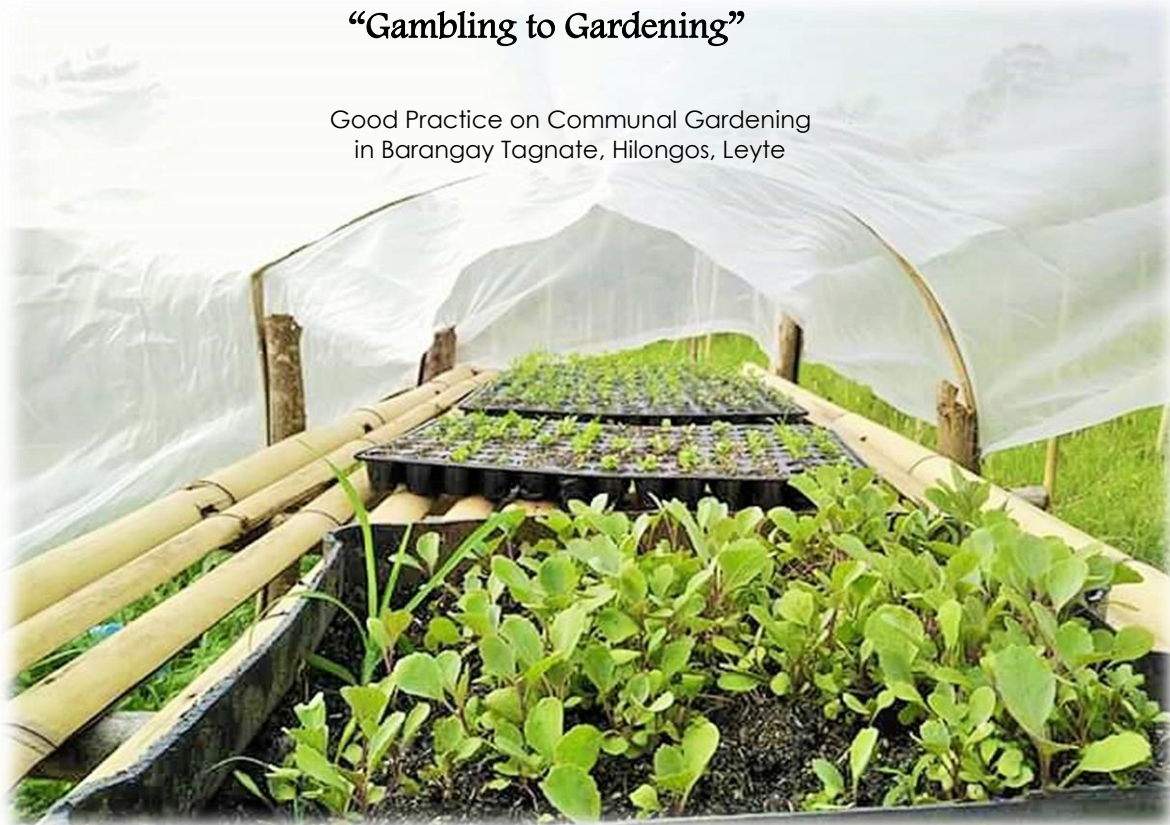


# GOOD PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION

## “Gambling to Gardening”

Good Practice on Communal Gardening  
in Barangay Tagnate, Hilongos, Leyte



### CONTEXT:

“Malungkot ang buhay ko,” shared Arceña Pedere, 48 years old, a Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) grantee.

Arceña then disclosed that she was one of the program beneficiaries who engaged in gambling activities in their barangay.

In truth, sometimes we do not know what we are doing. At times we think we are doing enough and what is right. Sometimes, even our norms mislead us and our hardships blind us.

Nevertheless, miracles happen that even an empty plot could reap hope.

Hilongos, Leyte has 51 barangays, one of which is Barangay Tagnate, an upland barangay. The implementation of the program stated last 2011, the municipality is a set 4D municipality of the Pantawid Pamilya. The barangay started with more than sixty beneficiaries who have been mostly compliant with the conditions of the program.

Came four years in the implementation of the program, it had been noted that the existing and pressing problem of some of the members continued. What caught the attention of the



implementers is that the gambling members of these barangay shamelessly display their gambling activities along the road.

The barangay officials had submitted their complaint to the office and the concerned individuals were reminded of the program policies and encouraged to change their lazy ways.

