PHINLA I
Promising & Good Practices

Philippines

30 November 2023

Contact Name: Giorgi Devidze, Program Director, PHINLA
Email Address: giorgi_devidze@wvi.org

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Acknowledgments

The writing and reproduction of PHINLA Philippines' *'Promising and Good Practices'* is completed with the help of our program donor, the German Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ) and World Vision Germany. This could not have been made possible without the cooperation of the project implementing partners, World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. and EcoWaste Coalition of the Philippines, and the participation of the local government unit of Barangay Cugman in Cagayan de Oro City, Barangay Mintal in Davao City, and Barangay Bagong Silangan in Quezon City. The PHINLA-organized resource collector associations, namely Bagong Silangan Resource Collector Association (BaSiRCA), Kabulig sa Kinaiyahan Resource Collectors Association (KKiRCA) and Mintal Resource Collectors Association (MiRCA), while they served as the project's major beneficiaries, were also active enablers of the project's success, which made possible these promising practices. The support of City Local Environment and Natural Resource Office (CLENRO) of Cagayan de Oro City, the City Environment and Natural Resource Office (CENRO) of Davao City, the Department of Sanitation and Cleanup Works of Quezon City (DSQC), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), and the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC), which, in one way or another, help promote and advance PHINLA goals and advocacies through participation in the implementation activities and provision of appropriate fora.

Most especially, PHINLA owes the Almighty Creator and Enabler of these successes -- to Him be all glory!

Indeed, the strong commitment of staff, partners, supporters and stakeholders played a significant role in ensuring these promising accomplishments, as well as their sustainability and future replication.

The Project is ever grateful to all of you!

Abbreviations

BaSiRCA	Bagong Silangan Resource Collector Association
CENRO	City Environment and Natural Resources Office
CoMSCA	Community-Managed Savings and Credit Association
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau
ESWM	Ecological Solid Waste Management
H2H	House-to-house
HOA	Homeowner Association
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
LGU	Local Government Unit
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
RA 9003	Republic Act 9003 or Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000
RC	Resource Collector
RCA	Resource Collector Association
SAS	Segregation at source
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SWM	Solid Waste Management

1. Executive Summary

Poor Solid Waste Management (SWM) is a major issue in many developing economies. The growing population, urbanization, and economic growth have increased problems related to solid waste. Illegal dumping, burning, and burying of waste and inadequate support and encouragement of community members to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste result in growing ecological and health issues for the local population. Poor waste management, lack of unified and fair working conditions for waste collectors, insufficient collaboration between key SWM actors, and the low capacity of local governments strongly contributed to the existing issue. All these challenges are acute in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

Recycling, regardless of existing efforts, laws, and governmental budgets for waste collection is not systematically managed. Even though ideas that support waste collection on the one hand and offer income opportunities for the poorest on the other hand have been created and are individually implemented by NGOs and partly by the private sector, the impact remains less effective. A country-wide and sectoral-overlapping threat for insufficient waste management and a gap of unified fair working conditions for waste collectors is mainly caused by lacking collaboration among relevant stakeholders. This, on the one hand, can be witnessed at governmental level, where laws and policies exist, but the responsibility of waste management is strongly decentralized down to sub-urban and local authority level. These authorities, on the other hand, feel they lack the capacity to accurately plan and implement.

More so, even if collection plans are available, there is no efficient system to make use of multilateral stakeholders for joint waste collection & recycling and to upscale opportunities as coordination and exchange among the areas of authorities are missing. The work of waste collectors is underestimated, even by the collectors themselves. This is, inter alia, is due to the fact that the job is yet to be curricula- recognized and hence, does not offer general conditions, policies, rights and security measures (it is mostly practiced as tertiary informal opportunity).

Though the population admittedly feels burdened by waste where mainly people in slum areas are surrounded by, they significantly show gaps in awareness of self-responsibility to 3R (reuse, reduce, and recycle). Both, an improved attitude towards waste collector's significance as well towards careful waste management at household and institutional community level, should be supported by the government authorities, coordinating stakeholders through meaningful, efficient systems. NGOs, whose scope of work lays on waste management and who join steering committees would need to raise their capacities to communicate and advocate change impact on a broader level. The NGOs, specialized on livelihood, need efficient means to associate the waste collectors among each other, provide them a space for their collective voice being owners of their interests and have them represented at all stages of involved parties & processes. Furthermore, the WM sector together with the government still fail to find (financially) sustainable solutions, which would guarantee the self-sustainable existence of waste banks and developed insurance measures that are not dependent on external funding but could be covered by funds generated through waste collection & recycling.

