

Implementation of Kapit Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Program in the Local Government Unit of Castilla, Sorsogon

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Abstract— This study assessed the implementation of *Kapit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan* Program for the year 2021 - 2022. The researcher used descriptive survey method to achieve the purpose of this study. A survey questionnaire was the main instrument of this study. Furthermore, the researcher used weighted mean and frequency count as the key statistical tools of this study. It was revealed that the 34 barangay beneficiaries requested sub-projects were all funded by the KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF for phase 1 implementation. The majority of BLGUs fall under the category of 1,500,000 to 2,500,000 in terms of their IRA, all the 34 sub-projects fall under the Basic Access Infrastructure Sub-projects category in which majority of these are access roads and pathways that improve community network and access in the area for socio-economic needs in the area. Majority of the barangay beneficiaries have a budget allocation of Php201,001 to Php400,000 and Php400,001 to Php600,000. Most of which who benefitted are those with 400 and below number of households. All the barangays have been funded and majority were situated in the coastal areas. The level of implementation of KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP based on sub-projects as perceived by the respondents along its phase 1 implementation process were highly implemented in the social preparation and community planning stage and in the first round sub-project preparation and implementation. There is no significant difference between the perception of KALAHY CIDSS AF implementation during social preparation and community planning, and first round sub-project preparation and implementation.

Keywords— barangay, KALAHY program, implementation, LGU, Sorsogon province.

I. INTRODUCTION

Poverty affects millions of people worldwide. It is an issue that persists as commonly depicted by lack of access to essential resources for basic standard of living. It is a global pressing problem that the world faces today. The poorest in the world are often undernourished, no access to basic services such as electricity and safe drinking water, they have less access to education, and suffer from much poorer health (Hassel et al, 2022). It is a global concern that requires appropriate intervention from different stakeholders. The government, policy makers, and the community must be capable in addressing this and in creating a holistic and effective poverty alleviation program that promotes community development towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sustainable development is important in creating better future for the communities. It addresses the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (International Institute for Sustainable Development, 2022). The government takes the lead in achieving sustainable development to improve the lives of the communities it serves through community development programs.

In the Philippines, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) leads the implementation of one of the poverty alleviation programs, the Kapit-Bisig

Laban sa Kahirapan Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services National Community Driven Development Program (KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP). The program started in 2003 and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Board approved its scale-up on January 18, 2013. Community-driven development is an important approach utilized and is a key component in empowering communities to uplift lives by participating in creating solutions they have identified following the KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP's process that involves the community in planning and action.

The KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP Additional Financing (AF) aims to provide resources addressing the effects and responds to the needs of the community especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also aids the barangays to develop their capacity to mobilize response to disasters and challenges through local development planning and investment programming (NCDDP-AF Sub-manual, August 2021).

KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF was implemented in several municipalities including Castilla, Sorsogon, a third-class municipality in the province of Sorsogon. Program implementation in this municipality is significant especially in times of pandemic. The guidelines, policies, and procedures created and followed in the program implementation in the local

government unit are necessary and useful to ensure safety, timely, and systematic implementation of the program that addresses the needs of the communities. These are also essential to serve the KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP's main purpose to empower communities in targeted poor municipalities to achieve improved access to sustainable basic public services and to participate in more inclusive Local Government Unit planning and budgeting (Asian Development Bank - KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP) through community-driven development.

Program implementation process remains crucial in the effectiveness and sustainability of this program that does not only address poverty issues but also promotes community-driven development.

This inspired the researcher to conduct an assessment in the implementation of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Program in the local government unit of Castilla, Sorsogon and create policy recommendations for a more effective program implementation and contribute in achieving the sustainable development goals.

Community empowerment equips communities in creating solutions to address problems in the communities thus helping achieve the SDGs.

Generally, this study aimed to assess the implementation of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Program in the local government unit of Castilla, Sorsogon. Specifically sought answers to the following questions: (1) What is the profile of the barangay beneficiaries in terms of: Internal Revenue Allocation, Infrastructure projects completed, Budget allocation, Number of households, and Geographical location? (2) What is the level of implementation of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Program based on sub-projects as perceived by the respondents along its Phase 1 implementation process' key stages: Social preparation and community planning, and First round sub-project preparation and implementation? (3) Is there a significant difference between the perception of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Program implementers and beneficiaries along identified variable?

II. METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study assessed the implementation of Kapit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Program for the year 2021 - 2022. The researcher used descriptive survey method that utilized both quantitative and qualitative data to achieve the purpose of this study.

The data needed were gathered from the implementers and beneficiaries from the barangay beneficiaries of the KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF in the Municipality of Castilla, Sorsogon. The researcher also conducted documentary analysis as well as unstructured interviews with the implementers – the Area Coordinating Team and Municipal Coordinating Team assigned in Castilla, Sorsogon and the beneficiaries from the barangay beneficiaries of the program to strengthen result of this study.

A survey questionnaire was the main instrument of this study. Furthermore, the researcher used weighted mean and frequency count as the key statistical tools of this study.

The Sample

The respondents of this study were chosen from the implementers and the barangay beneficiaries in the municipality of Castilla, Sorsogon wherein 16 from the implementers were taken and 144 from the 34 barangay beneficiaries who are comprised of the barangay captains and community volunteers. The respondents from the implementers and barangay beneficiaries were purposively selected. A total of 144 respondents who are community volunteers and barangay captains from the barangay beneficiaries participated while there were total of 16 respondents from the group of implementers who are members of the Area Coordinating Team and Municipal Coordinating Team assigned in Castilla, Sorsogon.

There were a total of 160 respondents among the 34 barangays in Castilla, Sorsogon who participated in this study. Data were gathered from them through documentary analysis, survey questionnaire and unstructured interview.

Table 1. The Respondents

Respondents	f	%
Implementers	16	10%
Beneficiaries	144	90%
Total	160	100%

The Instrument

The researcher utilized documentary analysis, survey questionnaire, and unstructured interviews to gather significant data in the implementation of Kapit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan in the local government unit of Castilla, Sorsogon. The questionnaire has two parts where the first part is the demographic profile of the respondents to determine how the sample replicates the population. In the second part, the researcher utilized the KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF Manual. It consists of the level of implementation of KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF based on sub-projects as perceived by the respondents along its phase 1 implementation process' key stages. The researcher used the 4-point Likert's Scale as follows; 1 not implemented, 2 moderately implemented, 3 Implemented and 4 Highly implemented. These are rated based on the program implementation. The questionnaire was translated from English into Filipino for easy understanding of the targeted respondents.

After accomplishment of survey questionnaires by the respondents, unstructured interviews on the challenges encountered by both the implementers and beneficiaries from the barangays followed. The researcher also accessed the necessary documents and materials that are related to the implementation of phase 1 KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF such as the request for fund release folders in the KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP office in the municipality of Castilla, Sorsogon which included the barangay profile and sub-project completion reports and also the MPDO'S Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment). The data were interpreted and given conclusion. The questionnaire was sent to researcher's adviser and panel for further comments and suggestions and was validated 2nd week of February, 2023. Dry-run survey was conducted by the researcher on the 3rd week of February, 2023 at Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon. The respondents during the dry-run were the implementers in Prieto Diaz, Sorsogon which consist of the Area Coordinating Team and the Municipal Coordinating Team and the barangay beneficiaries which consist of the barangay captains and community volunteers not included in the actual respondents of this study. Then the researcher modified the questionnaire guided further by the DSWD KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF Manual.

Data Collection Procedures

The researcher's data collection procedure of this study started through a request letter to the local executive officer of Castilla, Sorsogon and the Regional Director

of the Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office V for approval in conducting the research. Upon approval, the researcher started gathering data from the documents related to the program implementation of KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF for the year 2021 to 2022. A letter and approval from the mayor and the DSWD director were personally presented to the implementers and barangay beneficiaries. Survey-questionnaires were personally distributed and implementers were briefed on how to answer the questionnaire followed by unstructured interviews. Phase 1 completed sub-projects, list of KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF barangay beneficiaries' community volunteers and the barangay captains were also requested from the ACT/MCT. A letter for the respondents were distributed and explained to encourage them in participating in the study. The researcher purposively selected community volunteers in the barangays involved in the program implementation. Survey-questionnaire forms with consent clause were distributed among the respondents. Administration of the survey-questionnaire was done from 1st to 3rd week of March, 2023 and the respondents were given enough time to answer the questionnaire. The researcher attained 86% retrieval rate due to unavailability of respondents during the time of retrieval. The researcher also referred to the Area Coordinating Team and Municipal Coordinating Team requested other available reports relating to the KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF Phase 1 2021 implementation.