Later on, the same names were reported to the office for gambling and not only that, they had been encouraging other members of the barangay to join their gambling sessions.

## IMPLEMENTATION:

### *Pre-implementation*

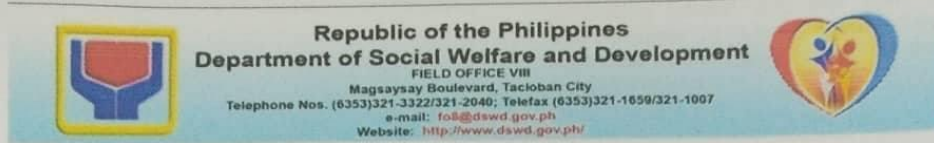
Because of the report regarding the said gambling issue involving Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries, the Municipal Action Team (MAT) members during their meeting, decided to initiate a case conference to resolve the problem. During the first counselling with the concerned beneficiaries, it had been noted that most members of the community had too much spare time being housewives.

So a case conference was scheduled and attended by the Municipal Inter-agency Committee (MIAC) members including members of the local government unit headed by Mayor Albert Villahermosa and some barangay officials, focal persons from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), Department of Education (DEPED), DSWD staff from the 4Ps and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), together with the beneficiaries of Barangay Tagnate.



The attention of the specific beneficiaries who engaged in gambling was called for and a written warning was given to them. After the individual counselling, the case conference was held. During the consultation-dialogue, it had been decided that the group would establish a communal garden. The local government gave them a location in the barangay where they could start their group activity.

The Department of Agriculture gave the commitment to help educate the members on the proper ways of farming and the Department of Education focal presented to help in monitoring the progress of the said garden.



July 28, 2016

**MINUTES FOR THE CASE CONFERENCE  
OF BARANGAY TAGNATE, HILONGOS, LEYTE  
(ELIMINATION OF GAMBLING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNAL GARDENING)**

**Attendees:**

1. Elma Oja – MA
2. Raquel May Sanchez – FEO-OPA Leyte
3. Felicidad B. Alconera - MSWDO
4. Marvin Bronola – Head Teacher – Tagnate ES
5. Diosdada Yanola – Barangay Captain
6. Rani Marie Acenas – Municipal Link
7. All 4Ps members of Barangay Tagnate

**Agenda**

- Discipline members engaging in gambling
- Lessen idle time of beneficiaries
- Provide alternative livelihood and additional income to members
- Empower women in the barangay

**Conference Highlights:**

- Meeting started at 4:00 pm
- MSWDO started the meeting with a reminder on prioritization of children's welfare and a review on VAWC. She also talked about Anti-Human Trafficking law
- The problem regarding the increasing concern on the repetitive reports of members engaging in gambling was tackled and it was agreed that they need to lessen their idle time by having a communal garden.
- DA representative discussed possibilities and options and stressed that the area to which they will have their gardening need not be big as long as it is maintained and the right crops are planted.
- The representative from DepEd emphasized the need for members to participate in Gulayan sa Paaralan. Also the concern regarding having children com to school with incomplete requirements was discussed.
- Meeting ended at 6:00 pm

**Issues and Concerns:**

Issues and Concerns	Recommendation
1. The purpose of the communal garden is to generate additional income and not all parents have students at school.	- It was agreed that the Pantawid communal garden would be established at a volunteered land per LCE's mandate for their income

TAGI - 00002

CABUGOS, ANA MARIE



generating garden and that parents with children at school would fully cooperate in their other garden for the feeding program

Other matters/ Agreements:

1. DA would inspect potential area for planning and strategizing.
2. Parents would be monitored by the involved agencies.

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## Implementation

So immediately after the meeting, the group made schedules to plow the plots and get the site ready. After the preparations, the Department of Agriculture constantly visited the group and had taught them the proper gardening techniques especially bio-intensive gardening. They had been learning and some sessions were held during Family Development Sessions (FDS). The group was gradually being organized successfully.

4Ps Municipal Link Rani Acenas said that they aim to manage and inspire beneficiaries, instill discipline and let them see the value of time and money, and enhance convergence strategies among all stakeholders and partners beneficiaries.

Currently, the beneficiaries had already been briefed and taught by the DA on the proper gardening procedures and they have started cleaning and making plots. Also, a garden nursery is in the making. The SLP had also organized two groups who submitted their proposal in order to avail of the benefits.