The above-described situations are the reasons for the designing and implementation of the first phase of the PHINLA Global Program. PHINLA I aims to tackle the issue of SWM in 11 local

communities in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka by developing livelihood opportunities for the poverty-affected population through a multi-sectoral established and monitored solid waste management system. The project focused on the highly waste-affected areas such as Quezon City in Luzon, Cagayan de Oro City and Davao City in Mindanao in the Philippines from September 2019. In its entirety, phase 1 of the program has until 30 Dec 2023 to complete implementation.

In line with its Theory of Change, PHINLA phase I aims to develop a guide through this document that is focused on good and promising practices, successful stories, and lessons learned identified in the Global Program in the field of community-based SWM and make recommendations that are relevant for WV partnership, state and local government authorities, NGOs and private sector actors working towards a healthy and climate-resilient environment for children and their communities.

2. Preamble

In line with PHINLA's goal of promoting established Good Practices in Solid Waste Management on a nationwide scale, this document highlights key aspects of the identified Good Practice within the project's context in the Philippines. It serves as a valuable reference for any stakeholder or enthusiast interested in replicating these successful models, schemes, or approaches. The name of the person and his/her contact information are provided in the cover page should there be a need for more details about the Good Practices.

3. Good Practice I - Organizing the Resource Collectors (Waste Pickers) into a SWM Local Partner and a Business-oriented Waste Collection Service Provider

3.1 Background

Prior to the implementation of the PHINLA program in Mintal, Davao City, the system of solid waste was managed by the barangay local authorities with support from barangay or city-paid garbage collectors. Waste materials were mixed and thrown into the city's landfill. There was no system for recovering recyclable materials from these barangay wastes. Everything went to the landfill. Informal and individual waste pickers existed in the barangay. They roamed around the barangay collecting waste materials that can be sold from the streets, houses and waste dumping sites.

In the context of Solid Waste Management, informal waste pickers are often considered the most vulnerable group. They face issues such as exposure to hazardous materials, and no or limited access to social and financial security. The PHINLA livelihood program intended to provide opportunities to this vulnerable group as direct project participants not only to improve their access to sustainable income but also to recognize their crucial role in enhancing SWM within the targeted community. After a series of consultation with the Barangay Local

Government Unit (LGU) and with the identified waste pickers, it was agreed to organize the individually identified waste pickers into an association for the following reasons:

- There is strength in union. The voice of the vulnerable can be better heard when unified.
- The group desired to elevate themselves from being marginalized to SWM front-liners.

3.2 Approach

Awareness Raising – in collaboration with the LGU, the waste pickers (now being called Resource Collectors) were oriented about the PHINLA project (purpose, approaches, reasons for involving & targeting the waste pickers), about the state of SWM in the community, about the law that governs SWM, among others. In the course of the awareness raising and capacity building series, the waste pickers learned that wastes are indeed resources and thus, agreed to call themselves Resource Collectors rather than waste pickers.

Equipping & Capacity Building – in addition to the above, the resource collectors were taught about the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM), which involves waste categorization, segregation, creating livelihood from materials that are discarded, and laws and policies that pertain to it. Besides the soft component of the capacity building, the waste pickers also benefited from the hard component support via the waste collection equipment (motorcycles and bicycles with carts).

Part of the equipping is building the capacity of the Resource Collector Association (RCA) officers and members as champions and trainers on proper solid waste management. As a major training reference, PHINLA developed the PHINLA Philippines Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) Curriculum, which is found at the Annex.

Participation of the Resource Collectors in the Decision-Making Processes – along with the LGU, city and regional level SWM stakeholders such as the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB the resource collectors were encouraged to participate in all key project processes in the PHINLA project.

Formation of the Resource Collector Association (RCA) – during capacity-building initiatives, the resource collectors formed and supported their association through an approved constitution and bylaws. Empowered by the knowledge and insights gained from these processes, the participants decided to call themselves as resource collectors and no longer waste pickers. This shift reflects their recognition that what was once considered waste is, in fact, a valuable resource with the potential to generate income. .