Data Analysis Procedures

The researcher carefully assessed and analyzed the organized data using appropriate statistical methods. The researcher treated the aforementioned data with appropriate descriptive and inferential statistics. Such gave assurance to the accuracy of the findings and conclusions to the problems raised in the study.

To interpret the barangay beneficiaries' profile such as the IRA, infrastructure projects (sub-project) completed, budget allocation, number of household, and geographical location, frequency and percentage were utilized. To determine the level of implementation based on the sub-projects as perceived by the respondents along its phase 1 implementation process key stages: social preparation and community planning and first round sub-project implementation and implementation, the researcher used the weighted mean and was interpreted as highly implemented, implemented, moderately implemented, and not implemented.

Scale	Description
3.50 – 4.00	Highly Implemented
2.50 – 3.49	Implemented
1.50 – 2.49	Moderately Implemented
1.00 – 1.49	Not Implemented

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Barangay Beneficiaries' Profile

This part presents the barangay beneficiaries' profile in terms of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of the barangays in Castilla, Sorsogon.

Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) is the share of national government tax revenues allocated to local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines. The IRA is a bloc grant, an all-purpose general allotment to which

LGUs are entitled and no condition or requirement is attached for its release. The IRA is a significant source of funding in the implementation of KALAHI CIDSS NCDDP-AF, it is utilized in allocating 20% contribution to the sub-project that the barangay beneficiary has identified to be addressed utilizing the KALAHI CIDSS NCDDP-AF process of implementation. Data were presented in Table 2A showing the number of barangays with IRA allocations.

Table 2A. Barangay Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA)

IRA (in pesos)	f	%
2,500,000 and below	20	59
2,500,001 – 3,500,000	9	26
3,500,001 - above	5	15
Total	34	100

Table 2A presents the barangay IRA. It shows that 20 (59%) or most of the barangay beneficiaries' IRA are within Php2,500,000 and below, followed by those whose IRA was between Php2,500,001 – Php3,500,000 with a frequency of 9 (26%). Meanwhile, 5 (15%) of the total barangay beneficiaries have an IRA of Php3,500,001 – above.

The data revealed that there are three categories of barangay beneficiaries' profile based on their IRA, ranging below Php2,500,000 to more than Php3,500,001. The barangay's IRA was utilized in funding the 20% of the total sub-project cost regardless of how much is the project cost, the area, and population of the barangay, the required 20% of the sub-project cost shall be in-charge of the barangay as part of the local government's counterpart. Barangays with greater IRA

are those which are more urbanized and have more economic growth and smaller barangays have smaller IRA. The 20% counterpart was based on the total sub-project cost and not on the barangay IRA. Given this fact, this emphasizes the need to review the poverty alleviation programs' guidelines, policies, and procedures so as to also consider other factors that will effectively alleviate poverty and further utilize IRA effectively and efficiently.

Infrastructure projects completed. The given data provides a breakdown of these sub-projects implemented in each of the 34 barangay beneficiaries. These sub-projects are under the basic access infrastructure sub-projects category, the majority of these focused on constructing and improving access roads and pathways.

Table 2B. Infrastructure Projects Completed

Projects	f	%
Access road	13	38
Access road w/ pathway	2	6
Footbridge	1	3
Line canal	1	3
Pathway	11	32
Pathway with grouted riprap	5	15

Solar dryer	1	3
Total	34	100

Infrastructure projects completed are presented in Table 2B which showed that 13 barangays or 38% of the barangays under study have completed construction of access road, 11 or 32% have completed concreting of pathway, 5 or 15% completed construction of pathway with grouted riprap, and only 2 or 6% of the total barangay beneficiaries have completed construction of access road with pathway. On the other hand, 1 or 3% completed construction of footbridge, same with construction of line canal and construction of solar dryer.

These types of sub-projects were identified by the community following the KALAHI CIDSS NCDDP-AF process of implementation for phase 1, all the 34 barangays of Castilla benefitted from funding under this phase and have equally contributed 20% in kind and/or in-cash to their total sub-project cost. These sub-projects are crucial in community development as it helps in creating access for basic services, connecting far-flung areas, and creating a more inclusive and thriving community. According to the International Labor Organization (2010), improved roads result to improved access to economic and social services and facilities

such as schools, markets, public transport and health centers.

While the percentage of sub-projects of some types of infrastructure is relatively lower, they still play an important role in providing residents with basic services, Department of Public Works and Highways (2019).

