companies or their local affiliates under different sorts of co-sharing and ownership agreement. Big companies has by necessity started to come in terms with SSM by developing partnership and community relations strategies wherein mutually beneficial agreements are sought to ensure peaceful coexistence. These arrangements include delineation of the concession to a particular area where the SSM can operate as well as provide social development and extension projects and benefits ranging from health care to educational support.

Issues Related to SSM

One of the negative impacts of SSM is its threat to the environment. SSM increases erosion of soil and the rampant use of heavy pollutants like mercury make it a real danger to the ecosystem through contamination of the food chain and water systems.

But maybe the most unfortunate issue related to SSM is the use of child labour (CL). The use of child labour originates from poverty forcing poor families to depend on the labour of their children to come up with sufficient income for the survival of the family.

Child labour in SSM is considered to be one of the worst forms of CL due to the long working hours, unsanitary conditions and risks related to the occupation.

SSM is usually found in remote rural areas where other forms of occupations are hard to find, making it also difficult to monitor and regulate. The precious metals produced by the SSM are processed and sold illegally, making it difficult for the Governments to collect taxes from the outputs. The mobility of miners and security problems associated with the trade add to the difficulties involved.

Social ills such as prostitution and gambling are also associated with SSM areas particularly in times when significant finds or harvests are made creating the so-called “gold-rush”.

Role of Central Government/Agencies

Central Government agencies responsible for the protection of the environment, labour inspection and health as well as local government institutions mandated to provide basic services in their areas have the key responsibility for ensuring that national laws and standards are respected. In many countries, SSM falls beyond the mandates of sector-specific agencies and require, by the very complexity of issues, a multi sector approach to development.

In some countries, special departments have been established with the intention to help formalize and register those involved in SSM activities under some cooperative or workers association principles. NGOs and private sector partnerships have also been successfully tapped to bring SSM under some form of normative control as well as in monitoring of its social and environmental effects.

In some cases, private business and development actors have worked to improve technologies used in SSM in order to mitigate its negative effects particularly to the environment. This same approach has been tested also when working against child labour with the assumption that improved working conditions and per day output would increase the income of the family, thus making the participation of the children in mining unnecessary on economic grounds.

As work as engagement in SSM are informal in nature, workers are not covered by any collective agreements made between employers organizations and trade unions. With the Government, these social partners adopt tripartites in upholding international and national labour standards. SSM is an important economic activity in many countries, thus it is important to extend social protection and regulate the coverage of labour standards within the sector. In countries where labour/mines inspection capacities are weak, social partners are urged to cooperate in finding locally workable ways to improve the living and working conditions of SSM.

Private Sector/International Development Organizations' Responses on the Issue of SSM

International organizations like ILO and World Bank have, under their mandates, promoted the adaptation of international standards and norms to address the issue of SSM. ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour adopted in 1999, ILO Convention No. 176 On Safety and Health in Mines adopted in 1995, and World Bank Draft Strategy on Artisan Mining developed in 1995 are some of the international instruments meant to formulate coordinated responses to the ill-effects of SSM. There is an overall agreement in international discussions on SSM that ways and means should be found to make it more sustainable and less dangerous for the miners and the environment alike.

More and more big mining corporations have also allied themselves with international development partners (UN and NGOs alike) to look into ways of bringing the ill-effects of SSM under control through addressing the complex issues of poverty, environment and ownership of land in a holistic and structured manner.

The private sector can play a pro-active and crucial role in developing win-win situations for all parties concerned. One such measure has been to look into developing training and employment opportunities for SSM workers within the construction and processing operations of large-scale mining activities. Another strategy has been to provide incentives to SSM communities to engage in other forms of livelihood through access to credit and skills development opportunities.

Current Challenges in Child Labour in SSM

The unfortunate reality is that many millions of people all around the world barely meet their daily needs from SSM activity. This is aside from its danger to their health and its negative impact to the environment. As always it is the children in SSM areas who mostly suffer from this dangerous situation. They are also the ones deprived of education and childhood as part of the prize to be paid for the search of the “pot of gold”.

The immediate income may provide food for the family, but rarely improve their living condition or have any significant economic impact on the communities where they live.

From the perspective of the global mining industry, the SSM is here to stay. Unfortunately the SSM is often unregulated, illegal and prone to exploitative arrangement between land owners, concessionaries and small equipment operators all cashing in on the labour of the unskilled and underpaid small scale miners.

SMALL SCALE MINING IN THE PHILIPPINES



Mineral Resources and the Mining Industry

The Philippines has a vast mineral wealth and continues to be a major producer of valued minerals such as gold and copper. It is only second to South Africa in terms of gold production per one square kilometer. The mineral resources are distributed equitably all over the country and most of the country's 73 provinces have known gold deposits¹.

The mining industry in the Philippines can be divided into two categories: large and small scale mining. The large scale mining is industrially/professionally run and mechanized. The small-scale mining is based on manual labour and is an informal community-based industry. The annual production of small-scale gold mining is estimated to be around 50,000 metric tons².

¹ Antonio A. Tujan Jr and Ros-B Guzman, *Globalizing Philippines Mining*, 1998

² Ibid.

Small Scale Mining Areas

SSM can be found in 40 provinces in the Philippines involving between 250,000 and 500,000 people.

The SSM is covered by the Philippines Mining Act of 1995, which separates SSM into two categories: traditional and advanced SSM. The Mines and Geo-sciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is mandated to regulate and supervise the SSM operation. In 2001 there were over 974 SSM and quarrying sites carrying permits on which 45 were mining gold and some 929, which were non- gold deposits. The figure can be used as an approximation, but there are likely to be many more sites operating informally. For instance there are known SSM sites that were not reported in these figures as they are part of large scale mining permits

Indigenous Mining

Indigenous mining is usually seasonal and based on agreed social norms such as when to mine, where to mine, and for what kind of needs. The indigenous way of mining is considered to be nature- friendly and less damaging to the environment as it is based on low intensity methods. The indigenous mining is also often short term and meant to provide for an established collective need of a tribe more than for the benefit of individual families. It is regulated by agreed rituals and norms and participated by the whole community or tribe. Lately, indigenous mining and other forms of SSM have begun to exist simultaneously.

Gold Rush Mining

In the case of gold rush mining, the location of activities shift from one place to another regularly. The sites can be mined from established communities nearby or from makeshift locations where the miners and their families live until the site is considered to be emptied and it is time to move to another location. In gold rush areas, people can migrate from far away places after the lure of gold and move from one known mineral deposit area to another based on rumors of gold. Child labour is more likely to be found in gold-rush areas where the settlements are organized on SSM as an occupation, than in indigenous areas where gold mining is an added source of income.

Sometimes the two cases can be intertwined where indigenous communities face a pressure of outside migration for the particular purpose of SSM in their areas. In these cases there is a real danger of violent clashes between the parties.

Vested economic and political interests, exploitative and unfair land use and ownership arrangement bring yet another problematic issues in the dynamics of SSM.

Regulatory Framework



The passage of Republic Act 7942, known as the *Philippine Mining Act of 1995*, was intended to liberalize the industry and promote export orientation for the mining in supporting growth of transnational large scale mining operation.

The Local Government Code of 1991 provides the legal basis for local Government units to regulate the use of local mineral resources such as sand and gravel. They can also issue permits to operate quarries.

Republic Act 7076 or Small-Scale Mining Act of 1992 aimed to regulate small-scale mining and to promote their formalization through issuance of permits and organizing of the miners groups into legal entities such as cooperatives or joint ventures. The Act tried to ensure that there was some legal framework to consolidate large-scale industries mining claims and the reality of the small-scale mining in the ground.

The Republic Act 8871 known as the *Indigenous Peoples Right Act of 1997* or IPRA lays down the legal framework for the rights pertaining to the culture as well as land tenure of the indigenous peoples (IP's) in the Philippines. The IPs constitute almost 12 million people and they are grouped in 170 different tribes and sub-tribes. Throughout history, they have found themselves being relocated to mountain areas. The IPRA law intends to secure the rights of IPs vis-à-vis their respective ancestral domain. Many of the existing prospects for mining are located in areas where IPs live.

While SSM in the Philippines recently surged with the downturn of large scale-mining industry, its historical prevalence as an indigenous livelihood can be dated back to ancient times before the arrival of the Spaniards.

Child Labour in SSM in the Philippines



The recent ILO's Global Report *A Future Without Child Labour* confirms that the problem of child labour is a massive one, and that the prevalence of the worst forms of child labour is even greater than earlier assumed.

In Asia and the Pacific alone there are estimated 127.3 million economically active children aged 5-14. Based on a 2001 survey conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO), 4 out of 24 million Filipino children aged 5-17, or 1 out of every 6 children are working. More than two million (2.4 million) of these children are in hazardous work.

The mining and quarrying sector employed an estimated 17,980 children between 5-17 years old, who were subjected to daily hazards such as noise, high temperature/humidity, inadequate illumination, slip/fall hazards, as well as exposure to dust and chemical hazards. A previous NSO survey in 1995 reported a number of 15,626 child labourers in mining and quarrying.

An average profile of a CL in SSM would be: A male child labourer between 15-17 years of age, a school dropout (72%) with an annual income of PhP36,614 constituting 30% of the overall family income¹.

¹ PRRM Report on Camarines Norte 1998

SMALL SCALE MINING AND CHILD LABOUR IN CAMARINES NORTE

Small Scale Mining Activities



Camarines Norte lies in the northern coast of the Bicol Peninsula. The province's economy is based on agricultural production and it has abundant raw material reserves including precious metals like gold and silver. It is the home of the famous Jose Panganiban, Labo, Paracale gold mining belt where an estimated over 5000 small-scale miners regularly engage in the production of gold. The extraction of gold is done through low intensity mining methods like shaft sinking, drifting, panning, sluicing and through a locally invented and dangerous method-compressor mining. An estimated 1.44 metric tons of gold is produced every year in the 3 municipalities.

Few of the community members of the mining communities can claim to have become rich from their toil. The vicious cycle of debt bondage and repayment of money owed to middlemen and operators continues to keep most of the families at barely above minimum subsistence level and deprives their families of many basic necessities and services. An unfortunate side effect of this circle of poverty is child labour.

Child labourers who work in the small-scale mining typically participate with their older family members in different steps of the processing or provide various support services to the mining operations. Child labour in small-scale mining is predominantly male but it involves also girls who are often deprived of education due to their role of taking care of their younger siblings and other household chores. Girls are vulnerable also to other forms of exploitation like child prostitution and/or work as child domestic workers in the National Capital Region.

Child labour deprives children of their childhood, education and subject them to the occupational dangers related to the working conditions in small-scale mining. Young age makes child labourers more prone to accidents and the ill effects of chemicals and the fumes emitted during mining operations, among other occupational risks.

From the estimated 400 child labourers in the small-scale mining sites, over 31 % do not go to school, with the rest being subject to low school performance which can be attributed to fatigue and other effects of their double lives as school children and workers at the same time.

The common reason cited why child labour exists is poverty. Children are tasked to assist the parents in providing for adequate daily needs. In addition, the parents do not always know about children's rights and may undermine their right to education deeming that work is also an appropriate way of inculcating proper work values among their children.

The prevailing conditions is due also to the very limited amount of economic diversity in the small-scale mining communities. There is a general lack of opportunities and skills for the community members to shift from mining activities to other forms of livelihood.

Child Labour in the Project Site

An appreciation of the conditions of the child labourers, their families and the communities where they live provides crucial information on how they respond to their issues and problems. To this end, the first task that the PRRM conducted through an Action Program with IPEC was the masterlisting and initial survey of four pilot communities located in target three municipalities of Camarines Norte e.g. Labo, Jose Panganiban and Paracale.

Their Socio-Economic Profile

The first benchmark survey in Barangays Dalas, Gumaus, Luklukan Sur and Tugos in 1997 revealed 334 working children in small-scale mining, farming and fishing activities. There were 1,232 households that were dependent on small-scale gold mining (SSGM), half of these were households with child labour (50%).

TABLE 1: SSGM-Dependent Household and Household with SSGM Child Labourer (1997)

Barangay	SSGM Dependent Household Population	Number of Household with Child Labour	%
Dalas	79	12	15.2%
Gumaus	319	47	14.7%
Luklukan Sur	439	44	10.0%
Tugos	395	42	10.6%
TOTAL	1232	145	11.8%

Source: PRRM Master Listing Survey Report (1997)

Luklukan and Gumaus have the highest number of households engaged in mining activities as they are geographically located on a large deposit of gold bearing ore. These two barangays were also the sites of previous 'gold rush' which explains the bigger number of population engaged in mining activities there.

The information collected by PRRM forms part of a systematic attempt in collecting and analyzing information from the small scale mining (SSM) communities in order to understand and improve responses against child labour.

Small Scale Mining Industry Realities

Other salient information characterized the child labourers at that time;

- o the 189 listed child labourers represent 3.2% of total children population
- o the 145 households with SSGM child labourers comprised 11.7 percent of the 1232 SSGM dependent households
- o 88% of the child labourers are males
- o 47% are between ages 15 to 17, 43% between 10 to 15 and 10% below 10 years
- o youngest listed labourer is 7 years old
- o 72% are school drop-outs/or never attended school, or some attended schools and worked during weekends
- o children's average annual earnings is P14,064, 74% of which is contributed to the household income
- o child labourers' annual household income is P36,614 of which 30% of the amount came from the contribution of child labourers

From these figures, it can be gleaned that the child labourers contribute significantly in the household's economic status.

An update of the masterlisting and survey in 2000 and 2003, revealed fluctuating figures in individual barangays depending on the status of gold mining activities in each area. The presence of a "gold rush activity" increases the number of child labourers in the area, including the community population

Table 2: Number of Child Labourers in SSM the Four Pilot Villages and the Three Expansion Villages

Barangays	1997	1998	2000	2001	2003
Initial Areas					
Dalas	13	60	4	0	38
Gumaus	68	110	68	36	34
Luklukan Sur	57	119	72	45	34
Tugos	51	82	50	27	25
Sub-total	189	371	213	108	131
Expansion Areas					
Casalugan	X	83	61	39	58
Pinagbirayan	X	60	53	-	-
Tawig	X	82	43	21	20
Sub-total	X	225	138	60	78
TOTAL	189	596	351	168	209

Source: PRRM Reports (no data available for 2002)

Small Scale Mining Industry Realities

In terms of income, a reported increase in the child labourers' monthly household income to P5,113.13 (2001) from P3,490.27 (2000) was apparently due to the series of "gold rush" activities in Barangays Casalugan and Luklukan Sur early in 2001.

Considering the average number of household members (8.44) that has to be fed including their other daily requirements, this amount may not be enough. Unfortunately, reported expenses indicated some household members spending some amount (17%) for their vices such as for cigarettes, drinks, gambling/playing cards and videoke bars.

Child labourers who are out-of-school was comprised 31% of 168 child labourers in 5 barangays. (2001)

Overall, the prevailing socio-economic situation of the child labourers is laden with deprivation and suffering.

Ironically, while these mining barangays produce wealth in terms of gold, it is also these barangays that have income below poverty threshold level.

(lifted PRRM Report)

Their Working Conditions



The child labourers in the small-scale gold mining are involved in all processes of small scale mining (SSM). SSM involves various methods: open cast, compressor system, tunneling and sinking and panning.