Accreditation of the RCA with the LGU – through the knowledge gained from the project processes, both the RCA and the LGU recognized the potential of the organized group as a valuable partner in SWM and a reliable service provider for community waste collection. However, it's important for the RCA to obtain LGU accreditation and authorization to ensure its legal operation as a service provider.

Formal Registration of the RCA with a Government Registering Agency – to strengthen their legal status and operational foundation, the RCAs should undergo registration with a government agency, such as the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in the Philippines. This formal registration not only strengthens the legal identity of the RCA but also opens avenues for accessing government

funds, facilitating growth for both individual members and the organization as a whole. This success is exemplified by the registered RCAs in Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City, and Bagong Silangan, Quezon City.

3.3 Results

a) Not everything goes to the landfill anymore. Household-level segregation generates tons of recyclables, which are collected by the new waste collection service provider – the RCA - on agreed schedules.

b) An appropriate, contextualized, Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) system has been established, which contributed to the LGU's systematized solid waste management and improved environmental performance in partnership with the RCA.

c) Improved recording of diverted recyclable wastes and improved reporting to City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO).

d) Nearly PhP2 Million worth of recyclables were diverted from going to the landfill by end of September 2023.

e) Forty-one percent (41%) of targeted resource collectors and RCA members have increased their income by 10% out of collection and selling of recyclables.

f) One hundred percent (100%) of the RCA members are now able to pay insurance out of their income.

g) Increase in the percentage of community members (from 32% to 80%) having awareness on proper waste management.

h) Increase in the percentage of community members (from 57% to 69%) disposing wastes in designated collection points.

3.4 Key Enabling Factors

a) Technical support from the Local Government Unit and relevant government agencies in terms of:

- Authorizing the waste pickers' association to do house-to-house collection of segregated wastes;
- Allowing the RCA to use the community MRF (material recovery facility) where collected materials are stored & subjected to value-adding processes.

b) Willingness of each individual waste picker to be formed into a group.
c) Willingness of the community to share in the responsibilities and benefits of an improved SWM system with the Local Government Unit and the resource collector's association.
d) Creating and enforcing community regulations or laws that align with Republic Act 9003, also known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Law.

3.5 Replication and Up-Scaling Considerations

a) The above key enabling factors are essential for organizing a functional waste pickers or resource collectors' association.
b) Alignment of the practices with local and national regulations on waste management, such as the Republic Act 9003 (RA 9003). Practices that adhere to existing laws are more likely to gain support for replication.
c) Knowing the Ecological Solid Waste Management (ESWM) gaps and challenges in the implementation of the regulations and in the waste management practices; and agreement on the roles and responsibilities of the resource collector's association, the government and the other players in the community SWM.
d) The commitment of the Local Government Unit and relevant agencies to fulfill their SWM mandates are key to sustaining the functionality of the resource collectors' association and in sustaining the positive changes in knowledge and practices of the community population.

4. Good Practice II - Public-Private Partnership: A Way towards Stakeholders' Genuine Participation and Empowerment

4.1 Background

In Barangay Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, there is a pervasive issue of inadequate waste segregation. Even when households make efforts to segregate their waste, materials often become mixed during collection by the city contractor. Illegally dumped waste and littered materials further exacerbate the problem, with open burning of waste in public spaces adding to the challenges. The informal waste sector, comprising waste pickers and buyers, is characterized as non-professional, non-organized, and lacking the capacity to engage with authorities and other stakeholders. This limitation hinders their ability to advance their welfare.

While the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or Republic Act 9003 is ongoing throughout the barangay, there is a recognized need for refining the waste management system to suit the barangay context. The goal is to encourage households to become responsible participants in waste management, the barangay and city governmental units to strictly implement the law and, crucially, to ensure livelihood opportunities for the informal waste sector in SWM. This targeted refinement aims to address the persisting challenges and enhance the effectiveness of waste management practices in the community.