The data underscores the importance of infrastructure development in improving the quality of life of people in a certain area. Infrastructure development can increase access to essential services and improve connectivity, which can in turn boost economic growth and development (Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022).

Budget allocation depends on the estimated costs of the sub-project in which budget for labor, hauling, administrative costs and materials needed are included.

There may be lower or higher budget allocations depending mainly on the structure specifically the length or area of the sub-project needed by the barangay and the geographical location of the barangay also affects the allocation due to hauling cost.

Budget Allocation (in pesos)	f	%
Php200,001 - Php400,000	9	26
Php400,001 – Php600,000	10	29
Php600,001 – Php800,000	4	12
Php800,001 - Php1,000,000	3	9
Php1,000,001 – Php1,200,000	3	9
Php1,200,001 - Php1,400,000	2	6
Php1,600,001 – Php1,800,000	2	6
Php1,800,001 - above	1	3
Total	34	100

Table 2C reflects the budget allocation for the various sub-projects in the 34 barangay beneficiaries. The sub-projects are classified based on the budget allocated for the completion of sub-projects needed by the barangays ranging from Php200,001 to more than Php1,800,001. The sub-projects have standard plans and adjusted based on the required needs of the community.

The data showed that majority of the sub-projects have an allocated budget ranging from Php400,001 – Php600,000 having a frequency of 10 or 29% of the total number of barangay beneficiaries. Nine (9) or 26% have

lesser budget allocation which range only from Php200,001 to Php400,000. There were only 4 or 12% with Php600,001 – Php800,000 budget allocation. Two of these categories have frequencies of 3 in which each constitutes 9% of the total, those with Php800,001 – Php1,000,000 budget allocation and Php1,000,001 – Php1,200,000. There were also 2 frequencies or 6% for each of these category – Php1,200,001 – Php1,400,000 and Php1,600,001 – Php1,800,000. Among the 34 barangay beneficiaries, only 1 or 3% of the total have the highest budget allocated for its sub-project which range from Php1,800,001 and above.

The data indicate that budget allocation for the barangays is distributed across different ranges. This suggests that budget allocation for barangays varies depending on the proposed sub-project's specifications and geographical locations. It highlights the importance of proper budget allocation and management in ensuring the successful implementation of development projects (National Economic and Development Authority, 2017). It is important for the government to prioritize the allocation of resources to high-impact sub-projects that can generate significant benefits for the community, that is according to Department of Budget and Management (2019).

Number of Households is important in a barangay profile as it presents the total number of households benefitting from the sub-projects.

Table 2D presents the number of households that which primarily benefits from the KALAHYAN CIDSS NCDDP-AF Program implementation. The barangay beneficiaries are profiled based on the number of households being served by the program through the sub-project completed in the barangays. The number of households ranges from below 400 to more than 801.

Table 2D. Number of Households

Number of Households	f	%
400 and below	19	56
401 – 600	8	24
601 – 800	2	6
801 and above	5	15
Total	34	100

Table 2D shows that majority of the barangays with completed sub-projects which constitute to 56% or frequency of 19 have 400 and below households that are benefitting from the sub-project completed. The second largest category was those with households ranging from 401 – 600 which is frequency or 24% of the total. Meanwhile, 5 or 15% have the total households ranging from 801 and above. Those with 601 – 800 households constitute 6% or 2 of the barangays.

of the communities. Moreover, the data also emphasize the importance of community participation and involvement in the planning and implementation of sub-projects (National Economic and Development Authority, 2017). Local communities must be consulted and actively involved in the decision-making process to ensure that the sub-projects address their specific needs and preferences (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2021).

These data reflect that in the implementation of KALAHYAN CIDSS NCDDP-AF, even the barangays with smaller number of households have been given the opportunity to benefit from the program. This reflects inclusivity of all barangays regardless of population. The program was still implemented to address the needs

Geographical location is included in barangay profiling as it determines the kind of terrain that the barangay has and reflects its kind of environment that is also an important factor in program implementation. In Table 2E, the barangay beneficiaries were categorized based on their geographical location: coastal, lowland and upland.

Table 2E. Geographical location

Location	f	%
Coastal	13	38.24
Lowland	11	32.35
Upland	10	29.41
Total	34	100

Table 2E indicates that majority of the barangays in Castilla, Sorsogon are located in coastal areas which constitutes 38.24% of the total or accounting to 13 barangay beneficiaries with infrastructures completed. The second with the highest number was those situated in lowland areas, accounting to 11 barangays or 32.35%.