During the visit in Barangay Casalugan in Paracale, a week-old digging expedition by a group of at least 10 members was observed. This led to the interview of one child labourer, Emmanuel, who is part of the mining group.

Emmanuel is 16 years old. He started mining at age 10. He has been involved in different digging activities and claimed to have earned from them, the biggest haul of which is P10,000 for two weeks work.

In doing his task in tunneling, he stays underground for almost 3 hours, before he comes up to the surface to breath some fresh air. He rests for one hour and he would be ready for another round.

Based on his account, he is used to going down in the tunnel and has been doing it for more than 6 years. He does not go to school and has no plan of going back. He provides support to his family and has been contributing to his family income. Emmanuel, appeared to be contented with what he was doing and does not mind the risks that he faces in his work.

Various Methods Used in SSM

Various mining methods in which the labourers are involved with, present different levels of immediate danger and impact to the child labourer's health and condition.

Open Cast

The open cast system is considered the easiest and least dangerous process in extracting gold. This method is often used during rainy season when rain water washes rocks and stones from the mountains to lower elevations. Since it is believed that some stones may contain gold ores, child labourers and their families crack the stones into smaller pieces. This type, however, is said to produce the least gold yield, so it is not attractive for miners.



Compressor System

The compressor mining is the most dangerous process of mining gold. Child miners dive into an open excavation of muddy well that could be two meters wide and seven meters deep. This type of mining is usually done in Labo and Paracale. The extraction of soil is done under zero visibility in a murky environment. The diver breathes in oxygen from his mouth using a compressor machine to exhale. The diver wears a crude goggle mask to protect his eyes and fills his ears with cotton to prevent water from entering.

The miner works in a squatting position, anchoring himself, with elbows and knees pressed against the walls. The diver uses a spade or shovel to get the soil inside the well and places this in a sack. He usually stays down for 3 to 5 hours before taking a break.

Based on accounts, a well could produce up to 50 grams of gold in a month. The discovery is secretly negotiated to be sold to a buyer. The miners could sell their services to extract for an amount as high as PhP200,000 and the said buyers get all the gold extracted from the well.

Tunneling and sinking are the regular activities undertaken by miners. The miners work as a team comprising of about ten to as many as 50 miners. The tunneling group digs holes horizontally while the sinking group digs holes vertically.

A team called 'abanteros' digs tunnels about 2 meters in diameter following vertically and horizontally the richest parts of the vein, and loads the mined soil and ore into sacks. The timbermen carry lumber into the tunnel following the path of abanteros and construct timber frames inside the tunnel to prevent cave-ins. The 'atraseros' carry 25-30 kg sacks of soil/ore to the tunnel entrance. The sacks are then carried 500 meters or more to the milling areas located near the mining sites or to the backyard of workers' huts. The initial processing of the ore takes place right at the mining sites. (*Punla Market Research Study*)

Tunnel and Sinking (Drifting)



Gold panning is the most common method used by household members. The pan is used as a universal tool in all mining methods applied alone or in conjunction with the sluice.



Panning and Sluicing

Small Scale Mining Industry Realities

A rapid assessment survey of the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) team of the Department of Labor (DOLE) in 1998 documented the process of tunneling and sinking method in a mine site in Barangay Tugos in Paracale, Camarines Norte.

Mining Site at Brgy. Tugos Paracale, Camarines Norte

This gold mining area operates on a 24-hour basis daily. The male regular workers usually work in the tunnel. The depth of the tunnel is about 200 feet and its opening about 2 x 2 feet. Activities of workers include digging, excavating and blasting of rock ores underground. Ores were then placed in sacks to be brought to the surface, for milling. Usually the child workers broke rocks into smaller sizes while young adults operated the rod mills.

The milling sites are located at least 100 meters from the tunnel, or from the shaft opening. The work area is open, with GI sheet roofing, with five-rod mills operating. A tailing pond is located near the milling area.

The process includes placing the ore in mill drums, occasionally mixing with water and for about 4 hours. Mercury is added to the ground ore or "muck" and then milling it for another hour to form amalgams.

To separate these amalgams from soil and sand particles, the contents of a series of mill drums is poured into the tailing pans for the panning process. Separate amalgams are placed in sieving clothes, usually handkerchiefs, to further remove any other impurities. The gold is then extracted by blow torching to distill off the mercury which had combined with the gold.

The workers inside the tunnel and in the rod mill processor do not wear protective equipments such as chemical respirators, gloves, etc. to protect them from hazards, commonly carbon monoxide and hydrogen sulfide including mercury and lead in the air or noise from the digging and the compressor.

Source: OSHC Rapid Assessment Survey (1998)

The Girl Child in Mining Activities

The involvement of the girl child and the younger children in the family is prevalent in the panning method. She is exposed to both the heat of the sun and to chemicals like mercury. While she is involved for long hours in the panning activity, she still has to do some household chores as soon as she gets back home. The girl child may not be able to attend school regularly due to her involvement in the mining activities.

Hazards in the Workplace

Child labourers are exposed to hazards in their involvement in various mining activities, from the preparatory activities such as digging, excavating and hauling, to the processing of ores. Clinical findings of the OSHC rapid assessment survey done in 1998 and involving 94 child workers include the following;



- ◆ about 10% had respiratory and urogenital problems and 8% sustained injuries in the past
- ◆ most common complaints were respiratory problems such as coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, etc.
- ◆ chest x-ray showed some children with pneumonitis and 1 with PTB
- ◆ mercury exceeded the TLV of 0.05mg/m³ about 10% had respiratory and urogenital problems and 8% sustained injuries in the past
- ◆ noise level measurement in two areas, revealed that noise exceeded the TLV level of 90 d B (h) for an 8-hour exposure.



Overall, the OSHC study showed the tremendous risks of the workers in developing health problems owing to extremely dangerous underground work, poor working conditions, exposure to toxic substance and dust and lack of protective equipment and very limited access to welfare, health and safety facilities.

The results of the survey served as input in the development of information and advocacy materials on the hazards faced by children working in the mining sites.

Despite the children's knowledge of the dangers they face in mining activities, they take the risks just so they could contribute to the family income.

THE CHALLENGES THAT THE FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES HAVE TO FACE

How does a family balance its need for food and survival and its search for long-term benefits of development?

This is the dilemma that is faced by families in SSM communities. While they appreciate the value of a vocational training that will eventually give them future employment, they are also left with no choice to get into mining activities for the much-needed income for immediate family needs. Thus, a 2 to 3-day training means the loss of potential income from mining work. Experiences showed that trainees or students in literacy classes absent themselves “whenever there is a gold rush activity in nearby barangays.

Program implementing teams (PITs) on the other hand, often express their frustration and disappointment on the students’ absences in training activities or seeming lukewarm interest of parents and child labourers. What values could be kept when faced with the situation of where to take the next meal for the day? The sad reality is that the financiers of the mining operations dictated the prices of gold find. They also financed the operations of gold mining activities and the wages or contract price of the miners. Even without mining activities, many families get cash advances from their “buyers” or “financiers”, either in kind or in cash. This situation is continued until a mining activity begins. The sad thing is that “cash advances” were already drawn and spent, even though they had not worked for it. The families oftentimes find themselves getting the remaining balance from cash advances drawn from their financiers, the amount of which may not even be enough to meet their daily requirements. In the worst scenario, the families may have advanced more than they should receive or have become indebted to their contractors.

On hindsight, even the glitter of gold that takes them away from risks and long term development benefits could not guarantee their survival. Maybe the enthusiasm and the need to change for the better have always been there – but, their hands are tied, they have to survive somehow at any cost.



Photo: L. Lataste/ILO-IPEC ©

II. WHICH WAY TO GO?

Responding to issues and challenges faced by the SSM families is a big and daunting task. It needs an integrated effort from all key stakeholders – the government, donors, NGOs, POs and communities themselves. With limited resources, networking and alliance building are crucial strategies onto the achievement of program objectives.

THE CHILD LABOUR PROGRAMME AND ITS STRATEGIES

With the support of the Finnish Government the ILO implemented a program against child labour in the small scale mining communities in Camarines Norte.

The project was conceptualized and operated through the “International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour” better (IPEC), which started with the Memorandum of Understanding between the ILO and the Philippine government in June 1994. IPEC has so far been able to generate valuable lessons learned on different strategies to fight child labour and has helped to provide schooling and improve the health and the living conditions of thousands of child labourers across the country.

ILO’s child labour work in the Philippines has been carried out by tripartite partners - Government, headed by the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), Employers and Workers organizations together with the NGOs and civil society joined together in a pro-active alliance to find ways and means to eliminate the worst forms of child labour.

Which Way to Go?

The programme strategy and design for the mining project in Camarines Norte was based on work done by PRRM and DOLE starting as early as 1996. A programme development team, joined by representatives of the Finnish Government, chose Camarines Norte as the possible programme site. In December 1998, the programme document was finalized and its funding secured.

The programme was entitled: *“Provincial Programme to Combat Child Labour in Small Scale Mining”* and it started as a three-year programme in June 2000 focusing on three municipalities of Labo, Paracale and Jose Panganiban and covering a total of six mining communities.

The programme aimed to focus on SSM because it is one of the most hazardous forms of child labour. During the three years of program implementation, the programme was able to organize a true partnership against child labour and to graduate from a SSM sector specific work against child labour to answer a wider range of issues pertaining to child labour such as child prostitution and trafficking of children.

From the estimated 400 child labourers in the small-scale mining sites in 1999, over 31 % did not go to school, with the rest being subjected to low school performance attributed to tiredness and other effects of their double lives as school children and workers at the same time.

Partnership Towards the Elimination of Child Labour



The child labour work in Camarines Norte is carried out by a wide alliance of partners spearheaded by the Provincial and Local Government in partnership with other government agencies and the civil society. They have joined forces together, working towards the elimination of the worst forms of child labor through an integrated and orchestrated manner under a *“Provincial Action Programme Against Child Labour”*.

Which Way to Go?

The communities and the families of child labourers are provided with an integrated package of services that focused on providing educational support to the child labour, on awareness raising, child rights, livelihood promotion, social mobilization and health.

Milestones and Progress Achieved Thus Far

During the implementation of the programme, over 1200 child labourers and their parents have been provided services of which over 700 have availed of skills development and education packages and almost 400 more have been provided with services helping them to form community-based self-help and saving groups.

Over 3,000 community members were reached through direct awareness-raising efforts in the target communities and many have been touched by overall advocacy efforts in schools and Municipal and Provincial Centres, through carnivals and fiestas organized to combat child labour.

The programme is implemented with a wide alliance of partners who all have their particular experiences and roles to play in uplifting the families from poverty and in providing the community members with tools to build their lives on decent work and non-involvement of children in hazardous work. The programme was able to help operationalize the “*Camarines Norte Development Plan for Children*”, by providing policy guidance and direct support to the hundreds of child labourers in the province.

Through the SSM programme the groundwork in the Province has been done to address other forms of child labour than SSM, such as fishing and child prostitution. It is envisioned that further assistance will be provided to the concerned children, their families and communities through the ILO-IPEC Time Bound Program (TBP).

PROJECT BEGINNINGS AND APPROACHES

Before the implementation of the Finnish-funded child labour program, there were previous efforts from 1996-1998 funded by ILO-IPEC in cooperation with the PRRM. Crucial activities and outputs are the following;

The First Phase: Benchmarking Creation of Structures and Mechanisms for Implementation

Keeping track of the number of child labourers in the target communities is a difficult task. As PRRM and other partners put it, “the population of target barangays including child labourers fluctuated due to migration and the location of the gold rush activities”. The first survey on child labour and their families was made by PRRM in 1997 and then updated in 1998 through the ILO-IPEC program. Initiating Action Against Child Labour Small Scale in Gold Mining Communities of Camarines Norte. A follow-up master listing was made in 2001 and 2003, which resulted in the updating of child labour profile including the socio-economic status of child labourers’ households. The masterlists of child labour and their profile provided much needed benchmark for program partners in improving the programme design and in developing responsive projects to fight CL.

Both the Barangay Councils (BCs) and the Peoples Organizations (POs) played active roles in the validation of the data gathered from the CLs and their households.

**Creation of Structures and Mechanisms:
The Provincial Response**

The inadequacies identified in responding to the issue of child labour led to the development of an integrated response to the child labour problems. PRRM reports noted some of such observations;

- o Government agencies have programs that generally address issues on child's rights but are not distinctly focused to hazardous industries like SSM. There was also the view that they are not capable enough to solve the issues by themselves.
- o In terms of policies, the Provincial Government of Camarines Norte dealt with Children's Welfare in general, with several resolutions addressing child labour issues.
- o Although government programs reached the barangays, PRRM noted that there was no coordination in terms of program design, resource management and implementation.
- o The Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) that is mandated for the promotion of the welfare of children is not operational.

The creation of structures and mechanisms to undertake initial efforts on child labour issues at all levels was one of the major outputs of the PRRM in its agreement with ILO-IPEC in 1998. This resulted in the formation of the provincial and municipal technical working groups (PTWG and MTWGs) in the towns of Jose Panganiban, Labo and Paracale.

The TWGs are composed of the department heads of LGUs and local government agencies, local executives, NGOs, civic organizations and POs. They spearheaded in mobilizing efforts for the crafting of child labour laws and ordinances including the formulation of programs and projects.

Which Way to Go?

**Bottom-Up Approach:
The Making of the Five Year Action Plan
Against Child Labour**

While the information and advocacy work at the barangay level was ongoing, the organization of various committees and technical working groups was simultaneously done by community organizers. This effort led to the activation and mobilization of the BCs and the BCPCs. As one of the significant processes, the BCPCs and MTWGs formulated the Action Plans and concept papers.

The visioning and programming workshops on July 23-24, 1998 that was initiated by PRRM consolidated the barangay, municipal and provincial action plans. Specifically, 61 participants tackled an assessment of the child labour situation in the 4 pilot areas as well as the visioning exercise. The provincial/municipal technical working groups (P/MTWG) put together the landmark 5-year plan (1999-2003) dedicated to the elimination of child labour in small-scale gold mining communities. This plan was used as a framework by the partners in conceptualizing subsequent action program.

An assessment activity identified three stakeholders of the child labor phenomenon – the employers who often promoted child labour due to profit and interest, the parents and communities that tended to promote working children due to poverty and the local government units (LGUs), line agencies, and NGOs that promote the protection and care of the children through policies, ordinances and laws. Assessment of the child labour environment identified the following;

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existence of support groups – LGU leadership, POs and NGOs Regional organizations and government agencies with various development programs– UNFPA, UNICEF, ILO/ DECS, DENR, DOLE, DTI, DSWD, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> poor organizational capability lack of personnel limited resources weak mobilization capability bureaucratic red tapes lack of coordination duplication of efforts and resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presence of educational opportunities, scholarships from educational institutions from the elementary level to collegiate high awareness against child labor strong networking and linkages, UNFPA and UNICEF programs for children implementors in the province 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> malnutrition, drug abuse, increasing market for CL rising unemployment rate peace and order situation

Which Way to Go?

Charting the Vision and the Program

From the inputs of the participants who belong to multi-sectoral groups, the VISION was finally crafted, as follows;

“By the year 2003, we envision properly-educated children, an economically stable, peaceful, healthy, happy and child-labour free mining communities with morally upright, informed and educated families actively participating in community affairs and engaged in other developed industries in the province of Camarines Norte”.