In view of the above, the organized Bagong Silangan Resource Collector Association (BaSiRCA) and the barangay local government engaged in a public-private partnership (PPP) approach. In this partnership, the 'public' refers to the LGU of Bagong Silangan and the

community in general, represented by the Homeowner Associations (HOA); and Bagong Silangan Resource Collector Association (BaSiRCA) represents the 'private'. Through the PPP approach, a system, called "SAS-H2H Collection + Fee", was piloted. This means segregation-at-source and house-to-house collection with a fee, piloted in Area 5 of Bagong Silangan, Quezon City. In the PPP, the LGU is responsible for issuing ordinances and guidance that would support/legalize the scheme and that would encourage the general public to do household waste segregation. The Homeowner Association (HOA) ensures that member-households are oriented about the LGU policies and the developed system. Each household practices segregation and pays the agreed-upon minimum collection fee of PhP10.00, while the assigned Resource Collector does house-to-house collection at designated schedule based on waste category. Collected materials are weighed and recorded. The collection fee of PhP10.00 is divided as follows: PhP6.00 goes to the assigned Resource Collector (RC); PhP2.00 goes to Bagong Silangan Resource Collector Association (BaSiRCA); the other PhP2.00 goes to the concerned Homeowner Association (HOA).

4.2 Approach

Awareness Raising – all parties to the public-private partnership were consulted and oriented about the PHINLA project (purpose, approaches, reasons for involving & targeting the different stakeholders in the PPP approach); about the state of SWM in the community; about the law that governs SWM; and on the "SAS-H2H Collection + Fee scheme".

Community Situation Assessment – besides groundwork, review of existing data was done to know the state of SWM implementation in the community, including the level of participation of the general public in waste segregation, and the possibility of getting the Homeowner Associations (HOAs) as partners to improving SWM system in Bagong Silangan.

Formalizing the Partnership Agreement – after a series of consultations, the parties signed a Memorandum of Agreement, which highlights the roles of each party and the tasks that need to be attended to by the parties involved.

Development, Publication and Distribution of Contextualized Information, Education and Communication Materials – to support the house-to-house education done by the PPP partners, appropriate materials for information & education campaigns were produced and distributed to households, such as the "I-WasteTo" flier, which details how the system works, providing a list of waste materials per category and schedule of collection for each material category.

Monitoring the Implementation of the MOA-Agreed Actions and the SAS-H2H Collection + Fee-Scheme – Regularly, the partners involved in the PPP approach engage in comprehensive reviews of the status and progress of the implementation of the developed system/scheme. They collaboratively address any challenge that may have arisen during the process, ensuring a

dynamic and adaptive approach to overcoming obstacles and continuously improving the effectiveness of the initiative.

4.3 Results

a) Eighty percent (80%) of the community members are aware of proper waste management. This is from the baseline figure of 32%.[1]
b) There is a 10% increase in the community members that have awareness on local policies on SWM.
c) There is a twelve percent (12%) increase in the community members that dispose of their segregated wastes in designated collection points.
d) Wastes diverted from going to the landfill increased from 378,132 kilograms (1st Quarter 2023) to 571,880 kilograms (4th Quarter 2023) valued at over P3.3 million.
e) The PPP contributed to the increase in the income of Bagong Silangan Resource Collector Association (BaSiRCA) out of collected recyclables and certain residuals collected through the City's Trash-to-Cash Back Program, which enabled the RCA to put up their own rice retailing business.
f) The PPP also contributed to the increased capacity of Bagong Silangan Resource Collector Association (BaSiRCA), which enabled the RCA to engage with other donors for the establishment of their own junk shop and scrap-trading business. The RCA's junkshop is also utilized by the barangay as junkshop-cum-Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

4.4 Key Enabling Factors

a) Willingness of the involved parties to come into a formal agreement of working together to address gaps in the implementation of SWM.
b) Supervision & guidance by a multi-stakeholder body, composed of key officials from the PPP partnership, that is informally set up to steer and oversee the initiatives and deals with the day-to-day concerns.
   Consistently review the advancements in the actions outlined in the signed PPP Agreement, coupled with regular monitoring of the progress of the SAS-H2H Collection + Fee scheme
c) Sharing of responsibilities and benefits of an improved SWM system by the Association, the Barangay LGU, the Homeowner Associations (HOAs) and their member-households enabled the implementation of the scheme using the PPP approach.