The remaining 10 or 29.41% are located in upland areas. This reflects that in the Program implementation of KALAHYAN CIDSS NCDDP-AF, the barangay beneficiaries are continuously served and given equal opportunities and access to Government programs regardless of their geographical locations. Even

geographically-isolated areas benefit from the program implementation of KALAH I CIDSS NCDDP-AF.

2. Level of implementation of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Program based on the sub-projects

The social preparation and community planning stage in the KALAH I CIDSS NCDDP-AF implementation

process is crucial in the completion of the Phase 1 sub-projects.

This first stage is important in ensuring that the community is prepared in the implementation of the whole KALAH I CIDSS NCDDP-AF.

Table 3A. Social Preparation and Community Planning

Indicators	Implementers		Beneficiaries	
	WM	I	WM	I
1. Oriented on the project background and design.	3.56	HI	3.65	HI
2. Informed about policies, standards and other requirements and committed to deliver.	3.69	HI	3.57	HI
3. Together with DSWD, pass a Memorandum of Agreement on mutual support in compliance with project requirements.	3.88	HI	3.72	HI
4. Designation of members of the Municipal Inter-agency Committee (MIAC) and the Municipal Coordinating Team (MCT).	3.25	I	3.57	HI
5. MDRRMC review as reference in analysis of barangay-level condition the available information on the Covid-19 situation in the barangay, Barangay development Plan data.	3.31	I	3.56	HI
6. Given a detailed orientation on the NCDDP-AF DROM Process, activities, and requirements	3.63	HI	3.64	HI
7. Reviewed and concurred with the MDRRMC grant allocation to the Barangay	3.63	HI	3.66	HI
8. Sets criteria for identifying priority COVID-19 emergency response projects that can be supported by the NCDDP-AF	3.56	HI	3.55	HI
9. Appointed the Barangay Development Council Technical Working Group (BDC-TWG) members to lead following NCDDP-AF guidelines	4.00	HI	3.58	HI
10. Reviewed and updated data on Covid-19, CCDR, environment, social, economic, infrastructure situation of the barangay and the institutional capacity of the BLGU	3.69	HI	3.53	HI
11. Identified and agreed on priority needs on Covid-19 and CCDR in the barangay	3.63	HI	3.54	HI
Overall	3.62	HI	3.60	HI

Legend: WM-Weighted Mean HI-Highly Implemented I-Implemented

Table 3A provides a clear view of the implementation process of KALAH I CIDSS NCDDP-AF Phase 1, there are the indicators and respondents who are categorized in two, as implementers and beneficiaries. The indicators represent the steps required in the implementation and the level of implementation are indicated and are categorized as Highly Implemented (HI) and Implemented (I). Based on the data presented, this 1st stage overall was highly implemented as this indicator have garnered 3.62 and 3.60 weighted means, from the implementers and beneficiaries, respectively.

The steps in this stage are significant as this relates to detailed preparation and planning for the program to best serve its purpose. This involves the start-up step,

the municipal orientation and Enrollment in which involves the local government unit’s participation. This primarily prepared the LGU as a whole in preparing all necessary requirements and conditionalities as KALAH I CIDSS NCDDP-AF starts in the locality. Orientation about the program, policies, standards, and requirements are discussed with the LGU officials, documented involvement of the LGU through a Memorandum of Agreement for the program implementation and designation and identification of responsible teams and committees relevant for the successful implementation of the Program. It can be gleaned from the table that for the implementers, items 1, 2, and 3 indicators garnered 3.56, 3.69, and 3.88 weighted means respectively thus

perceived that they are highly implemented, same with the beneficiaries' perception as items 1, 2 and 3 garnered 3.65, 3.57, 3.72 respectively. For the implementers, item 4 has the lowest weighted mean of 3.25 and considered this as implemented contrary to the perception of the beneficiaries regarding item 4 which garnered 3.57 imploring that this was highly implemented. This difference implies that in the 1st part of the program implementation process, implementers are indeed the fore front of implementation, they are the ones involved in ensuring that the LGU have designated and complied with the requirement before bringing the program into the barangay level. Following the process, implementers only move on to the next step in the process once they have ensured that all conditionalities are met in the municipal level. When this are thoroughly worked out by the implementers, this indicator was perceived in the barangay level by the beneficiaries as highly implemented as shown in the data. Following the KALAHI CIDSS NCDDP-AF Manual, implementers should be trained and knowledgeable of the whole process as this is crucial to effectively and efficiently implement the program in the communities. Relating to the study conducted by McNeish, Jacob, and Memmoli (2021) in which they concluded that engaging the community is important to effectively plan and implement a community-based program. Engaging the focused population in the community have empowered the stakeholders in mobilizing and working together.