The corresponding mission stated,

“Towards this end, we shall focus our combined efforts in the province of Camarines Norte to ensure the proper education of children and parents, the enactment and strict implementation of policies and laws against child labor, the strengthening of moral values in the community, the institutionalization of local structures and action on CL, the development of alternative livelihood systems and self-regulation mechanisms by the business sector toward a proper working environment in the mining communities”.

The operationalization of the vision was manifested in the provincial plan which focused on three broad components; education, livelihood and legislative action.



Which Way to Go?

Education

In terms of education, its goal was “well informed SSM communities responding to the challenge of child labour to make the children self-sufficient, productive, functional, and self-actualizing individuals while empowering the parents for the “betterment of the family”. Through this component it sought the increase in the school participation rate from 28% to 78% among children in the target areas, increasing parental responses against child labour, increasing awareness of community against child’s rights and child exploitation. It also intended to develop lessons and educational programs for children. The change in the attitude of parents including the barangay officials toward the child labour issues is given emphasis. The conduct of IEC campaigns, value formation, trainings, and curriculum are some of the activities, to name a few.

Livelihood

The livelihood component aimed “to organize economically stable families and the whole of small scale mining communities”. The decrease in the poverty from 80% to 40% is seen through strengthened livelihood skills, better economic opportunities and increased market shares. Increase in agricultural production was planned to lessen their dependence on mining activities. Cooperatives were to be organized to undertake planning, implementation and monitoring of livelihood opportunities.

Legislative Action

The legislative and policy development component was supposed to protect the child labour against abuses. As such, the goal is to provide a policy environment toward a child-labour-free small-scale mining communities. This was to be guided by agencies in legislation and law enforcement – the DILG, DSWD, DOLE, Local PNP and NGOs. The institutionalization of the council for the protection of children at all levels was a must.

The Municipal Technical Working Group Action Plans

From the Provincial Development Plan, priority areas were identified by the pilot municipalities.

The BCPCs were encouraged to take a lead role in developing action against CL and they were tasked to implement the child worker's Summer Camp in each of the 4 barangays. This also led to study the revised guidelines of the Council for the Welfare of Children in Organizing BCPC and assess the efforts of the Barangay Council in the promotion of children's welfare. Out of these activities in coordination with CO-workers of PRRM, one-year or two-year action plans were formulated by the BCPCs, BCs and POs and which were presented to the Barangay Council for approval.

The Second Phase: Organizing and Capacity Building of Communities

The Phase II of PRRM intervention with IPEC was focused on community organizing and capability building. The area of intervention was expanded to 3 additional barangays, Casalugan, Pinagbirayan and Tawig (Paracale).

At this point, child labour concerns were gradually integrated with the local development plans and regular projects of the LGUs.

Three other projects, thru the effort of PRRM, were implemented e.g. the scholarship program of the Libro ni Loren Foundation entitled Balik Eskwela Program and the Educational Assistance for the Child Labourers provided by ERDA.

The organizing efforts involved 14 organizations including six newly-created child labour organizations. Aside from organizing these POs, the BCPCs and BCs were also strengthened.

The Third Phase: Bringing the Comprehensive Package to the Child Labourers and their Communities

Initial program support was gained from the local executives and other partners from previous efforts. Strengthened BCPC structures as well as the municipal and provincial counterparts also contributed to the formulation of long-term action plans.

In 1998, the DOLE–Workers Protection and Welfare Cluster undertook a mission which reaffirmed the need for a multi-sectoral package of support services geared on the prevention and withdrawal of child labour and the provision of sustainable alternatives for them and their families.

A Finnish mission in 1998 also explored ILO-IPEC project possibilities and defined the criteria for choosing the final project site, which included the presence of hazardous forms of child labour, the number of child labour, their educational profiles, existing programs and services, among others. The follow-up missions of ILO and IPEC, collateral baseline information and consultation with key agencies led to the selection of Camarines Norte as the target site for the Finnish funded regional programme and the identification of the 7 target initial barangays.

The package of assistance offered an integrated program design within a period of 3 years aimed at the withdrawal of children from the mining activities and targeted to benefit 1,200 children and 3,000 families. The program comprised two broad areas for action: (1) the installation of the social protective services to child workers and their families, and (2) the intensive capability for policy and program implementers of child labour programs in the province. Its immediate objectives include the following;

- Child labour in small-scale mining and other forms of hazardous work in Camarines Norte will have been substantially reduced through community organizing, provision of education and skills training services and setting up of alternative livelihood schemes for affected children and their families.
- The capability of provincial and municipal officials, programme implementers, teachers and trainers will have been strengthened in planning, organizing specialized services and implementing action for the progressive elimination of hazardous child labour in selected communities in Camarines Norte.

Components composed of the following;

- Community Organizing and Empowerment; Education, Vocational Preparation and Skills Training; Micro-Finance and Livelihood Alternatives ; Policy Planning and Research; Program Monitoring and Documentation; Training for Implementors and Care Givers

These components became the basis in developing the multi-sectors response and the various action programs that were implemented by program implementers within a period of 3 years. It was supposed to respond to the issues and problems of the child labour and their families in the mining communities.

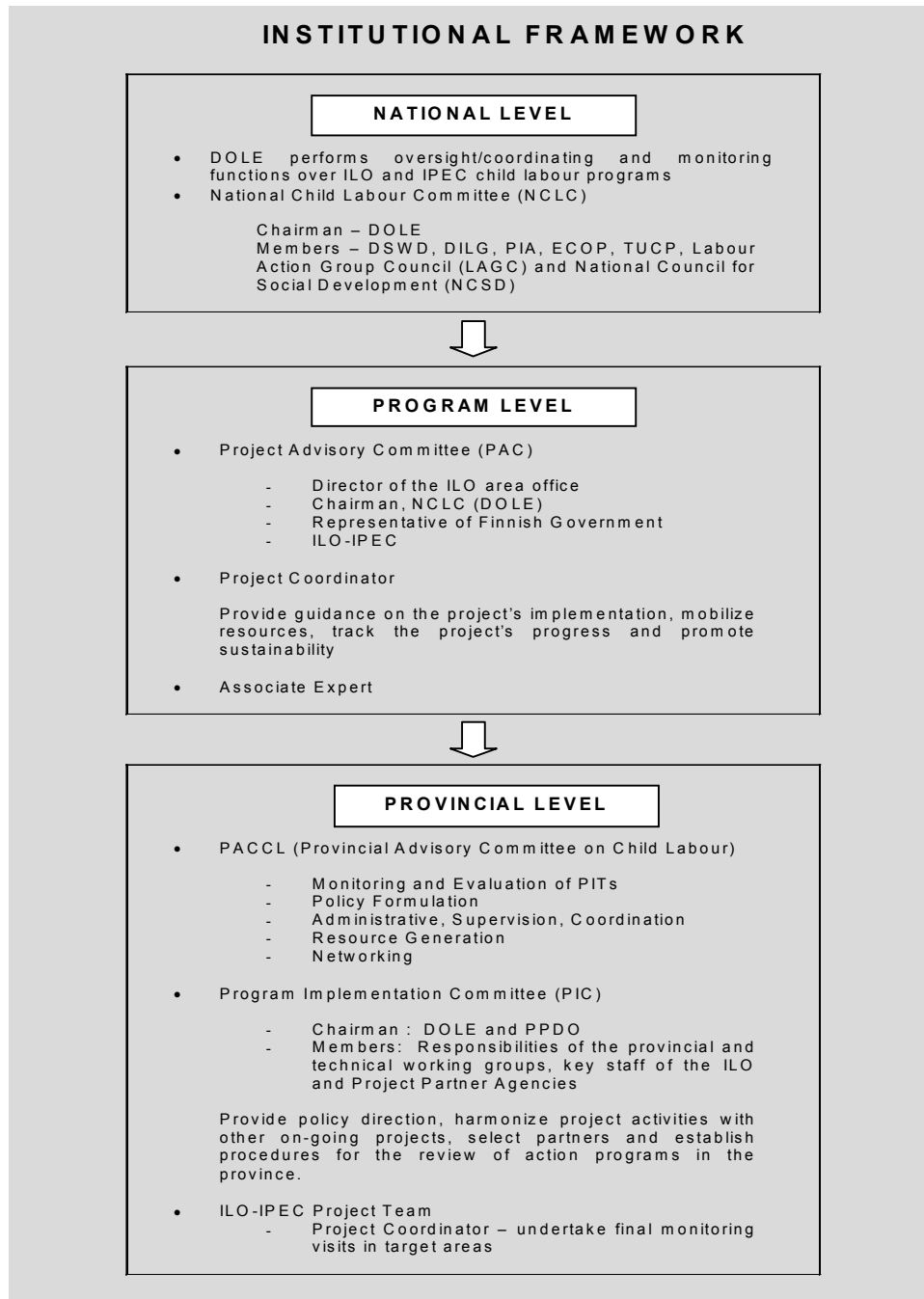
The target areas included the municipalities of–

Labo	-	<i>Dalas</i>
Jose Panganiban	-	<i>Luklukan Sur</i>
Paracale	-	<i>Gumaus, Tugos, Tawig, Pinagbirayang Malaki and Casalugan</i>

Pinagbirayang Malaki was dropped later due to the presence of insurgents in the area posing threats to project staff and cooperation of communities .

Institutional Framework

The institutional framework described the hierarchy of functions and responsibilities of the program.



The Provincial Alliance and Partnership

One of the crucial milestones of the program is the presence of a partnership that continuously tries to seek ways on how to improve the strategies of the specific action programs and towards the elimination of child labour in the target barangays.

The Provincial Alliance is meant to improve effectiveness as well as to ensure that there is coordinated activities among and between partners. Its intention is to avoid overlap, confusion, repetition and over burdening of the target communities.

The creation of the Program Advisory Committee on Child Labour (PACCL) in 2001 under the Provincial Development Committee (PDC) was a significant approach towards the realization of an effective coordination effort. Its composition are stakeholders engaged in child focused activities to eradicate particularly childlabour in small scale mining in Camarines Norte.

Its roles and functions included the following;

- formulates policies on programme implementation
- acts as oversight to provide strategic strength in small-scale mining communities
- recommends plan and program within CRC parameters
- coordinates all action program activities of partner agencies
- conduct monitoring and evaluation of action programmes
- establishes networking, linkages, and conducts resource mobilization to ensure program sustainability.

Aside from coordinative efforts, the PACCL contributed in the local policy development for children covering particularly 12 towns of Camarines Norte, focusing on the delivery of basic social services and strengthening child friendly movements.

Children's concerns and budgeting for children were key issues that were discussed in PACCL's initiated Development Planning Workshops.

Which Way to Go?

The PACCL has also prompted the creation of a “Drafting Committee on Implementing Rules and Regulation” (IRR) by the Provincial Council in relation to the newly passed “Provincial Code for Children”. The committee worked on drafting the guidelines in implementing the said code.

The inclusion of new members to the PACCL from the local government agencies and local government councils are important in strengthening its advocacy role in protecting the environment and instituting proper land use practices and social development programs.

In terms of generating local financial resources from community groups and the Barangay Councils, the PACCL’s task is to support policy initiatives and convince LGUs to the value of working on labour issues.

Measures to source additional funds for child labour work were done through the provincial training committee under the Provincial Council for the Protection of Children (PCPC). This resulted to the passage of the Provincial Code on the Welfare of Children with fund allocation of Php 3 Million that can be tapped for child labour programs under the code.

Generally, barangay and province wide initiatives have created various levels of support from the in-kind/cash contributions of the Barangay Councils up to resources that were made available for use at the provincial level.

The PACCL continues to involve LGUs and to encourage participation of other concerned agencies like the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

III. TOWARDS WORKING TOGETHER MORE EFFECTIVELY AND MEANINGFULLY

The child labour problem in the mining sector is so complex that addressing its issues requires a high degree of capability, competence, participation, cooperation and commitment among the implementing agencies and their staff.

A strategic framework which includes the benchmarking of the child labour situation in the target areas and the roles to be played by the multi-sectoral partners need to be defined.

The coordinative effort of the partners at the policy making level down to the implementation level is also necessary to be able to respond to the issues accordingly.

The succeeding sections describe the preparatory teambuilding and capability enhancement efforts for the program partners.



Photo: L. Lataste/ILO-IPEC ©

TRAININGS FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITIES AND DIFFERENT SECTORS

PACCL and PITs

To enable partners to design, monitor and evaluate child labour programs, a five-day training on Capacity Building was conducted by the Associates in Policy Development and Productivity Improvement, Inc on 13-14 and 26-29 of September 2000. Participants were informed about the current child labour situation in the province, and the different project components for validation of the partners. It was also meant to provide the PACCL members guidance on their role and responsibilities vis-à-vis the program. As a result, the partners were requested to propose their respective action programs in various areas.

The Center for Local Governance of Ateneo de Naga played a crucial role in advancing capacity building activities both for PACCL and PIT members. It facilitated the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop and Team Building Activities in August 2001. The workshop provided the venue for the PACCL members to assess child labour situation and LGU commitment on child labour issues, including the status of accomplishments of PACCL and the PITs.

The participants agreed to formulate the PACCL operating rules and guidelines to help in setting standards, minimize duplication and promote sustainability of the program.



On January 2001, PACCL was created to act as programme advisory committee.

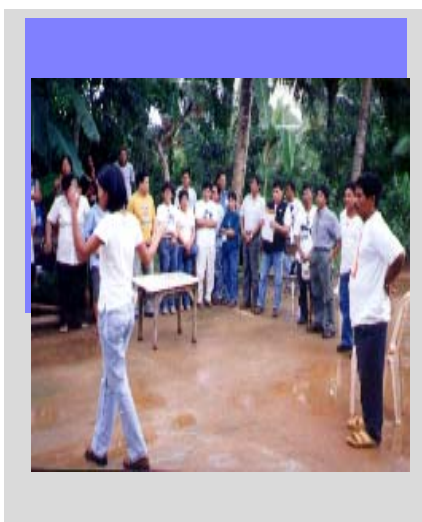


Almost one year after the project's inception, a PACCL assessment and planning was conducted on May 9-10, 2001. The planning was intended to provide venue for integration of the partner agencies mandates on child protection and welfare.

Paralegal/Provincial Legislations

On July 24- 26, 2001, AKAP-Ateneo Human Right's Center of Ateneo de Manila University conducted the Paralegal Training for Child's Rights Advocates and Policy Forum which was attended by DOLE, NBI, PNP, DILG, DSWD, Provincial Prosecutors' Office, and representatives of Municipal Judges of the three municipalities, PPDO, civic organizations, media and civil society including BCPCs, POs, and children's organizations.

Child's Rights and Welfare Code, including its Implementing Rules and Regulations, were approved.



Teachers

Teacher – Leaders of the PUP-based Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) and National Alliance of Teachers and Office Workers (NATOW) conducted the Capacity Building for Teachers, Educators and Trainers on October 17 – 19, 2001 attended by participants from various offices of the DepEd in the province. Involvement of ACT and NATOW in the province resulted to the identification of 3,000 children working in commuter trains' fabrication business in Ragay, Camarines Norte.