4.5 Replication and Up-Scaling Considerations

a) Formal organization of waste pickers/resource collectors into association (RCA), if suitable within the community context.
b) Once organized, the resource collector association should be legalized in order to operate and formalize agreements with intended partners. Legalization can be achieved through formal registration of the RCA with a government-registering agency like the

[1] PHINLA Mini Survey, Nov 2023

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and/or through accreditation with the Barangay Local Government Unit.

c) Once organized, the RCA should be legalized to operate and formalize agreement with intended partners. Legalization can be achieved through formal registration of the RCA with a government-registering agency like Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) or via accreditation with the Barangay Local Government Unit.
d) Assess the community's progress in implementing Republic Act 9003 (RA 9003), identifying gaps and challenges.
e) Understand the specific role of each partner involved in the PPP to ensure effective collaboration and address community needs.
f) Furthermore, all points outlined under 'Key Enabling Factors' are vital considerations for successful replication and scale-up.

5. Good Practice III - Community Savings Scheme: A Source of Economic Resilience for the Resource Collectors' Association Members

5.1 Background

As a livelihood program, PHINLA aims to increase the opportunity for the members of the RCA, not only by providing a source of reliable income, but also by facilitating access to small credits. Existing formal financial credit services often pose challenges for RCA members, including high interest rates and the requirement for loan collaterals, making it difficult for them to fully comply. World Vision offers a proven model for community-based managed savings and credit called CoMSCA (Community-Managed Savings and Credit Association). Through these self-help groups, members learn how to save money collectively and can obtain small loans which are used to support investments in their own income-generating activities. Furthermore, members established a social fund for relief of members experiencing emergencies.. This model aligns within the context of the communities served by PHINLA and the situation of the RCA and its members.

5.2 Approach

Awareness Raising – members of the RCA were made to understand the hazards and the risks they face in their line of job. They were made to understand the importance of having an economic fall back when situations become difficult. They became aware that there are models of savings and credit that were proven applicable and effective when used with groups like them.

Orientation and Training of the RCA members about CoMSCA, its principles, approaches and requirements.

Creation of the CoMSCA Cell groups from among the RCA members – in accordance with the model's standard, the members of the RCA were broken down to smaller groups of 10 – 25 members for ease in management.

Development and Signing of the Cell Groups' constitution and by-laws and the formation of a management committee within the cell group with members carrying out specific CoMSCA tasks like recording or safeguarding the savings box.

Regular Cell Group meeting where savings and loan transactions happen and where records of all group transactions are shared and updated.

5.3 Results

a) Before the PHINLA implementation, the resource collectors had limited or no savings at all that they could use for emergencies. After the project intervention, RCA members have accumulated and increased their savings. Over P780,000.00 were saved by the RCA members from the 3 communities served by PHINLA out of their income by the end of September 2023.
b) Interest in the CoMSCA groups has sparked uptake from 3 cell groups since its introduction in 2020 to 7 cell groups by 2023.
c) Through their involvement in CoMSCA, the Resource Collectors (RCs) in Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City was able to establish a canteen; the RCA in Mintal, Davao City is now also operating its own canteen and material repurposing business; and the RCA in Bagong Silangan is also earning income from their established and owned rice retailing business.
d) Because of their access to loan services of CoMSCA, individual members of RCA were also able to diversify their sources of income. For example, in Davao City, the president of the RCA has established a backyard, small scale piggery. Another officer of the said association now runs a food stall business.
e) Through their savings in CoMSCA, members of the association can pay their individual insurance premiums that cover health, dismemberment and death benefits.

5.4 Key Enabling Factors

a) Capacity building for targeted individuals on CoMSCA, including coaching and mentoring of the formed groups.
b) Willingness of the RCA members to participate in the processes and staying committed to the principles and standards of CoMSCA.
c) Exercising accountability to members by openly sharing transaction updates according to the group's by-laws.
d) Existence of the CoMSCA operational manual and trainers.

5.5 Replication and Up-Scaling Considerations

a) The above-mentioned enabling factors are important considerations in the replication and scale up of the practice.
b) Membership in the savings model is voluntary in nature.
c) It is important that the principles and standards in operationalizing the CoMSCA model are observed and implemented.
d) Tap only CoMSCA-trained volunteers and staff when starting this community-based savings and credit model.

6. Annex

PHINLA PHILIPPNES ESWM Curriculum.pd	The PHINLA Curriculum for Ecological Solid Waste Management (Philippines)
CoMSCA%20one%20 pager%20brief2016.d CoMSCA Guidelines.pdf	CoMSCA References


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