After the start-up, the 1st step commenced through the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council Meeting. This prepares relevant information, climate and disaster risk related, demographic, economic and other social data such as Covid-19 situation, barangay development plan, barangay profiles, and the likes. As shown in the table, there is a significant difference between the implementers and beneficiaries' perception. This indicator garnered 3.31

weighted means among the implementers considering as implemented contrary to the perception of the beneficiaries that it was highly implemented with a weighted means of 3.56.

The next step was the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (BDRRMC) meeting. As the program implementation progresses, the KALAHI CIDSS NCDDP-AF implementers ensure that what has transpired in the municipal level are is discussed in the barangay level. This step is crucial in the prioritization of barangays for sub-project funding and in identification of community volunteers from the barangay beneficiaries who will directly manage the program implementation in their own community. As presented in the data both for the implementers and beneficiaries, the indicators under this step garnered weighted means that depicts that these were highly implemented.

In step 3, the 2 indicators under this step were considered by both implementers and beneficiaries as highly implemented. Items 1 and 2 indicators garnered weighted means of 3.69 and 3.63, respectively while these 2 indicators also garnered 3.53 and 3.54, respectively. This step gives emphasis on the inclusion of significant data from the Barangays, knowing its institutional capacity, environment, infrastructure, economic, and social situation; this also prioritizes data that gives a clear view of the Covid-19 situation in the barangays in order to prioritize relevant sub-projects needed by the community considering all the current situation.

The next stage in the KALAHI CIDSS NCDDP-AF phase 1 is the first round sub-project preparation and implementation. This stage includes the project implementation which covers the design, preparation of proposal and sub-project implementation.

Table 3B. First Round Sub-Project Preparation and Implementation

Indicators	Implementers		Beneficiaries	
	WM	I	WM	I
1. Trained on the sub-project proposal preparation requirements, standards and processes	3.5	HI	3.53	HI
2. Conducted safeguard screening and process/prepare required safeguard documents	3.5	HI	3.47	I
3. Conducted technical assessments	3.69	HI	3.63	HI
4. Prepared sub-project design documents	3.81	HI	3.63	HI
5. Prepared sub-project proposals and required supporting documents	3.94	HI	3.60	HI
6. Opened bank account to receive block grants	3.75	HI	3.70	HI

7. Reviewed the final sub-project proposals, designs safeguards plan (ESMP), cost estimates, and other RFR documents for endorsement to RPMO for fund release	3.25	I	3.59	HI
8. Processed RFR for proposals that passed quality standards	3.31	I	3.49	I
9. Completed all planned activities based on sub-project implementation work plan	3.63	HI	3.57	HI
10. Accomplished all submitted all sub-project progress reports	3.75	HI	3.57	HI
11. Maintained up-to-date sub-project information boards	3.56	HI	3.44	I
12. Addressed all grievances that arose in the course of implementation	3.88	HI	3.40	I
13. Submitted technical, social, safeguards and fiduciary audit review reports	3.69	HI	3.61	HI
14. Submitted barangay and municipal Accountability Review (AR) reports	3.81	HI	3.53	HI
15. Submitted sub-project completion Reports	3.81	HI	3.59	HI
Overall	3.66	HI	3.56	HI

Legend: WM-Weighted Mean HI-Highly Implemented I-Implemented

Table 3B outlines a set of indicators for the preparation and implementation of the first round sub-projects. These reflects four categories: sub-project development, municipal inter-agency technical review, sub-project implementation, and sub-project completion. The table presents, overall, the 2nd stage was highly implemented as perceived by both the implementers and the beneficiaries as reflected in the weighted means of 3.66 for the implementers and 3.56 for the beneficiaries.