Health

Since OSHC-DOLE was not able to implement/conduct the Joint Initiatives Project, a Capacity Building on OSH Training was proposed by representatives from the Provincial and Municipal Health Offices, Mines and Geo-Sciences-DENR, POMCAT, and PRRM and was immediately approved by ILO-IPEC. This was held and attended by 20 participants from the PPDO, P/MHO, Health and Nutrition Section-Dep-Ed, DOLE, Mines and Geo-Sciences-DENR, PRRM, POMCAT and ILO-IPEC in Daet. The three day training provided the participants with the following: (a) understanding of the issues of child labour within the provisions of international and national laws, policies and programmes of the government; (b) knowledge to assess the biological, chemical, physical and ergonomics, and environmental hazards in small scale mining that affects children and adult miners; (c) skills to develop possible networks and mechanisms in addressing health and law enforcement issues and effectively undertake echo trainings such as Appreciation Courses on OSH Concerns. The courses on

Towards Working Together More Effectively and Meaningfully

OSH concerns, were conducted in the municipalities of Labo, Paracale, and Jose Panganiban by a training pool led by five medical doctors and sanitary inspectors assisted by representatives from DepEd, DENR-MGB, PRRM and POMCAT.

The Appreciation Courses on OSH Concerns mobilized Barangay Councils to —

- approve ordinances to restrict children from buying or carrying mercury with bare hands (Luklukan Sur); penalize parents or mining operators with Php1,500 and imprisonment of not less than 1 month to 3 months and imposing curfew hours from 9PM to 4AM for all individuals below 21 years old (Dalas and Tugos).
- construct Nutrition Post cum Community Pharmacy in Barangays Luklukan Sur and Casalugan with the assistance of POMCAT, PRRM, Health and Nutrition-DepEd, and BCPCs in the supervision for land selection, design and construction of the center.

Data Base Development

In June 2001, Diliman Computer Science Foundation, Inc. was contracted to provide and institute, a regular reporting system to be used for periodic monitoring for each action programme. The database was supposed to provide information about program activity, to be used to ensure proper coordination of activities, and to provide validations of program priorities. However, the delay to finish the database and community monitoring system prompted the Programme Office to conduct on September 17- 19, 2002, an “Integrated Community Development Planning Workshop” to come up with a more effective coordination and planning mechanism.

The mini-programmes conducted and completed were PRRM’s “Updating of Child Labour Masterlists, village socioeconomic profiling, education and training needs analysis” and Ateneo de Naga University Social Sciences Research Center’s (SSRC) “Baseline Assessment of Child Labour Situation in Selected Coastal Municipalities in Camarines Norte”. The Ateneo SSRC was able to establish a qualitative baseline information on prostitution and child trafficking in the province. The baseline updates established the number of households and children involved in the mining activities, which was necessary in redefining/revising the partners’ scope of work and budget.

GENDER AWARENESS

The gender development program contributed a great deal in building/strengthening the capacity of the women in the target communities particularly the mothers of identified working children in asserting their rights towards economic and political power and providing assistance to young girls in the mining industry.

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT CAPACITY BUILDING

The commitment and effort of partners to be part of the change among the people in the mining sector “in search of the pot of gold” can never be undermined. Implementing partners tasked to provide alternative livelihood activities must genuinely scrutinize the merit of their proposed activities and be more realistic and practical not only in identifying the kind of activities to be done but also in plotting the strategy to implement the activities.

IV. Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains



Photo: L. Lataste/ILO-IPEC ©

The most challenging task in development work is how to sustain organized groups and associations in communities. Many of them often die even they had just started to implement their activities. Others are not functional due to various reasons including conflict among members, lack of interest, lack of time for activities, mismanagement of funds and mistrust among members.

For the various structures in the target gold mining communities, it took a while for them to reach a level where they are able to implement projects due to organizational issues and constraints. Despite their constraints, significant results were achieved.

The succeeding sections describe the process how each of the action programs was implemented by partner agencies. It also describes outputs gained including issues and problems that were faced.

ORGANIZING AND EMPOWERING ASSOCIATIONS/ COOPERATIVES TOWARDS PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

For the PRRM, which is the lead agency in charge of organizing tasks, sustainability means the empowerment of both the formal and informal structures of the six small scale gold mining communities. This includes the strengthening of the Barangay Councils, the BCPC and the POs that were organized at the community level. The organizing effort also included the establishment of the province-wide network and referral system such as the Provincial and Municipal-wide Councils for the Protection of Children (PCPC/MCPC) and the Provincial Advisory Committee on Child Labour toward the elimination of child labour and upholding child's rights.

Building on the established organizations and structures developed during the first two program phases, PRRM worked to further enhance the capacity of the Barangay Councils to integrate child labor as part of their crucial tasks.

Barangay Structures Display Efforts in Fighting Against Child Labour

The following are some of the experiences of the target barangays in their tasks of protecting children against child labour.

Barangay Dalas, Determined and Committed

A meeting with the Barangay Chairman, who happened to be a woman, and her councilmen revealed various activities related to the campaign against child labour and the promotion of child rights and welfare. The barangay hall became the focal center of activities in the barangay. As such, the OSY-Literary classes, day care program, savings group activities, SKMD project in meat processing, and others are conducted there. The chairman's office has an airconditioning system but was closed due to the savings effort being implemented by the council.



The office looked well-organized with a comfortable working area including tables from the secretarial staff and the councilmen and the program personnel. Pictures of ILO-IPEC program activities were posted on a strategic wall where one could view them on his way to the barangay council office.

The Barangay Captain primarily talked about how her group has been trying to respond to child labour problems.

Child Labour Integrated in their 5-year Development Plan

Despite the barangay's limited resources from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) (estimated to be Php600,000 annually), the council was able to budget Php5,000 for children/youth development welfare.

A security roving group (RONDA) was also organized to ensure the peace and order situation in the area, with imposed curfew among the youth 18 and below. In this light, a youth patrol group was organized. Says the Barangay Captain, *"I have to be with the rest of the group including councilmen to show my support. We also conduct counseling with the parents of child labourers and motivate them to send their children back to school. In the case of our scholars, we always remind the parents about this golden opportunity", and that they have to do their responsibilities in return.*

Some of the ordinances passed are the following;

- Ordinance where children 18 years and below are not allowed in the mining site, specifically the compressor type of mining, including the processing of ores in the ball mills
- Ordinance where children below 18 years are not allowed to go inside the videoke bars
- Ordinance penalizing children in the use of illegal drugs
- Ordinance for mining groups to secure barangay permit and clearance before diggings will be undertaken, including the list of names of workers; children 18 years and below are not allowed to work; workers who will be hired should secure residence and birth certificates

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

Continuing monitoring is undertaken by the Barangay Council to ensure that everybody abides with the law.

The BCPC also sees to it that the child labourers are in-school and continuously provide counseling to parents with problems. Summer camp is also planned and coordinated by the BCPC and the youth including the Barangay Council.

Now, parents are engaged in gardening in their backyard, with seeds being distributed by the Provincial Government of Camarines Norte. Composting is also being practiced by the households engaged in gardening.

There are two active organizations in Dalas – the Samahan ng mga Kababaihang Manggagawa ng Dalas (SKMD) (Association of Women Workers of Dalas) and the Dalas Child Labour Association (DCLA). Both organizations are composed of child labourers and their parents.

Though it took a long time to be approved by DOLE, the SKMD has already implemented its meat-processing project. Initial income was generated but there were bad accounts in their succeeding transactions. Hence, they have temporarily stopped their operations until they would be able to collect the payments from their customers. “It was worth the experience,” said some of the officers of SKMD. Secured from a grant from DOLE of an amount of Php100,000, they concentrated on native sausage and preserved meat. Currently, the organization has a total of Php33,000 in its current account. The venture provided mothers about Php100/day, during their operations.

Before starting the business, the officers attended financial management seminar including bookkeeping and organizational planning. These contributed to their knowledge in managing their business and organization.

Jay Oropesa of the Dalas Working Youth Organization who used to be engaged in digging and gold panning talked about his involvement in the project as chairman of the organization. He claimed that most of the members of the Dalas Youth Working Organization have migrated to the cities to earn a living.

Some issues were raised by Jay in his experience in the program. One was the lack of funds for various activities such as for travel and coordination with other groups. Another issue was the lack of capital available for the skills training courses offered by TESDA and POMCAT. This prompted the child labourers to go back to mining activities where they are paid handsomely, especially when the price of gold goes up.

As a member of the savings group, Jay now manages his business in vegetable wholesaling and retailing together with his mother.

Dalas Youth Organization, to achieve more, merged with the working youth organization.

Overall, the community structures such as the Barangay Council, BCPCs and the POs have well pursued activities against child labour through their advocacy activities, resolutions, monitoring as well as their support for the child labourers development and welfare. Limited financial resources brought them to solicit for donations and volunteers’ in many of the child labour activities.

Barangay Casalugan Happy of its Achievement

The Barangay Council and some representatives of the BCPC of Casalugan, Paracale presented themselves as cohesive groups. According to them, aside from mining activities, their barangay has its agriculture and fishing as secondary sources of income. They also discussed their support to the ILO-IPEC program specifically in the elimination of child labor. The BCPC has been active in the advocacy for the gradual elimination of child labor.

The Barangay Council, on the other hand, donated the lot where the BOTIKA BINHI project building was constructed. Another council member donated his lot for the use of the APROTEK Garden School.

They also actively monitor the performance of their scholars in the Loren Foundation and ILO-IPEC program.

Another organization organized is the United Casalugan for the Protection of Children (UCYPDA). Since most of its members are engaged on farming, they proposed to establish a mini-rice mill project. This is envisioned to help the residents get value added to their palay and thus, they would no longer depend on outside sources for their rice consumption.

The UCYPDA was also involved in the preparatory phase of the BOTIKA BINHI project, repair of the session hall and monitoring of the status of the youth scholars. They also tried to forge alliance with other POs in barangay to implement other activities such as the reforestation project. As they move ahead, they also expressed anxiety over the project's completion by the year 2003.

Barangay Tugos Gradually Implements Some Projects

In a meeting with some Barangay Council members in Tugos, not all of them expressed that they had ample knowledge about the current activities of the ILO-IPEC program. One of them said that the barangay treasurer is more familiar with it. Some also identified Beth, the Instructional Manager (IM) to be interviewed because she is actively involved with the program. Unfortunately, they claimed the new Barangay Captain is not very supportive of the program. In fact, he was not able to attend the consultation and planning of the project.

However, the members talked about the BCPC being active in the protection and welfare of children. Ordinances related to the curfew for 18 years below from 10:00 to 4:00 AM are strictly enforced including the monitoring of child labour. Sports fests and other recreational activities are regularly sponsored by the youth association.

At the time of the visit, one Barangay Council member informed that there is an ongoing compressor mining activity in a nearby barangay. He further claimed that one child labourer in compressor mining could earn as much as Php50 to Php100 per day. But the Barangay Council representative noted that gold mining activities in Tugos have decreased. Even the jewelry making business has stopped, and only 1 jewelry shop is operating.

In the past, the Barangay Council imposed taxes on groups that mine the town's other resources such as white clay at Php2,000 annually. Currently, it is charging Php50/per truckload. The white clay is processed in Manila and made into tiles, ceramics and other items.

Vices, gambling and visits to Karaoke Bars have also affected the income of the families in Tugos, according to some Barangay Council members.

The Barangay Council has allotted Php10,000 yearly for improving the services of its Day Care Center.

Another project, swine dispersal, is being implemented from their Gender Development Fund. This project was implemented by 15-20 women.

In the pipeline is the "Rice Trading Project" which is in the planning process including the development of guidelines for its operation.

Tutorial summer classes are also spearheaded by the youth association with older children conducting the classes for younger school

children.

Beth Bonaos, the Instructional Manager and vice president of Tugos Child Labourers' Parents Association (TUCLAS), said their Bakery Project with 25 active members is about to be operational, from a long gestation period. It is made possible through the effort from various groups, according to her;

- o the construction of the bakery shop came from the organization's savings, membership fees and monthly dues at Php100 per member, Php5,000 from the Provincial Social Work and Development (PSWD), savings of Php7,000 from the training for Self-Employment Assistance (SEA-K)
- o materials, oven, trays, roller and LPG tank from UNICEF
- o Php50,000 from DSWD to buy flour and other materials for baking including operational costs

Policies, systems and procedures are also being developed. The market outlets will be the sari-sari stores owned by members themselves and which are situated at different locations. Beth hoped this project will help the mothers a lot once it becomes operational.

Tugos Child Labourers' Parents Association (TUCLAS) which is the proponent of the bakery project, was organized in 1998 with only 20 members. Most of them are parents of child labourers. The primary objective of TUCLAS is to help in the elimination of child labour, assist members in improving their quality of life and to advocate for sustainable development at the community level. Different committees were created to work on various concerns of its members such as livelihood, education, child care watch, advocacy and environment, among others. In its bakery project, different committees were also formed to undertake various business activities. This is to ensure the success of the project.

Another significant program incorporated in the development plan of Tugos is the Annual Child Labour Summer Camp. This activity is sponsored by the Barangay Council, which will be responsible for mobilizing resources.

Meantime, Beth expressed that Tugos is now ready to send its representative for training in the RSMT (Rapid Savings Mobilization Techniques) to be conducted by PUNLA Foundation. Beth also talked about the members' inability in the past to attend the one week live-in training because of their young children and household work.

Barangay Tawig: Noodle Making Business

In Barangay Tawig, aside from the strengthening of BCPC and the Barangay Council, the PRRM organized the Samahan ng mga Magulang at Kabataang Nagkakaisa sa Tawig (SAMAKANA) or the Association of United Parents and Children of Tawig.

The SAMAKANA is in the process of setting up its noodle factory, the construction of which is being undertaken by its members. Financial management training was attended by some members to enable them to effectively manage their business. This project is also supported by the UNICEF CPC V programme.

Like the TUCLAS in Tugos, the SAMAKANA and its 25 members pin their hopes on this business undertaking to improve their income which will eventually support their children in school.

Barangay Gumaus Picks the Challenge

In Barangay Gumaus, the BCPC and two POs are involved in the various issues on child labour. At the time of the visit, a gold rush activity was ongoing in Barangay Gumaus.

Review of the BCPC Plan Implementation 2000-2001

PRRM reports noted three major activities to enhance the capabilities of the BCPC in Barangay Gumaus. These include the assessment of BCPC Plan 2000-2001, review of the tasks and functions of BCPCs and a re-planning activity for 2002. The goal is to further strengthen the skills of the BCPC members in planning and implementing planned projects and activities.

The meetings also included orientation sessions about the various ILO-IPEC programs that could be tapped by barangay residents.

Youth Activities: Samahan ng mga Kabataang Manggagawa ng Gumaus (SKMG) (Association of Child Labourers of Gumaus)

Involvement of this youth organization included the Inter-Village Sports Festival, Summer Camp, Micro-finance and other activities. Planning and implementation of such activities were tackled by members.

Both the SKMG and the Buklod ng mga Manggagawa ng Gumaus (BMG) (Association of Workers in Gumaus) assisted in updating the child labour situation in their barangay, became active savers and some members attended training programs of POMCAT. They even provided their observations on the performance of the LLFI scholars. The SKMG attendance in micro-finance improved its systems in credit management as well as enabled the organization to formulate new policies and strategies for better implementation.

All of the organizations in each barangay that was assisted had their share of problems and issues, but these did not deter them from continuing with their commitment for the elimination of child labour.

