

Data, determination and drive: pushing for gender-based transformations in Mandaue City



City Director (CD) Jhoaden G. Lucero faced a grim reality that barangays in Mandaue would have very low compliance in the Barangay Governance Performance Management System (BGPMS) audits. The feedback was that it was too technical and time-consuming an exercise to assess the levels of barangay performance in the areas of governance, administration, social services, economic development, and environment.

The BGPMS results, however, were very important for DILG to find out the state-of-barangay governance and the community-level concerns that need to be prioritized.



It was non-negotiable to get all barangays to participate in the BGPMS, CD Lucero reasoned. Without village-level data, the city government's programs and the DILG's advocacies would not be as informed. There has to be a creative way of getting barangays to comply, she intoned.

The opportunity presented itself through incentives.

With the full support of the City's Gender and Development (GAD) Council, The GenRe Award: A Search for the Most Gender Responsive (GenRe) Barangay was conceptualized and launched in 2011 offering incentives to barangays with the most gender-responsive program.



CD Jao convinced the Council to use the BGPMS as a filter in identifying and recognizing barangays with the most gender, responsive programs. Determined to see the vision unfold into reality, the DILG team comprising CD Jao and members Rothwel Pulido and Reynaldo Sosmeña started the arduous task of getting all 27 barangays of Mandaue City BGPMS-compliant.

The BGPMS was presented to all barangay officials and Committees were created in each barangay. Committee secretaries were also trained how to fill out the instrument and later convert the data into a State of Barangay Governance Report (SBGR).

It was a win-win arrangement: DILG was able to generate 100% compliance in the BGPMS and the GAD Council was able to extract rich barangay-level data on the status of women and children covering maternal and child health and nutrition, newborn screening, immunization and micro-nutrient supplementation, and children in conflict with the law.

As a result of BGPMS data in Mandaue City, additional gender-based activities and advocacies ensued. Barangay assemblies were convened to discuss the law against human trafficking (i.e. Republic Act [RA] 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003) and some barangays saw the need to pass local ordinances against human trafficking and creating village-level GAD focal points.

Women groups also benefited from awareness and skills-building on women and children's rights under RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004. As a result, 14 barangays created Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPC), an institution promoting child protection, rights, and well-being.

CD Jao has triggered a series of inter-linked advocacies. First was the value of barangay-level information through the BGPMS. Next was the importance of collaboration with internal champions, such as the GAD Council, and the use of incentives to generate full compliance at the barangay level. And finally, using data to drive further gender-based advocacies in the city.

On hindsight, five barangays received the GenRe Awards in 2012 and the cash incentives accompanying the recognition. But the overall winner was Mandaue City for amassing a wealth of barangay-level data to be used for city-wide programs and projects.

And this will redound to the benefit of women, children, and men of Mandaue City. The platform for gender-fair service delivery in the city is born.