In this stage, it is important that both the implementers and the beneficiaries followed all the steps required in the first round sub-project preparation and implementation. The sub-project development category involves the preparation of sub-project proposals and the completion of required supporting documents. This category includes indicators such as training on sub-project proposal preparation, conducting safeguard screening and technical assessments, preparing sub-project design and proposals supporting documents, and opening a bank account needed to download the funds. These indicators are important in the process so as to ensure that the needs of the community were addressed and enough funding have been downloaded to the specific community. Aside from giving all these needs of the community, the main purpose of these specific steps was to ensure that the community is empowered, capacitated, and knowledgeable of the processes that needs to be undertaken in order to deliver the appropriate, specific and sustainable sub-projects needed by the community. Through this transparency, they became more accountable as they participate and are included in the creation and completion of what the community needs. As reflected in the table, data showed that in this step, items 1 to 6 have been highly implemented as perceived by the implementers and the

beneficiaries. For the implementers, the weighted means are 3.5, 3.5, 3.69, 3.81, 3.94 and 3.75 while for the beneficiaries it shows that the weighted means are as follows 3.53, 3.47, 3.63, 3.63, 3.60 and 3.70.

Another important step was the Municipal Inter-Agency Technical Review. This involves the review of final sub-project proposals, designs, safeguards plan (ESMP), cost estimates, and other RFR (Request for Fund Release) documents for endorsement to RPMO for fund release. This is important for ensuring that sub-projects are of high quality and aligned with the development goals of community in need and of the municipality. For this step, there is a difference on how the implementers and beneficiaries perceived item 7 and 8 as shown in Table 3B. Implementers perceived both items 7 and 8 as implemented with a weighted means of 3.25 and 3.31 respectively. As to the beneficiaries, item 7 was highly implemented with a weighted means of 3.59 while item 8 was perceived as implemented with weighted means of 3.49.

In the sub-project implementation in item 9 to item 12, it involves the completion of all planned activities based on the sub-project implementation work plan, the submission of sub-project progress reports, the maintenance of up-to-date sub-project information boards, and the addressing of all grievances that arise during implementation. These indicators are important for ensuring that sub-projects are implemented efficiently and effectively and capacitates the community in being vigilant and completing the sub-project on time following the necessary processes required. As perceived by the implementers all items 9 to 12 are highly implemented; however, the beneficiaries perceived item 11 and 12 as implemented while in item 9 and 10, they have similar perception with

the implementers, that these were highly implemented. The sub-project completion which includes items 13 to 15 involves the technical, social, safeguards, and fiduciary audit review reports, barangay and municipal accountability review (AR) reports, and sub-project completion reports (SPCR). These are important for ensuring that the sub-project has been completed in accordance with the approved design and that it has achieved its intended outcomes. Both the implementers and the beneficiaries, perceived that item 13 to 15 were highly implemented in which shows that for the implementers the weighted means per item 13 to 15 was 3.69, 3.81 and 3.81 respectively. For the beneficiaries, the weighted means per item were 3.61, 3.53 and 3.59.

In conclusion, the indicators provided in the table are critical for the successful preparation and implementation of sub-projects. By implementing these indicators, communities and the municipalities as a whole can ensure that sub-projects are well-designed, implemented efficiently and effectively, and achieved their intended outcomes. It is important to note that these indicators are considered as a guide, and that there are specific requirements and processes. These indicators are important not just to achieve the result of having the needed sub-project but most importantly the capacitating and empowering the community in identifying their needs up to completing the sub-project that is required to address their needs. This entails that there is a process, effective and efficient ways to appropriately identify, manage, implement, complete, and sustain the sub-projects that was needed, thus creating a community that are empowered, exhibiting a regenerative culture, capacitated in managing and knowledgeable of the processes towards a more sustainable and community-driven development. Relating to the study conducted by Delfino (2017), in which it was concluded that the KALAHY CIDSS is an

effective poverty alleviation program due to the job opportunities it has generated among the poor communities. The program implementation has significantly helped in establishing mutual understanding, shared trust, and cooperation among the people in the community. It promotes empowerment, gender equality, transparency, and accountability. The program contributed in the uplifting of the locals' economic conditions through equal opportunity for employment, thus contributing to poverty alleviation in the Philippines as a whole.

Further supporting the findings, Garcia-Poole, Byrne, and Rodrigo (2018), concluded in their study in Indonesia about community empowerment strategies in alleviating poverty during the covid-19 pandemic. Community empowerment needs to be adjusted depending on the community, its potential and its resource environment. Selected people need to be identified and be included in a multidisciplinary team of facilitators who are capable of guiding the community from the start until independently capable. Creating public awareness is crucial and needs to be done beforehand. Cooperating with several parties is necessary to realize the goals of public services and village development.