Barangay Luklukan Sur Looks at Golden Opportunity

The BCPC in Luklukan Sur has committed itself to the various labour issues facing its barangay. Among others, it has focused its effort on regulating the activities of the videoke bars in its vicinity. The presence of the videoke bars has created social problems involving minors that are seen to be frequenting them, and who are seen to be drinking liquor. The BCPC including LGU officials came up with regulations that limit the activities of the bars. Punishment and penalties were also imposed for officials or minors found to be inside the bars.

BCPC Ensures Camping Success

In its camping activity, the BCPC of Luklukan Sur did not want to take chances, so it made sure that the summer camp in May 2002 was meaningful to the youth. Meetings and planning activities were conducted with the help of the PRRM and ILO staff.

Tasking or defining commitment of every individual/organization was done. Various groups took charge of each activity;

- Making of solicitation letter and letter of request – Barangay Secretary
- Distribution and collection of solicitation letter – Wife of Barangay Captain and MNLS officers
- Foods to be catered by the Pos
- Installation of tests – Managed by Kagawad Ubaldo and his tanods
- Registration – Barangay Secretary, PRRM, Kindergarten Teacher
- Games and sports – SK Chairman and Kagawad Jerez
- Stage preparation – PRRM, Teachers and SK
- Electrical installation – Barangay Council
- Monitoring committee – Kagawad Arena
- First Aid – BHWs
- Distribution and verification of program activities and invitation letters – Lisa of PRRM

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

With responsibilities distributed to each group, the camp was a success and enjoyed by the youth.

The BCPC also assessed the implementation of its plan and reviewed its tasks and functions. Various committees were formed for the protection of children. These are; Family Care and Alternative Parental Arrangement, Basic Health and Nutrition, Social Security and Safe Environment, Education, Leisure and Recreation, Protection of Children Engaged in Hazardous Occupation, Protection of Children in Difficult Circumstances, among others. Responsibilities of each of these committees were also defined.

Another organization that was formed in Luklukan Sur is the Grupo Kan Mga Obrerong Aki nin Luklukan (GOALS) or Group of Child Workers in Luklukan Sur. GOALS aimed to assist children who are victims of child exploitation. It has sought support from the working youth program of DOLE-Region 5. It also conducted fund raising activities for their livelihood projects and campaign against child labour. It participated in the formation of a community group called Green Brigade that is in charge for enforcing the law against illegal logging in the barangay.

The Jewelry Manufacturing Shop

The Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Luklukan Sur (NMLS), or the United Workers of Luklukan Sur is involved in a Jewelry project. A separate structure was established specifically for the management of the project including the development of guidelines for profit sharing, ownership and procedures in business activities.

Since the start of production, its members attended various trade fairs displaying their products. Based on a PRRM report, the project realized a profit of Php60,000 from December 2001 to June 2002.

In order to ensure their viability, each group attended the financial management training and micro-finance training sponsored by the CPC V and ILO-IPEC/Punla Foundation, respectively.

Luklukan Sur looks ahead for more opportunities in the future and that is not too far- fetched.

Child Labourers and their Right for Recreation

One important element of the work against child labour is to provide the child labourers with various recreational opportunities where they could enjoy with their peers. This experience is also hoped to promote positive social relationship with others.

The Summer Camps

Planned and implemented with the joint effort of the Barangay Councils, youth groups, BCPC and with the ILO-IPEC and PRRM, the summer camps were enjoyed by most of the youths who attended them. Various activities were undertaken during the summer camps. These are the following;

- ***Intervillage Sports Festival***

Intended to promote camaraderie and sportsmanship among the youth in the 6 barangays, this sports festival is a welcome breather for the youth.

Games such as bandminton, volleyball, track and field were enjoyed by the youth. A pre-selection process was done at their respective barangays before the camp. Around 196 children and youth participated in the games, with 71 females and 125 males.

- ***Art Workshop***

Child labourers are also motivated to express themselves through drawings. Competition at the village level selected the participants who competed at the provincial level.

- ***Theater Group***

Included in the summer camps is the cultural presentation wherein barangay participants presented their piece. Awards were given to the best presentation, as well as to the best individual actors and actresses.



Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

The theatre groups were organized by the Teatro Salamin of the Ateneo de Naga University. At least 15 out-of-school youths were trained. Presentation was made during a concert sponsored by ILO-IPEC on October 17, 2002 in consonance with the celebration of the children's month.

Other activities included lectures on basic rights of the child and hazards of mercury. Tree planting was also done by the youth participants.

The youths enjoyed the summer camps. During the interviews, many of them claimed they had gained new friends.

They added that the camps provided them the opportunity to express themselves through their participation in discussions. They also claimed to have acquired leadership skills and their involvement enhanced their self-esteem and self-confidence.

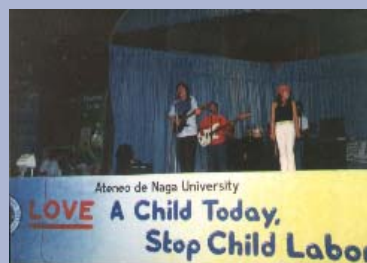
The POs and the BCPCs, on the other hand, expressed satisfaction on the impact of the camps on their youth. Some of their observations revealed the youth have become more participative in advocacy campaigns against child labour.

Despite their limited resources, the Barangay Councils and the BCPC planned to conduct more summer camps in the future, as some of them expressed their willingness to raise funds for such activity.

Children's Month Celebration

The celebration of the Children's Month in October 2002 cannot be undermined. With ILO-IPEC Project Office on top, the celebration was highly participated by the different sectors – government, civil society, transportation, business and academe.

There was a Battle of the Bands wherein contestants sang child rights-oriented songs. The Community Affairs Office of the Provincial Government put up the "Gallery of Good Practices". This is a presentation of the different interventions of the province to promote and protect the rights of the child. There were streamers all over the city and IEC materials were distributed in various strategic places of Daet. The business sector supported the celebration by putting up streamers in front of their establishments.



Radio guestings to discuss child labour issues in the different AM and FM radio stations was done. For three weeks, regular announcement of ILO-IPEC's activities in the province had been "aired".

Some 2000 students and teachers from the different school levels listened to the Orientation Session on the CRC and ILO Convention 182 conducted by ILO-IPEC and its partner agencies in Daet.

A parade around Daet participated by not less than 1,400 advocates from Daet, J. Panganiban, Labo and Paracale created temporary traffic jam but definitely heightened the awareness of the general public on the need to support action towards elimination of child labour.

A Concert Tribute to the Working Children was held in the evening as a fund raising activity for the Bahay Kalinga of the PSWDO. Aside from three popular alternative bands on stage, there was a cultural presentation of advocates organized by PRRM and the Ateneo de Naga University's Teatro Salamin

No less than Senator Loren Legarda gave the different leaders of the province an orientation on the issues of child labour and its implication to the child's development most especially in the hazardous work condition. She also met with the scholars of Libro ni Loren Foundation, Inc. and gave them early Christmas gifts.

Establishing Child Labour Council Linkages – A Crucial Attempt

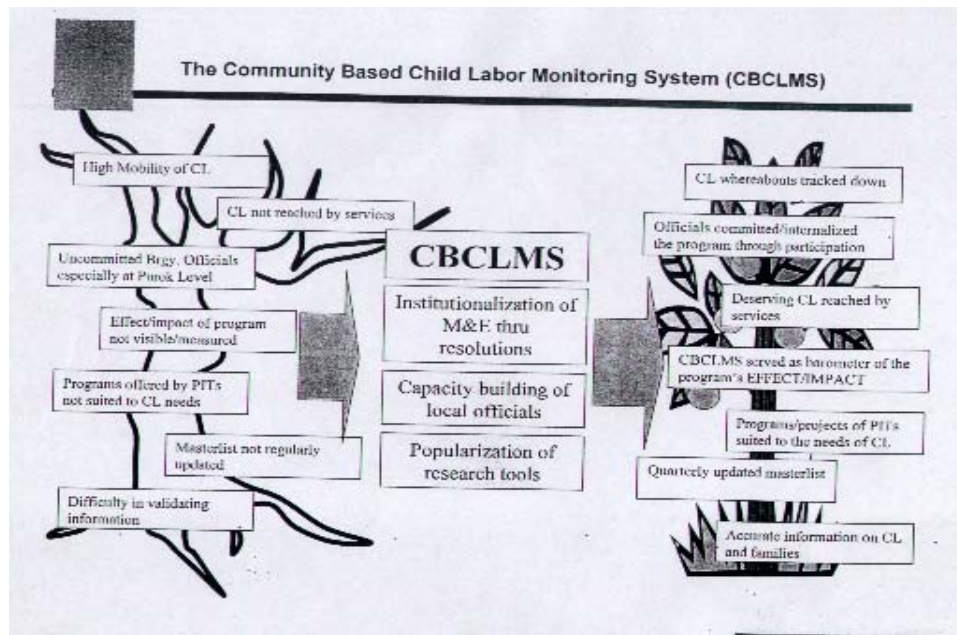
Efforts were also made to federate the child labour organizations of the six barangays, according to a PRRM report. To this end, some activities were conducted to enable the groups to come together to discuss its objectives and the processes to be undertaken in federation. The Basic Leadership and Organizational Management Training was conducted which was attended by various youth leaders of the six barangays. It provided the participants the basic orientation on leadership as well as organizational mechanics.

The federation of the youth/workers group in the 6 barangays pushed through but there were problems in making it work. There were factors that contributed to this situation. For one, there was the difficulty in coordinating and conducting meetings due to the lack of logistics, particularly, financial, that hampered the movement of officers who are in charge for following up the activities. At the barangay level, some of the barangay youth workers have become

inactive and did not have time to attend planned activities as many of them are working and have migrated to other areas. In sum, as the groups are faced with their respective organizational problems, they also have to tackle their limitations at the federation level.

An interview with the chairman of the Youth Federation revealed that he was about to give up. According to him, the lack of financial resources was their most crucial problem as this hampered their mobility in coordinating with other officers. Asked what were their plans to solve this, Jay expressed they cannot do anything about it and instead expressed that the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) could be an alternative group to undertake youth activities because said association has a regular funding from the local government units.

The Community Based Child Labour Monitoring System (CBLMS)



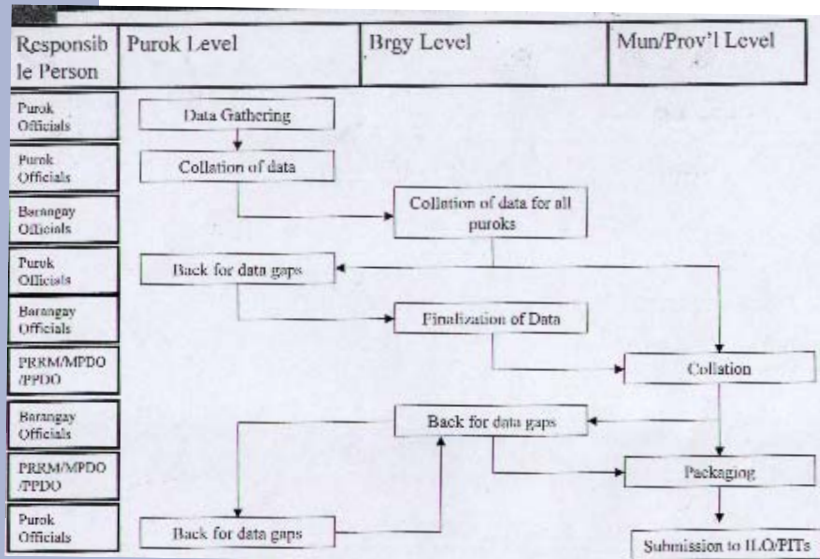
Updating of masterlist and child labour situationer would enable the Provincial Programme determine the status of effect/impact of Programme Implementing Team's intervention in the target communities particularly the number of children beneficiaries. It consists of keeping track of previous masterlist of CL and the; identification of new CL who are not included in the masterlist. It also includes the status of CL families such as their economic, education, and health conditions.

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

Given the needs to conduct updating at least every after three (3) months, the PRRM developed the concept of delegating the job to community level structures who really know what is going on in their community. The objective is to establish a community based monitoring system which involves community members in feed-backing the status of CL and their families.

For sometime, the PRRM has put its effort in operating the local *community based monitoring system* through the support of the Diliman Computer Science and Foundation, Inc. (DCSFI). The monitoring is done by sub-village or “Purok” (a small units in the village, usually represents 7 puroks per barangay) leaders. The system consisted of simplified research tools/forms that were used in gathering required information. An orientation was undertaken to equip local researchers on how to conduct the research. POs were also mobilized to help in the consolidation process. A PRRM Community Organizer consolidates the sub-village report into a barangay level quarterly report.

Data Flow



PROMOTING ATTITUDE AND VALUE CHANGE TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF CHILD LABOUR

The strength of an organization according to SPACFI depends largely on the attitude and values that are developed among its members. Good values provide the moral fiber that makes the organization functional and sustainable and which contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives of an organization.

For a period of 14 months, the Socio-Pastoral Action Center Foundation (SPACFI), Inc. was commissioned by the ILO-IPEC to conduct various trainings on values development. The intervention intended to promote anti-child labor values and social values that would enhance self and organizational development. It also helped the community associations to enhance their knowledge and attitude in managing viable ventures, particularly livelihood projects of the 6 target communities

More importantly, the effort of the SPACFI focused on the support of on going interventions of PRRM in organizing POs and associations as well as the effort of other Program Implementing Teams (PITs) such as the TESDA, BNFE, POMCAT, PUNLA in providing technical skills as well as creation of sustainable enterprises.



The Process of Building Appropriate Values

Training needs assessment was undertaken prior to the development of the training designs and modules. The TNA focused on determining current perception, attitude and values of child labourers and their families, including concepts of change, responsibility, importance of environment conservation, knowledge on community issues and problems and an understanding of themselves and why they are in such a situation, among others. These data provided information which helped in designing the training modules on values development.

The SPACFI staff's attendance to community meetings and coordination with parish priests and the orientation conducted by PRRM and PACCL contributed to their understanding of where the communities are coming from and their type of involvement in project activities.

Basic Social Personal and Social Orientation

The Basic Social Orientation intended to raise social-political awareness among target communities and in understanding social reality and social change.

Recollection

Recollection activities provided an opportunity for youth leaders to reflect on their present situation and look at their future lives. It also dwelt on self-assessment by participants in relation with other members of the community and the community as a whole.

Group Building and Value Formation

Participants were envisioned to acquire knowledge, attitude and skills that are needed to effectively manage their organization.

Servants Leadership Training

The servants' leadership training provided participants, 43 adults and 37 youth leaders, the concept of being a Christian leader serving the people and protecting the environment as a whole. It also focused on the concepts of group building and group management.

Through various value development formation activities, children and their parents realized the importance of enhancing themselves as well as the need in participating in their organization's activities. They also hoped that they could improve their situation and their lives.

Committee on Child Monitoring and Family Counseling

The child monitoring and family committee was installed as a part of the community association's structure. This was set up to help members in their counseling needs. Counseling with parents and children was done during recollection activities.

Community Development Framework

Community development was instituted as a framework in providing direction for all development activities in the 6 target barangays including fostering organizational relationships. This was to ensure the sustainability of project activities. Specifically, it also intended to facilitate the planning and implementation of projects.

Problems and Issues

Similar to the experience of other PIT members, there were parents and children who were not interested in attending various seminars offered by SPACFI. In fact, this was noted in Barangay Tugos, where there was difficulty in motivating parents and children to attend even the initial meetings.

