

WATER SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

I. PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Title: WATER SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Project Site(s): Communities/Villages in Mindanao and Luzon, Philippines

Project Proponent: ASSISI DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
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Contact Person: Mr. Benjamin D. Abadiano
President

Project Duration: Six (6) Months

Type of Community: Vulnerable Communities

Financial Requirement:

(1) Amount Requested -----	PhP 1,600,000.00
(2) Local Counterpart -----	<u>282,000.00</u>
(3) Total Project Cost -----	<u>PhP 1,882,000.00</u>

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

This is a six (6) months project which is a complementary component to Assisi's Public-Private Partnership for Justice, Development, and Peace (PPP-JDP) Program, an integrated development program for the vulnerable communities seeking to facilitate the development of potable water facilities in at least four (4) communities. It is hoped that the project will result to the immediate and tangible improvement in the lives of men, women and children in terms of ready access to safe drinking water, improved health and sanitation condition.

The focus of this project, the improvement of living conditions and health status, relates most directly to underprivileged women who have a central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water resources. As the poor families would now have ready access to water supply, it would save the women from spending so much time fetching water so that they can focus on more productive community activities. The focused-group training and workshops will also help them develop their skills and provide them equal opportunity with men to manage the

water systems project. They will be involved in all aspects of planning and implementation of the project.

Moreover, the project also seeks to enhance the skills of the poor community in organizing for planning and implementation of development projects. In particular, conscious effort will be exerted to utilize the project as a catalyst towards implementation of programs on health and sanitation. Thus, another integral component of the project will be capacity building aimed at strengthening community organizational structures.

The project will be implemented in partnership with the local organized groups with proven good track records working directly with the poor and underprivileged communities.

III. RATIONALE:

As can be generally said, most vulnerable communities suffer from hunger, poverty, exploitation, and lack of access or absence of basic social services, most prominently potable water, health, and agricultural production.

Vulnerable communities are very susceptible to sicknesses and diseases amidst the continuing environmental degradation, the loss of the natural forest areas, and destructive calamities due to climate change.

These vulnerable communities cannot be ignored as they comprise a bigger portion of the Philippine population. They belong to the disadvantaged people who are struggling for survival. Unfortunately, they have lesser protection from the law and are denied of their rights to basic services. One urgent concern is the absence of water systems.

Water is a living resource that is essential to sustain life, development and the environment. No access to water poses a serious threat to the sustainable development of vulnerable communities and the protection of their environment.

The lack of water access also translates to low consumption, which often leads to poor nutrition, sanitation and hygiene. It is no surprise that the poor communities are most vulnerable to diseases like malaria, gastroenteritis, skin disorders, diarrhea and typhoid fever induced by scarce, contaminated water. Food security and health will all be at risk without access to water facilities.

IV. OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS:

Program Objectives:

1. To assist vulnerable communities improve their access to water supply for drinking and health by facilitating the construction of 4 potable water facilities (level II); and
2. To strengthen the community organization and self-management skills of disadvantaged men and women by facilitating community participation in project implementation, including formation of water committees, and technical management of water systems.

Expected Outputs:

1. Four (4) functional and operational water systems (level II) should have been constructed;
2. At least four (4) vulnerable communities/villages are provided access to potable water supply;
3. At least twelve (12) local water technicians/plumbers trained and skilled in basic water systems development, repair and maintenance; and
4. Each targeted vulnerable communities would have established a Water Systems Management and Maintenance Committee composed of both men and women who have been trained in the development and maintenance of the water system.

V. PROJECT ACTIVITIES and COMPONENTS:

Assisi has always worked closely with the local partners (Local Government Units, Church Partners, Religious Congregations, Non-Government Organizations (NGO), Academe and Peoples Organizations (PO). Implementing this project will provide a synergy to the organization's mission and task of integral development for vulnerable communities. The local partners have been involved in helping vulnerable communities for a long time and have cultivated the trust of the communities and reached and facilitated programs in the very remote areas. The project will thus build on the expertise of the local partner. Community issues and concerns shall be discussed during regular sessions/meetings and how to respond on these issues.

A participatory approach shall be employed in all levels of the project implementation. The community, including the barangay, peoples' organizations, and religious leaders, will be involved in identifying needs, implementing, monitoring and evaluating.

Likewise, participation and collaboration will be encouraged from the consortium of support agencies and other organizations.

The project will have three components: (1) establishment of potable spring water systems, (2) capacity building, and (3) monitoring and evaluation.

1. Establishment of Water Systems

At the program level, this component shall consist of the following activities: orientation/consultation with local partners and identification of prospective vulnerable communities within their respective areas, assessment and validation of the water system project proposal, come-up with a water system design and cost estimates, and approval of project, construction of water systems facilities, and monitoring and evaluation.

The following activities shall be undertaken at the partner organizations (Local Government Units, etc.) and community level: identification of target communities, pre-project orientation, pre-survey or baseline data gathering, conduct of environmental impact assessment, formation of Water Development and Maintenance Committee, drawing up of water policies and guidelines, canvassing, hauling of materials, and construction of water systems facilities.

The project will consider the use of appropriate, environmentally-friendly and culturally-sensitive water technology called the spring capping or "by gravity-fed water system".

2. *Capability Enhancement*

The target poor communities will be the direct implementers of the community-based water system project. Assisi, including the local partner organization shall facilitate and establish support mechanisms.

This component shall mainly focus on project development and management of prospective communities. Essential activities shall include gathering of community data, training needs assessment and validation, and conduct of hands-on trainings.

One specific, concrete outcome will be the strengthening of the individual members of the Water Development and Maintenance Committee that will be composed of both men and women leaders.

3. *Monitoring and Evaluation*

Regular monitoring visit will be done by Assisi in addition to the partner local organization that shall help ensure continued operation of the water system project.

The activities in this component will consist of regular visits to the target communities that are implementing the water system projects as well as the conduct of an annual project evaluation and planning. The local Partner Organization staff in-charge of the water program implementation will be tasked to visit the implementing communities at least once a month or as the need arises. The staff will also facilitate the holding of the annual program review and planning, which shall be attended by representatives from implementing communities and representatives from the Assisi.

Assisi will also enhance the technical skills of the Water System Team to acquire expertise on water systems development. Quarterly monitoring visit to the projects will also be made and provide technical assistance to the community's core groups.

In addition, Assisi shall undertake the water system development within the framework of an integrated program. Thus, all of these activities shall be done in coordination with the peoples' organization or community association.

VI. BUDGET SUMMARY:

Budget Summary of four (4) Water Systems Projects:

Items	Total Project Cost	Local Counterpart	Amount Requested
I. Direct Benefit Cost			
a. Water System Installation			
a.1. Water Materials	1,360,000	0	1,360,000
a.2. Freight and Handling	64,000	0	64,000
a.3. Water Team Allowances	80,000	0	80,000
a.4. Transportation – Water Team	32,000	0	32,000
b. Capability Building	16,000	0	16,000

c. Monitoring and Evaluation	48,000	0	48,000
II. Overhead/Admin Cost			
a. Program Salaries & Wages	240,000.00	240,000	0
b. Office Supplies / Documentation	12,000.00	12,000	0
c. Postage / Communication	6,000.00	6,000	0
d. Office Rental Expense	24,000.00	24,000	0
GRAND TOTAL	1,882,000	282,000	1,600,000
PERCENT	100%	15%	85%

Note: Please see attached excel file for the computation details.