3. Difference between the perception of KALAHY CIDSS-AF implementers and beneficiaries

The study investigates the divergence in perceptions between KALAHY CIDSS NCDDP-AF implementers and beneficiaries during the stages of social preparation, community planning, and first-round sub-project preparation and implementation. The implementers are the forefront of the program in empowering and in transferring the knowledge regarding the program implementation into the program's target communities, the barangay beneficiaries.

Table 4A. Difference between the perception of KALAHY CIDSS-AF implementers and beneficiaries

Statistical Base	Social preparation and community planning	First-Round Sub-Project Preparation and Implementation
P Value <0.05	0.238	0.4179
Z - Values	-1.18197	0.8088
Ho-Decision	Do not reject	Do not reject
Conclusion	Not Significant	Not significant

Analyzing the statistical results, it is apparent that the calculated p-values for both stages, 0.238 and 0.4179 respectively, exceed the common significance level of 0.05. This implies a lack of statistical significance,

suggesting that the observed differences in perceptions between the two groups are not substantial enough to be considered as more than random chance. The U-values of -1.18197 and 0.8088 further affirm this finding by

indicating that the data points are not significantly distant from the respective means. As a result, the null hypothesis, which posits no significant difference, is not rejected for both stages. In essence, the study concludes that within the context of the examined stages, there is no compelling evidence to suggest a noteworthy contrast in perceptions between KALAH I CIDSS NCDDP-AF implementers and beneficiaries in the given locality. For a comprehensive understanding, a thorough review of the study's methodology, sample size, and broader literature on participatory projects and community development would be beneficial to contextualize and reinforce these findings. Relating a study conducted in Akampa Local government area in Nigeria by Ezirim and Okpoechi (2020), they concluded that policy funding, formulation, decision making, implementation and monitoring are important activities in the planning and execution of the projects.

This result suggests that both implementers and beneficiaries have similar perceptions regarding social preparation and community planning, as well as first round sub-project preparation and implementation. This is important for the success of the KALAH I CIDSS NCDDP-AF program, as it indicates that both groups are on the same page when it comes to these key aspects of the program. However, it is important to note that the chi-squared test has certain assumptions and limitations. For example, it assumes that the sample is randomly selected and that the data is independent and categorical. Additionally, the test does not measure the strength or direction of the relationship between variables, but only tests for independence. Therefore, it is important to interpret the results of the test in conjunction with other statistical and qualitative analyses.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study concludes that the 34 barangay beneficiaries requested sub-projects were all funded by the KALAH I CIDSS NCDDP-AF for phase 1 implementation. The majority of BLGUs fall under the category of 1,500,000 to 2,500,000 in terms of their IRA, all the 34 sub-projects fall under the Basic Access Infrastructure Sub-projects category in which majority of these are access roads and pathways that improve community network and access in the area for socio-economic needs in the area. Majority of the barangay beneficiaries have a budget allocation of Php201,001 to Php400,000 and Php400,001 to Php600,000. Most of which who benefitted are those with 400 and below number of households. All the barangays have been funded and majority were situated in the coastal areas. The level of

implementation of KALAH I CIDSS NCDDP based on sub-projects as perceived by the respondents along its phase 1 implementation process were highly implemented in the social preparation and community planning stage and in the first round sub-project preparation and implementation. There is no significant difference between the perception of KALAH I CIDSS AF implementation during social preparation and community planning, and first round sub-project preparation and implementation.

It was recommended that the Philippine government's poverty alleviation programs and community development programs may be implemented inter-connectedly for a more sustainable and effective poverty alleviation and community-driven development. The Philippine government agencies may have a comprehensive program planning, capacity building and information dissemination through intensified public-private partnerships in order to consider important factors in the program implementation process thus ensuring full participation of the whole community. The Local Government Units may have an organized available skilled human resource that are capacitated and help in effectively sustaining projects and programs relating to poverty alleviation and community-driven development.

The DSWD with other relevant government agencies and private sectors may review and work together to create community empowerment strategies and awareness regarding the program implementation to ensure that the whole community is fully aware and to foster participation and compliance to program rules and regulations thus supporting a holistic community-driven development/poverty alleviation program.

Further research may be conducted that focus more in the convergence strategies in the implementation of Kapit-Bisig laban sa Kahirapan Program for a more effective community-driven development.

This may offer more relevant data in creating, improving, and sustaining more effective programs that addresses the needs of the grassroots communities.

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