The community organizations, as noted by SPACFI, were not religiously conducting their monthly meetings, not even the committees that had been assigned various functions. The 'gold rush' phenomenon affected the attendance in training activities conducted, which at that time was in Luklukan Sur.

Initial Effects of Trainings

SPACFI reported that the participants had learned much of themselves specifically their traits and behaviors, and about their organization. They had also learned the broad perspective of becoming a leader. Participants who had attended trainings for the first time, were able to express their ideas in front of other people and have achieved a certain degree of self-confidence.

There was also the group realization that members' cooperation is needed in ensuring the stability of their organization.

The organizational assessment activity, specifically the SWOT analysis, provided the participants the opportunity to assess their organization's strengths and weaknesses including opportunities that are available as well as threats that deter the achievement of their goals.

The initial impact was felt at the individual, family and organizational level.

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

SPACFI case study report noted learning and insights of some participants on their trainings and experiences, as follows;

Mrs. Mary Jane Boncajes (Tugos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• understood that man's only basis for decision and action is his life• "family is very important when there is love and sacrifice, it's the only place where a person shares his/her success and failure in life".• "basis of man's actions is his moral values".• learned the proper ways in dealing with uncooperative members of the association".• "learned the importance of setting an example as a leader".
Beth Bonaos (Tugos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "learned the proper attitude in dealing with the community, members of the associations and God"• "learned the proper way in identifying community problems and how to deal with them"• noted that before, she only thought of money and clothing for her family, today she recognizes the importance of providing attention and guidance for her children"• became more understanding.
Lina Toregoza (Tugos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "family is important because it is where people learn the right attitudes and behavior"• now finds it easy to forgive others, has become more understanding
Edna Rojo (38 years old) (Tugos)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "learned how to deal with people properly"• no longer got easily angry about small matters

Today, many parents and child labourers still want to continue their learning activities, despite some of their constraints due to their struggle in earning for their daily requirements.

SPACFI noted there is still the need to enhance the capacity of officers of organizations to be able to implement effectively their projects, though currently they seem to be highly motivated to help improve the situation of their members.

It also observed that savings mobilization has still to be strengthened. Not all savers are saving regularly. On the other hand, it also emphasized that capital assistance should be given to members of the savings groups.

It further noted the need to improve the monitoring scheme to be able to track the status of activities including the development of child labourers in the 6 target areas.

Overall, the intervention efforts of SPACFI has made organizations realize the importance of recognizing the values and attitudes of their members, and where they are coming from to fully ensure their involvement in planned activities.

ENABLING OUT-OF-SCHOOL-YOUTHS TO ACHIEVE HIGHER LEVEL OF LITERACY AND EDUCATION



Education is the most significant tool that could empower individuals to achieve their aspirations in life. Once they have it, it will stay with them forever. The DepEd-BNFE similarly believes that the out-of-school-youths could be empowered by providing them with appropriate literacy training and livelihood skills to make them productive individuals. The access to education is made easy for the child labourers and their families through the use of community-based facilitators responsible for providing them the opportunity to learn at their own pace and time.

The literacy cum livelihood program was designed to eradicate the child labour problem in six (6) barangays and to encourage the working children who are out-of-school to re-enter the formal school system which was made possible through the Accreditation and Equivalency (A & E) Test. The capacity of the DepEd-NFE personnel was also strengthened to be able to respond to child labour issues as well as improve their partnership with other concerned government agencies, LGUs, NGOs, and other actors in the implementation of the program.

Significant Output

The program was expected to reach 400 learners, and after two years, it graduated 398 learners from 16 organized classes in the target barangays. Out of the 86 learners who took the A & E Test, 13 takers passed and 39 child labourers went back to the formal school system. The NFE program in Camarines Norte garnered the highest rate of A& E passers compared to other provinces in Region V.

The Implementation Process

Before the implementation of the NFE classes, some crucial activities were undertaken, such as the following:



- A literacy mapping was conducted to identify the learners where PRRM masterlist was utilized and validated.
- Social mobilization and advocacy were undertaken to orient the parents and families of child labourers, the barangay officials and the people's organizations. A system of recruitment and selection was also set in place.
- The training of the Literacy Facilitators and Instructional Managers conducted by DepEd NFE teachers was pushed through to enhance their skills in conducting the Learning Modules and Sessions. The training included the preparation and reproduction of modules and training materials such as printed stories, flashcards, and word strips. Reading materials from other agencies were used to supplement readings on subjects like health, nutrition, drug abuse and waste management.

Learning Process Made Flexible and Interesting

The conduct of the literacy classes was made interesting and responsive to the learners' needs and conditions. Firstly, the learning sessions fit the child workers' schedule. In fact, some classes were conducted in the evenings up to ten o'clock at night. Secondly, the learners participated in preparing their individual learning plans, listing what they wanted to learn. The learning sites were varied – at the Barangay Hall, Health Centers, residential houses, elementary schools- and in any place that was made available by the barangay officials. Learning materials were also provided to the children, which included ballpens, notebooks, papers, cartolina, bags, and others. To respond appropriately to the needs of the learners, there were separate modules for illiterates and for learners who need the basic literacy skills in reading, writing and counting. As there were fast and slow learners, efforts were made by the Instructional Managers to conduct tutorial sessions for the slow learners and absentees. This was done along with home visitations of the Instructional Managers. Counseling for both parents and the learners was also undertaken, specifically if there were incidence of absences, lack of interest or low motivation on the part of the learners.

Skills training and values development are integrated into the literacy classes. Other educational activities included recreational activities, field trips, youth camps, literary contests and cross visits, among others.

Instructional Manager (IM) Nida Batas from Dalas, Labo Camarines Norte revealed that her experience is *“difficult but a rewarding experience”*. She recounted that her class of 16 students, half of whom are child labourers, were shy at the beginning of classes. This was because the students felt that other people may laugh at them and that they are too old to attend NFE classes.

On the other hand, some IMs claimed, it was also difficult to motivate child labourers to come back to learn because of their struggle to divide their time between school and the mining work. This prompted some of the IMs to conduct sessions right at, or near their place of work. Classes are undertaken after the work shifts of child labourers.

Other IMs would pass by the homes of the learners to ensure that they both go to the learning center together.

Nida, however, expressed that she did not encounter many problems about the attendance of her learners. Instead, learners went beyond schedule because they felt at home in the learning center, which happened to be their Barangay Hall.

STORY OF JOVAN: Jovan and his co-learners Shine as Good Role Models in Barangay Dalas

Jovan who is now 16 years old is currently the Chairman of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) of Dalas and concurrently a member of the Barangay Council. Based on the account of Nida, his Instructional Manager (IM), Jovan was among the child labourers identified to be working in the mines with his family. He was a high school dropout and returned to school upon encouragement of the IM and IPEC partners in 2000 and now a second year high school student. Like the other learners, he was shy and would run away at the sight of visitors.

Along with his group, he was exposed to and attended different activities like summer camps, theatre arts, leadership skills and trainings and kept in touch with other youth in the barangay.

The involvement paid off. Now, the learners welcome visitors at the Barangay Hall and entertain them with their youthful jokes. Jovan's other co-learners assist in the collection of savings from community savers and another one, volunteers in maintaining cleanliness of the Barangay Hall.

These young people are very proud to be part of the Youth Patrol, that works with the Barangay Council in maintaining peace and order in their barangay. The Youth Patrol disseminates information on the 8:00 PM-4:00 AM curfew for persons below 18 years old. The curfew ordinance is in line with the Barangay Council's commitment to protect children from danger, abuse, and exploitation.

Counterpart Contributions from the LGUs, NGOs and other Organizations Tapped

There were efforts to mobilize and tap resources from various groups to support the program. Coordination with the Parents-Teachers Associations were made and at the same time there was lobbying effort for budgetary allocations for NFE Program through the IMs' participation in regular Barangay Development Planning (BDP).

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

As a result of these advocacy efforts, community resources were mobilized. Counterpart contributions donated to the project are the following;

- Php1,000 provided for the snacks of the child labourers (Brgy. Luklukan Sur, Tugos and Dalas)
- Snacks for the whole duration of the classes of 25 sessions (Brgy. Tugos)
- Construction of the NFE Literacy Center in Tugos through the cooperative efforts of municipal officials (nipa shingles and lumber), parents and sponsors of child laborers, labor and snacks (Barangay IRA)
- Free use of public and private facilities (Barangay Hall, porch of houses of two barangay officials, classrooms, chapel, health centers, day care centers, CLARC, etc)
- Use of Facilities including tables and chairs, electric fans, TV/CD, tape recorders, lightings, etc
- Free transportation during outdoor activities (LGU of Jose Panganiban)
- Additional honorarium of Php2,000 for the remuneration of 2 IMs (LGU of Paracale)

Barangay officials assisted in the monitoring of the attendance of learners to the extent that they see to it that learners report to the center. Teachers also volunteered to conduct review classes.

The Department of Education Non-Formal Education (DepEd-NFE) program through “Non Formal Education Accreditation and Equivalency (NFE A & E) system” offers an alternative certification of learning to those Filipinos aged 15 years and above who are unable to avail of the formal school system or who have dropped out of formal elementary and secondary school. These tests are designed to provide two levels of certification of learning that are comparable to the passing of formal elementary and secondary education system.

The Philippine Civil Service Commission (PCSC) has also recognized these certificates as valid documents for purposes of permanent appointment to government positions requiring completion of elementary or high school education, provided that other requirements are met.

“Because of the achievement in the previous tests the DepEd BNFE at the national level has granted the local request to open a Testing Center for A & E tests in Camarines Norte as a result of the good practices gained through this child labour project. Camarines Norte is now the first non-Asian Development Bank (ADB)-assisted province in the Bicol Region that was given a testing center for NFE A & E tests.

Difficulties and Problems

One of the common problems encountered was the irregularity of attendance of the learners resulting to children dropping out of the school. Among the reasons identified were the need to support their families, transfer of residence, resistance of parents and child labourers to education because of their fear of educational expenses, distance of the learning center from the learner's house and lack of a permanent site to hold classes. To respond to these problems, the IMs sought the assistance of the barangay councils, gave home visits, counseling and conducted tutorial sessions for students with problems in coping with their lessons.

Other problems identified by the program implementors were facilities-related such as the need for the construction of a provincial center with facilities and which can hold literacy classes and other related activities without much constraint. On the other hand, implementers also view the weak enforcement of RA7658 and other relevant laws for the welfare and protection of working children as factors to widespread involvement of children below 15 years old in the mining sites to the detriment of their educational and moral development.

Other concerns included the need to increase the budget for expansion of literacy programs, availability of budget for scholarship grants, increase of the honorarium of IMs including increase of the budget for monitoring the learners.

The Learners from the Perspective of the IMs

The learners have come a long way and have exhibited positive responses based on the reports of the IMs –

“Learners are very eager to learn”

“They have gained interest in going back to school.”

“Many overcome their shyness.”

“Many residents expressed NFE contributed in bringing back the interests of children to go back to school.”

“NFE allowed poor families and their children to access cheaper education.”

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

Overall, the IMs expressed that the NFE eliminated some of the vices of children such as going to the videoke bar and drinking liquor. The learners were also made more responsible. Some IMs expressed *“malayo na sila sa bisyo, natututo pa sila”* (aside from being out of vices, they have also learned).

For many of the learners, they welcome the NFE experience and consider it as an opportunity in fulfilling their dreams and aspirations toward having better opportunities and improving their quality of life.

The IMs perceived that the NFE program was implemented with the integrated efforts of the partners, the PACCL, ILO-IPEC, the LGUs (municipal and barangay councils) and their communities.

However, some of the misgivings of the IMs is that some learners still returned to their workplace because of the need to augment the income of their families. But many child labourers have tried to combine both work and study even if it was difficult. There was a marked change in attitude towards education by both the child labourers and their parents.

According to the IMs, there were significant learnings from this project. One thing is clear – “support to working children calls for an orchestrated effort of LGUs, NGOs, POs, and other agencies and organizations.”

Caselet No. 1

RICHARD SALCEDO

Age 22

Educational Attainment: Grade 1

At age 22, Richard enrolled as an NFE learner. Found to be enthusiastic in his studies, he had never been absent in sessions and he participated actively in his class despite his difficulty in coping with his learning activities.

Poverty contributed to his inability to attend school because he had to help in augmenting income for his family's needs. At age 9, he helped his mother make charcoal; at 11 became a helper in a sari-sari store and later joined his brothers in Manila as a houseboy.

Returned to the province after four years and went back as helper in the sari-sari store because he needed to be employed. He was also engaged in gold panning.

Both his parents never attended formal schooling.

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

Caselet No. 2

DOMINGO Q. PANESA

Age - 16

Parent's Occupation - Gatherer of handicraft materials

Educational Attainment - Never been to school

At age 16, he voluntarily enrolled in the NFE class and was observed to be interested and willing to learn. He asked for tutorial sessions from his IM as he tried to combine work and study.

Both parents have never been to school and as such, Domingo's behavior maybe the outcome of his parents' background. They were very poor and have no permanent house as they move from one place to another to earn a living by gathering lamon, rattan, roots, and other materials for handicraft.

He became engaged in gold mining after knowing the existence of mining activities in one of the pilot areas

Parents were sometimes the cause of children becoming desperate. His parents indulged in vices like playing cards and cockfighting, coming home late at night with his mother forgetting her responsibilities at home. Both demanded money from him.

Domingo left his family and resided with his aunt and his case was referred to BCPC for action.

Caselet No. 3

Names of Enrollees: Michael, 19
Claire, 16
Monaliza, 13
Imelda, 12

All four belong to the Darilay family and reside in Tawig, Paracale.

Currently enrolled in grade 1 but were assigned in different sections. All of them are regular absentees.

Became learners and number of hours provided was doubled, with sessions held four times a week. Tutorial sessions were also provided them. The four were turned over to PRRM in its Balik Eskwela Program. Through the efforts of the Brgy. Captain, they were enrolled in the formal school system.

Big number of children (11 children) in the family contributed to the poor condition of the Darilay family. With no regular source of income and with small income from charcoal-making and begging for stones from the tunnels, this family gets barely enough to meet its basic needs.

PROVIDING BASIC EDUCATION TO CHILD LABOURERS AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR TEACHERS

Absenteeism and eventual dropout of poor children in school are two of the problems faced by the educational system today. Child labourers may also suffer from a certain degree of malnutrition causing inattentiveness, lack of concentration, sleepiness, and low performance in school. This was validated through case studies of students conducted by the Bureau of Elementary Education which eventually recommended these children for assistance.

PROFILE OF ILO-IPEC SCHOLAR STUDENTS

1.0 DANTE	SCHOOL PERFORMANCE	OTHER INFORMATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 years old belongs to a big family has 13 siblings father-gold panner; barangay tanod mother-gold panner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> stunted physical and mental growth a loner would often collapse or lose consciousness suffers severe stomach ache has big tummy and shows malnutrition does not perform well in class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> their earnings not enough to meet their basic food requirement everybody works to contribute to family income being a recipient of ILO IPEC program, his stipend often used by family to buy rice and viand for the family members
2.0 DAVID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th child among 6 children dreams to become an engineer someday wants to give his siblings good future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> always absent from class did not have needed school supplies sometimes goes to school without packed lunch and only eats camote for lunch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> given scholarship by ILO-IPEC program received benefits, e.g. school supplies, uniforms and monthly allowance due to financial and material support, now-attending his classes everyday, trying his best to be a good pupil
3.0 LIBERATO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 yrs. old/Grade 6 7th child among 9 children parents separated mother sickly, not fit to work child labourer/gold-panner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> overworked, deprived of his right as a child labourer frequently absent from class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> given scholarship under ILO-IPEC program
4.0 MARVIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 years old, was found to be engaged in gold panning grade 4 – Gumaus Elementary School Father is also a gold panner Lives in a small nipa hut Php3000 monthly income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> scholastic disabilities found to be a non-reader at school opening very shy consistently has weighted average grade of 77 in all subjects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> totally removed from gold panning activities as recipient of the ILO-IPEC scholarship program now a full-time student

Source: Bureau of Elementary Education (BEE)

The extreme poverty of child labourers including other factors such as parents' inability to manage their lives, parents' separation, engagement of parents in vices, big number of children (7-11 children in a family), their involvement in mining activities or gold panning have greatly contributed to their impaired physical and personality development as well as their low performance in school.

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

The two-year program intervention of the Bureau of Elementary Education (BEE) was focused on enhancing the capacity of teachers and guidance counselors to integrate in the curriculum and their lesson plans issues on child labour. It also focused in operationalizing a strategy on how to support the needs and aspirations of child labourers at least to finish elementary school. This was supported through guidance counseling sessions with parents and the students by assessing students' performance and problems that need to be resolved. The monthly scholarship fund of Php800 for the first year and Php600 for the second year allowance is part and parcel of the package. Other educational assistance such as school supplies uniforms were given to beneficiaries once a year.

Small Victories, Big Breakthroughs

Forty-five (45) children were targeted to be assisted by the program within two years. During that time period, the children were provided with monthly stipend including other support services such as counseling and monitoring of their school performance.

Student Scholars who are Child Labourers: Start to Dream...

Rio dela Cruz

12 years old of Brgy. Tugos Paracale

Father – miner

Mother – full-time housewife

8 children in the family, 2 OSY, 5 in-school

Child labourer earning P150/day

As a scholar she is very happy because she gets the benefits such as money for baon (food), bag, school supplies and uniform. She gets only Php700 out of the Php1,000 allowance per month because Php300 is automatically deposited in the bank. Currently she has Php4,500 bank savings. Rio dreams of becoming a teacher someday and wants to support her family. She hopes her scholarship would last until she finishes college.

The Selection of Beneficiaries: A Democratic Process

The beneficiaries were selected through a participatory process wherein the implementing partner, BEE, PRRM and other agencies including barangay officials, parents and PO representatives were involved actively. Orientation activities served as the venue for discussing the screening requirements and the beneficiary's final selection process. It was also meant to acquaint the key stakeholders and parents, barangay officials and POs on the issues affecting child labour and the project. The masterlist provided by PRRM served as a guide in the selection of the beneficiaries of

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

the program.

The significant point of this strategy is that it brings about more sense of ownership among stakeholders. A Memorandum of Agreement defined the responsibilities of each of the parties involved. The parents specifically, understood what their responsibilities were in so far as the follow-up and support to the schooling of their children is concerned.

Other Student Scholars Start to Dream Too

Renerose Villano

12 years old of Kulapnit, Tugos Paracale

Mother – a laundry woman with 4 children in previous relationship and another 4 with the current partner
Gold-panner before the scholarship was granted

Before she was granted a scholarship, Renerose was gold panning, working as early as seven o'clock in the morning to five o'clock in the afternoon. She describes her life now as "*maginghawa*" (comfortable) compared to her life before when she had always been tired and experienced body pains and was always absent or attended class only one day a week.

She is now in the honor roll, that is, ever since she became a scholar. She hopes to become a teacher someday.

Renerose is very proud and happy because she has some savings in the bank to buy herself new clothes and a pair of shoes when she goes up the stage to receive her award in March.

Monitoring Children School Performance

The children supported by the program were periodically monitored by teachers and guidance counselors. Monitoring tools were used in tracking the children's school performance. Some of these tools include the pupils' guidance folder which covers the students' profile, additional characteristics, questionnaire form and scholastic rating form.

Monitoring activity covered counseling sessions with children beneficiaries and their families on school matters such as attendance, behavior inside and outside the classrooms and learning progress. It helped the children in coping with school activities and requirements and in improving their performance toward completion of their elementary education.

With the installation of an appropriate recording system, it was easier to assess individual cases and to provide more appropriate support and guidance.

The barangay officials, Parent-Teachers-Community Associations and People's Organizations were mobilized in monitoring the attendance of the children beneficiaries. They provide parents with appropriate feedback on children's performance and remind them of their responsibilities.

The program implementing partners are envisioned to solicit and widen support from local officials and parents organizations during implementation. This was realized by continuous coordination meetings and periodic assessment of project results and outcomes.

Integration of Child Labour Issues and Concerns into the Division Curriculum

One of the significant breakthroughs of the project was the integration of the child labour issues and their negative effects into the Division Curriculum of Camarines Norte. Specifically, through the lesson plans, continuous information and advocacy activities on CL in the school system was ensured. This also enabled the teachers, parents and the students to cope and manage the effects of child labour and work toward its elimination.

The BEE Scholars Speak of Big Gains

Most of the scholars wished that their scholarship continued up to college. But such hope may not be realized because they are aware that the program will be ending by the year 2003. But this situation did not dampen their enthusiasm to talk about their experiences.

Marivic Bas (Vic-vic) of Barangay Tugos, Paracale is one of the recipients of the BEE scholarship. She is 14 years old and currently in grade 6. She belongs to a family of 8 children. Her father is a gold panner and her mother is a full-time housekeeper. Four of the children, including Vic-vic are engaged in gold panning activities.

Based on her account, some people from PRRM came to visit them one day and interviewed her, and asked whether she was in school, and that she had responded that she had already stopped.

She was further asked how much she was earning and she responded Php450 per week for at least 3 days a week. Pooled together, the family's earnings were used to buy rice, pay their electric bills, and to buy school supplies and materials, transportation for other siblings who are studying.

As a gold panner, Vic-vic talked about her travails such as experiencing back and muscle pains, numbness of feet due to long sitting position, and headaches due to sun exposure, among others.

Vic-vic expressed to interviewers that she really wanted to go back to school. Luckily, she was finally selected as one of the BEE scholars.

Her allowance is Php600 per month, but it was given 3 months at a time. Deposited in a local bank, she usually withdraws Php600 for school supplies and transportation allowance. The rest, she budgeted for school projects, contributions, pack-lunch, and others.

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

“Pag dumating ang allowance ko at wala kaming pambiling bigas, ginagamit muna ni Mama” (If my allowance comes and we don’t have money to buy rice my Mama used it first) “Minsan nagkasakit si Mama, naka-withdraw kami ng pera para pambili ng gamot at ibang kailangan” (At one time my Mother got sick, we withdrew some amount to buy medicines and other needs).

“I received school uniforms, school supplies, shoes, bags, umbrella and raincoat”, said Vic-vic. “Naiinggit ang mga ibang bata sa akin” (Other children are envious of the benefits we are receiving). Aside from enabling her to attend school, the fund is also available for emergency, school requirements and others.

“Simula noong naging scholar ako, hindi ako nagkabud” (Since I was scholar I stopped gold panning). She is really happy that she receives a monthly allowance.

She won in a drawing contest when she was in grade 5. She now belongs to the top 9 of her class and she is in the honor roll on her forthcoming graduation. But she recalls, she never had good grades, while she was a child labourer, that was, when she was in grade 1 up to the time she reached grade 4.

Says, Vic-vic about her current situation,

“I am now very happy, no longer always tired, no longer absent from class; I have high grades and now have time to study, am able to play sometimes. Most of all, my parents are very happy about my achievements”.

She plans to enter high school next school year.

Barangay Captain also Speaks-up

The Barangay Captain in Barangay Casalugan, Paracale Camarines Norte, talked happily about the scholarship program. Barangay Casalugan has 12 scholars so far, 9 scholars at the elementary level and 3 high school students. These children are either gold panners or miners or who have parents who are separated. He was proud to say that most of them are in the honor roll in their respective schools. However, he expressed that allowances of students were delayed. Apparently, this was attributed to the delay in the submission of reports and due to the bureaucratic system.

Moving on ... Achieving Small Successes but Big Gains

LLFI Scholar:

Jonalyn Tapia from Curbada, Tugos, Paracale is 13 years old and in Grade 6. Jonalyn says "nagbabalon po ang tatay ko at ang nanay ko po ay sa bahay." (my father works at the mine while my mother stays at home) Jonalyn has five siblings, as follows:

AGE	GENDER	MARITAL STATUS	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	EDUCATIONAL STATUS
17	M	Single	Grade 4	OSY plants and sells eggplants
16	F	Single	Grade 6	OSY works as kasambahay in Batangas
13	M (Jonalyn)	Single	Grade 6	
9	F	Single	Grade 3	
3	M			
2	F			

Before she was identified by Kuya Petes of PRRM to be one of the scholars of LLFI, she had worked with her family in the "kabudan" usually every Saturday and Sunday or even during weekdays when there is a need for money for the family. Her work in the "kabudan" was "nagbibirik" (gold panning with the use of a stone/clay pan) and "nag-aakaw" (panning with the use of the hands) from 9am to 5pm. For a day's work her family would earn at least P100 for everybody.

She is very happy that she is being supported by LLFI, however, Jonalyn said that she hadn't received her allowance for four months and had used up all her savings. If she had no money for transportation because her school is far from her house, she would just help her mother do the laundry but she no longer does gold panning because it is harmful to her health.

Jonalyn hopes to finish a computer course and send all her younger siblings to school.

LLFI Scholar:

Marion Tolentino who is 11 years old and Grade 3, is from Purok 6, Tagos, Paracale. Marion says "ang tatay ko po ang nagkakabod at ang nanay ko po ay nasa bahay lang" (my father is in gold mining and my mother takes care of the household). There are 8 children in the family as follows:

AGE	GENDER	EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
14	M	Grade 6
11	M	Grade 3
10	M	Blind not in school
8	M	Grade 1
5	M	
4	F	
3	F	
2	F	

Since he was 8 years old, Marion had been mining with his parents doing all work in mining process – "pagbibirik, paghukay gamit ang maso, pagkuha ng bita sa balon at paggiling" (panning, digging using sharp hoe, getting ore from the pits and grinding). Depending on the type of work he is tasked to do. Marion would work from sunrise to sundown or overnight. So, he had sleepless nights and usually experienced body pain. At one time, a sackful of soil and stones fell on his face and a long scar on his forehead is still visible. He is very thankful to Kuya Petes and Kuya Don for bringing in the IPEC and PRRM program in Tugos most especially to Libro ni Loren for sending him to school. Now he doesn't have to go to the "kabudan" (mine site) and work whole day long or all night long so that his family is assured of food the next few days. He doesn't have to be absent from school so he could buy materials for his school project. All he has to do now is go to school everyday, study his lessons well, help in the household chores and play with other children in the neighborhood.

Marion dreams of becoming a bank employee to be able to help his family and other children go to school.

Milestones... but more has to be done



Program implementers are quite satisfied with the results of the intervention because;

- ◆ the child labourers passed the requirements with flying colors
- ◆ commitment of the implementers were strengthened
- ◆ most of community residents including parents were made aware of the negative effects of child labour

There are some areas, however, that required strengthening and which should be given solutions. First is the delay in the provision of educational assistance. Second is that monitoring and evaluation need strengthening. And another was the use of allowance of scholars during emergency.

It was also seen that continuing parents' values and skills education are crucial to enable them to commit their support to their children's education. It was also noted that income of the families should be augmented to replace the lost income coming from the child labourers' contribution to the household. In this connection, there is a need to provide alternative livelihood opportunities for the parents to prevent the students from going back to the mining activities.

Similarly, the implementers thought that "given the ample support from the GOs, NGOs and ILO, the chance of reducing child labour in the province will be possible".

Overall, the most significant impact of the educational assistance provided to students is their new found hope and aspirations. High scholastic performance in school is shown by most scholars.

In the educational system, the integration of the child labour concepts and issues into the Division Curriculum of Region 5 DepEd is an important achievement in generating awareness among students on the issues of child labour.

**LITERACY CUM LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM
PROJECT BENEFICIARIES**

Out of School Youth: Mylene Salma from Dalas, Labo Camarines Norte is 18 years old and an elementary school graduate is among the student of literacy classes. Her father is part-time farmer and part-time “bagero/kargador” (bagger and hauler) at TAN SU’s copra warehouse while her mother is a full-time housewife. She has two siblings: one, seventeen years old and a high school student; and the other one is 12 years old and in the elementary school.

In the past, Mylene had worked as a “yaya” (nanny), receiving Php1,000.00 per month, in Paranaque. She did not stay long there because her employers were not good to her. When she came back to Dalas, it was timely that ILO-IPEC was beginning to implement programs in the community. She attended the Out of School Youth Literacy Class, where she learned Mathematics. She also attended a three-month welding course conducted by TESDA. She plans to attend the IPEC-initiated review class to prepare out-of-school youths for the Accreditation and Equivalency Test (AET) on May 10, 2002.

Mylene said that ILO projects like those of POMCAT, TESDA, DepEd, PUNLA and others helped child labourers who were found to be farming, i.e planting palay, corn, pineapple and cassava and mining, by providing services like the literacy program (writing, reading and counting), and skills trainings. ILO-IPEC also helped the barangay put up a “Botika sa Baryo” (Community-based Pharmacy).

Mylene said: *“Natuto akong mag-alaga ng manok sa pamamagitan ng pagbigay ng sapat na pagkain at inumin at malinis na tirahan. Natuto rin akong magmarcot sa tamang paraan. Natutunan ko ring magtanim ng iba’t ibang uri ng kabute at paano ito mapapangalagaan. Sana po makapag-aral ako at makapasa sa AET nang maalis ako sa NFE at makabalik sa pormal na pag-aaral”* (I learned poultry raising and marcotting and now raise and take care of all kinds of mushrooms. I wish I could study and pass the AET so I could leave NFE and return to formal schooling).

“Ang dami-dami pong pagbabago sa akin, sa aking pamilya at barangay simula noong may IPEC dito sa aming barangay. Nakakapunta na kami sa Barangay Hall para mag-attend ng meeting. May club po kami para sa mga kabataan. Maraming mga kaibigang pumupunta sa aming barangay tulad nina Kuya Ronnie, Kung Jed, Kuya Petes at marami bang iba na nagbibigay kaalaman sa amin dito. Kaya lang baka pag wala nang IPEC ay titigil na rin sila. Iyan po ang sana hindi mangyari.” (There are so many changes in my life, in my family and in the barangay since the IPEC had been operating here. Now I am able to attend meetings at the Barangay Hall. We have a club for poultry raisers and I have many friends visiting our barangay such as Ronnie, Kuya Jed, Kuya Petes and others who provide us with information and skills. However, if the IPEC would no longer operate here, this will stop. Hopefully, that will not happen).

ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

Consistent with the goal of creating alternative livelihood opportunities among families to withdraw child labour from the mining activities, a vocational skills training program was planned and implemented by the TESDA.



Older children, 15-17 years old, were targeted as primary beneficiaries, and 45 selected parents and relatives of identified child labourers and 25 village-based trainers, as secondary beneficiaries.

It was envisioned that the target beneficiaries would be provided with basic skills in various trade areas including entrepreneurship and facilitation skills. Specifically 29% of the child-labourer graduates must have their own micro-enterprises or

are wage earners locally or abroad. Most of all, the institutionalization and sustainability of child labour programs in the advocacy, annual work plan and financial priorities of all agencies and institutions dealing with child labour programs was projected.

There were continuing efforts to relate and integrate with PIT partners such as with POMCAT, PRRM and DepEd-BNFE in the implementation of the various technical courses.

Courses Conducted

Some of the courses which were implemented include the following;

Trainer's Training Methodology Course for Village-based Trainers



This training provided the would-be village-based trainers the opportunity to enhance their basic knowledge, skills and attitude in assisting the learner. Secondly, it also tried to enhance their skills to develop appropriate teaching methodology based on the learning needs and situations of students.

Screening process in the selection of trainers was quite rigid.

Dressmaking Course

Consistent with the goal of providing alternative income for parents, hands-on practicum in high-speed sewing was taken by 28 non-working mothers and relatives of child laborers of Barangay Casalugan with ZENRISS GARMENT, the partner establishment of TESDA. An important aspect of the training was an apprenticeship program for 6 months in which the trainees will be paid on piecework basis. After the 6 months apprenticeship period, the trainees will either be absorbed by the firm or be able to seek jobs in other companies.

TESDA noted that some mother-trainees however, went home without finishing the apprenticeship period because of home responsibilities, i.e. taking care of their children, both the young and schooling, tending animals and assisting their husbands in the farm. Trainees could only go home during weekends due to transport difficulty.

In view of this problem, 2 sewing machines were donated by TESDA through ILO-IPEC funding to Barangay Casalugan to enable the graduates to sew for their families and other people, for a service fee.

Consumer Electronic Mechanics

Only nine students from the original enrollees of 25 graduated. This was because of a 'gold rush' activity at Barangay Gumaus, Paracale during the time of the training activity.

Automotive Mechanics Course

Suffering the same problem in enrollees' dropout, this training started with 18 enrollees in Barangay Luklukan Sur, Jose Panganiban, where the training was conducted near the 'gold rush area' in Barangay Dilian.

Electric Arc Welding

Conducted in Barangay Dalas, Labo, 15 child labourers enrolled were shared by DepEd-BNFE with POMCAT. Based on a TESDA report, graduates of this training were given contract work such as welding steel windows and window grills and other welding jobs.

The same class was given entrepreneurship training to provide skills in putting up and managing their small-scale business.

The Challenging Issue

Similar to the issues of other action programs, some trainee-graduates have returned to the mining sites and are again engaged in small-scale mining activities. TESDA concedes that “the glitter of gold every time a gold rush occurs is so tempting that a child labour would prefer to pan for gold rather than go to training”.

Coming to Terms with Reality

Camarines Norte and three of the targeted barangays have remaining deposits of gold ores and other metallic elements. TESDA affirmed that for as long as these reserves were not exhausted, ‘gold rush’ activities in the communities could not be prevented. As such, any type of training program or intervention will still be facing problems, with child labourers working at the mining sites as part-time workers, hand in hand with school activities, or go back as full-time workers at the mines as they grow older.

Pursuing a Bigger Dream

Controlling the Production and Processing for Equitable Benefits of Mining Activities

The proposed Jewelry Training and Production Center was in response both to the nagging problems of child labourers' involvement at the mine site and to the needs of jewelry producers in the province for goldsmiths that could compete nationwide in terms of design and quality. As such, the establishment of the center hoped to transfer the child labourer from the hazardous work and unsafe working conditions in the mine site to a safer, orderly workplace, inculcating in them proper work values and attitude. It also hoped to create alternative economic opportunities or business ventures for parents of the child labourers. With their increased income, parents, would be able to send their children back to school.

Local study missions, preparation of feasibility studies and consultations with Barangay Councils, BCPC, POs and NGOs, child labourers and their parents and the PITs and PACCL led to the acceptance of the proposed jewelry training and production center.

Geared towards becoming a self-sustaining skills training and production center, it aimed to;

- o produce more skilled fine gold jewelry workers in Camarines Norte
- o access quality technology transfer
- o learn the basics of export transactions

High hopes are pinned on this proposed center. The child labourers and their families will still be involved in the mining industry but will be working as processors, jewelry makers and entrepreneurs – toward the control of the production and processing of gold as well as a tool for equitable distribution of the benefits derived from mining activities.

Developing the child labourers' and their parents' skills toward entrepreneurship may take a long process, but given the appropriate support it is not an impossible dream.

CREATING ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY-BASED LIVELIHOOD ENTERPRISES USING APPROPRIATE/ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGIES



Six target barangays used to abound with resources. The barangays of Tugos, Gumaus, Luklukan Sur and Casalugan have forests, farmlands and coastal ecosystems. Tavig has an abundant supply of fresh water and Dalas has rich agricultural lands.

But in the search for quick cash, the residents depended more on gold mining because they considered it a lucrative activity. Thus, gold mining activities became the primary activity among the residents. Agricultural farming and fishing were undertaken only when residents were not engaged in mining activities.

Unknowingly, gold mining has threatened the communities' ecosystems. POMCAT reports "miners cut down trees to reinforce tunnels and thus, decreasing the water supply for their rice farms and potable water supply. Topsoil is lost either by open scraping or surface run off. Mercury, cyanide, heavy metals and silt find their way into the streams and rivers, or even contaminate the soil in their farmlands, on which they depend for their rice and food."

These combinations have threatened the health of the miners and communities, affected production and food security and most of all, their survival.

An ironic fact remains, that as they get involved in mining, they forget to improve their technologies in agriculture or develop other means of livelihood. As they become indebted to the gold traders, they get more deeply involved in mining activities. Technologies developed are for mining activities and not for improving soil fertility or production techniques that could prevent contamination of their food chain, according to POMCAT reports.

POMCAT envisioned to provide an alternative perspective to livelihood by introducing 100 children, selected through certain criteria, in using practical and indigenous tools to widen their livelihood opportunities. It also focused on strengthening environmental awareness thus, creating livelihood projects that are environmentally safe, cost-effective and child labour-free. Its strategy reinforced the literacy program of DepEd-BNFE and supported the effort of TESDA on vocational skills.

Particularly, the program intended to establish appropriate garden schools (AproTek Farms) in three barangays and provide course offerings on basic ecology, soil, water conservation, soil rehabilitation, reforestation, watershed management, home gardening, composting, fabrication of farm tools and implements, fish dryers and micro-hydro power.

The field visits and interviews in Barangays Casalugan and Dalas showed that residents were enthusiastic about their experiences in the POMPCAT trainings.

The Aprotek Garden School in Dalas

Nida, the Instructional Manager (IM) and 3 other POMCAT youth showed the Farm School. The piece of land, supposedly 2000 square meters, was fully planted with all sorts of vegetables and herbal plants.

The Farm School House is neatly organized, including a kitchen, where one can see the IPA-Azul cooking stove assembled by POMCAT graduates with the aid of POMCAT technicians, planting materials and plastic bottles including tetra pack waste materials used for potting seedlings, a sleeping quarter for the family of Banong and a big banner of the POMCAT Farm School posted on one wall.

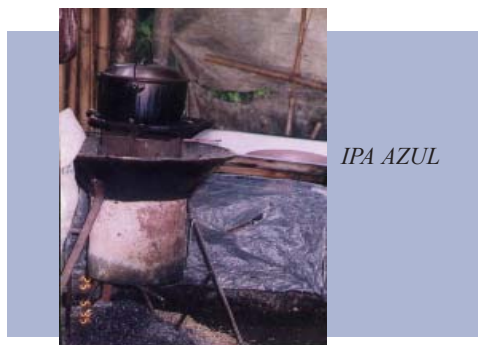


Banong enthusiastically pointed out the basic features of the Garden School. He also showed some of the “eye-catching finds” inside the school building which are made of indigenous materials of bamboo and nipa for roofing.

He then started to discuss the IPA-Azul. According to him, IPA-Azul was fabricated by POMCAT students and conceptualized by Jed Guinto of POMCAT. Banong shared that they used to cook their food with dried coconut shells, consuming one bag (5.00/bag) per cooking. This means Banong’s family spends Php15 per day for cooking alone. With the rice hull stove that they used in lieu of the coconut shell for cooking, which he claimed “*mayadong magastos*” (very expensive): they spend less. They usually get their supply of rice hull from a nearby rice mill for free and they could get 10 sacks of rice hull (ipa) at a time, used it for 15 days’ cooking and only spending Php20 for the transport. Rice hull is abundant in Dalas and other areas. Compared to the coconut shell where they spend Php225 for 15 days’ cooking, the rice hull is less expensive to use. “*Malaking tipid at binibingi lang*” (More savings and we just ask for them free of charge) was the significant comment of Banong.

One unit of IPA-Azul costs Php2,200, and according to Banong, there are many residents who are interested in buying the stove, but do not have money yet. Besides, there is no capital to produce some units, neither is there an equipment available for production such as a welding machine.

In Barangay Dalas, 50% of the residents make use of coconut shell for cooking and others make use of gas and wood, which they get from a nearby forest.



The Basket Planter

On one side of the building school are two basket planters, which could pass either as interior gadgets or as functional garden planters, Banong explained the importance of this basket planter in households which have no space for planting or whose soil is contaminated with mercury, lead and other chemical substance. Made of coconut husks and contained in an elongated basket-shaped chicken wire with vertical length of 3 feet, the basket planter of Banong was planted with tomatoes and pepper (sili) and both plants were about to produce blooms, as small buds had come out from some stems. Three (3) basket planters cost Php200, and Banong claimed he had already sold one.

The “Tetra Pak” for Potting

On one side of a long bamboo divan, were “seedlings potted on used tetra paks”. The three youths expressed how they, as students, went from house to house to ask, “tetra paks” (from juices) for potting seedlings. This was one of their activities in their Ecology and Waste Management class. The ‘tetra pak’, a waste material, had been used for another purpose, i.e. as a potting medium in the garden and it is for free!

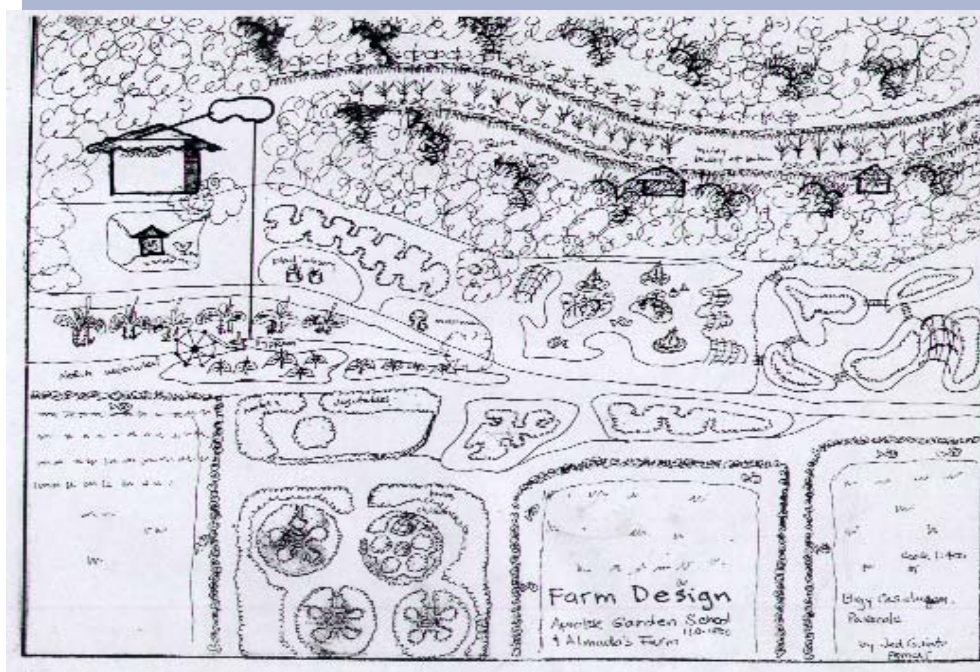
The Herbal Plants

Banong is also a trained *manghibilot* (traditional birth attendant) and a ‘herbal healer’ (*manggagamot*). So the school garden is planted with herbal plants which are used to cure ordinary ailments such as fever, colds, cough and even digestive problems. One finds with delight such herbal plants as;

<i>Oregano</i>	-	<i>for colds and cough/ cooking/ also used as pesticide for plants and vegetables</i>
<i>Tanglad</i>	-	<i>for drinking and for bathing (after birth delivery of mothers)</i>
<i>Peppermint</i>	-	<i>for cough</i>
<i>Basil</i>	-	<i>for cooking</i>
<i>Lagundi</i>	-	<i>for asthma and cough</i>

Banong said he sells 1 pot of herbal plants for Php20. He planned to post a sign beside the road about the availability of herbal plants for sale and these could be potential revenue source.

The Vegetable Garden



The tour around the garden filled with various types of vegetables was a refreshing sight. It was impressive “to see the ampalaya climbing on trellis in one area”, not to mention the pechay, radish, gabi, string beans, camote, tomatoes, planted on various areas of the 2,000 square meter lot.

The Small Pond

Banong also showed a small pond integrated in the garden where tilapia fingerlings are being grown.

Banong continued to talk about the trainings he had attended, including mushroom production training, vegetable gardening, composting, fertilizing, and herbal medicine, among others.

Sustaining the APROTEK Garden School

When asked about the sharing arrangement of the production harvest of the APROTEK Garden School, Banong claimed it was not yet defined, as the current farm production is the first venture ever to be implemented. But he discussed and recognized the efforts of the POMCAT students, POMCAT Technical Staff and Banong’s family. Jed Guinto of POMCAT validated this condition. The first venture was meant to show or serve as model to POMCAT students and the community about the feasibility of bio-intensive gardening with the use of appropriate and environment-friendly technologies, like composting or without the use of chemical pesticides.

Once found feasible, it was envisioned that some percentage of production proceeds of the school garden could be used for maintaining it, some part for the POMCAT students and another part for Banong, the village technician.

Marketing the Farm Produce

The concept of the POMCAT Garden School includes strategies that would contribute to the viability and sustainability of farm production. When Banong was asked, how this would be undertaken, he suggested marketing the produce both at the barangay and the Poblacion Market. Although, the garden is strategically located near the road where transportation vehicles and passersby would be able to easily access it. Another option is to put a marker at the roadside that vegetables and herbal plants are available for sale.

Jed also noted receiving production orders of the planter baskets which he in turn sub-contracted to Banong. Banong got paid for the items he was able to make.

Jed further reported that the POMCAT Trade and Exhibit center is now open at the commercial district of Daet, Camarines Norte. This would serve as the marketing center of the technology and farm produce by POMCAT students and their communities.

Happy and Contented

It appeared that Banong is quite happy with what he is doing, and as a village technician, he is willing to provide assistance to residents who are interested to engage in intensive bio gardening activities.

The Mercury Retort Gadget

In the meantime, Jed shared that the Mercury retort gadget supposedly an improvement of the current method of processing gold, is about to be completed. It is supposed to capture mercury through a bag and prevent mercury from evaporating into the air. This would totally decrease mercury vapor reaching the soil, preventing further mercury contamination of the soil.



**APROTEK Farm School in
Barangay Casalugan**