The committee had decided that DEPED and DA would help focus and monitor the progress of the project. Also, a close monitoring would be done by the involved programs guided by the MSWDO and the 4Ps Municipal staff.



Municipal Links conduct continuous spot check on the progress of the communal garden.

In coordination with the Local Government Unit, Department of Agriculture, DSWD Sustainable Livelihood Program, Municipal Social Welfare, and the Barangay Officials the communal gardening of barangay Tagnate is finally taking shape.

Deped Tagnante Elementary School Head Teacher I Marvin Broñola shared that their school supports parents and gardening and they are also to provide area or lot. He added that 4Ps help minimize dropout rates. "With the strong collaboration of DSWD, DA, DEPED, LGU, through 4PS, lihoc, wa nila buhata sa una, karon gibuhat nanira.

Municipal Agriculturist Elma Oja then shared that gardening helps in food sufficiency and there are less idle men and women since they work instead and devote their time to gardening.



Parent Leaders of Barangay Tagnate regularly showed the staff the progress on some parts of their communal garden.

The beneficiaries including Mary Grace Villacote, Juanita Faller, and Magdalena Villaro, expressed their commitment and they were being counselled that the success of this project would greatly depend on their loyal efforts on its cause to eliminate gambling and generate income.



**Post-implementation**

The barangay, known for an unfavorable reputation, is now a good example to other communities especially when all the members had been encouraged to have gardens for the rice subsidy. Before, even the memorandum on backyard gardening was given, this barangay had been doing well with this activity.

At present, they have three kinds of plants in the nursery and had grown five kinds of crops in their plots, and earn their living.

The members vowed to continue such humble beginnings as they have seen the positive impact of their image in the community due to this activity. Consequently, the incidence of gambling in the barangay was eradicated.



**RESULTS/IMPACT**

Arceña, a housewife, with three children, 16 -year-old Ronelo Grade 6, 15- year- old Juliet Grade 8, nine-year-old Danilo Jr. Grade 3, later has become so active in the said gardening activity and has forgotten about gambling. She poses in the middle together with other program beneficiaries, DSWD and DEPED staff in the photo below.





Indeed, based on research studies, diet and body weight are related to our health status such that good nutrition is important to the growth and development of children. Healthy diet due to consumption of fresh vegetables, fruits, and other produce, helps prevent malnutrition, overweight, obesity, underweight cases, iron-deficiency anemia, heart disease, high blood pressure, some cancers, among others.

Because weight is influenced by energy (calories) consumed and expended, interventions to improve weight can support changes in diet or physical activity. They can help change individuals' knowledge and skills, reduce exposure to foods low in nutritional value and high in calories, or increase opportunities for physical activity.

Gradually, the realization of the said activity has positively contributed to the overall health and nutrition of the community. As shown in the succeeding tabular data from the said municipality, in the year 2017, 80.49 % of the children population aged 0-71 months have normal weight, 3.10% overweight, 12.09 % underweight, and 4.33% are severely underweight.

Currently for year 2018, data shows the increase of rate of the children population aged 0-71 months with normal weight to 87.8 %, while overweight cases down to 1.7%, underweight 9.1%, and severely underweight at 1.5 %.

2017

Municipality/City: HILONGOS		Region: 8		Coverage: (0-71 mos) 0.0%		Number of Barangays with OPT: 51		PSGC Code: [REDACTED]		# IP Children Measured: 0-59 mos: 0		#VALUE! 0-71 mos: 0														
Province: LEYTE		Region: 8		Estimated No. of Preschoolers 0-59 mos.: 0		Total Number of Barangays: 0		Estimated No. of Preschoolers 0-71 mos.: 0		0-59 Months		0-71 Months														
Total Population of the Municipality:		0-5 Months		6-11 Months		12-23 Months		24-35 Months		36-47 Months		48-59 Months		60-71 Months		Total		Prev								
Weight for Age - Normal	216	189	405	186	190	376	445	514	958	451	472	923	495	510	989	427	405	832	4522	81,13%	5354	80.49%				
Weight for Age - Overweight	70	66	136	6	7	13	7	8	15	4	6	10	6	12	8	4	12	6	2	8	198	3.55%	206	3.10%		
Weight for Age - Underweight	11	7	18	30	15	45	64	38	102	69	62	131	83	75	158	78	86	164	100	86	186	618	11.09%	804	12.09%	
Weight for Age - Severely Underweight	6	11	17	21	21	42	34	20	54	19	19	38	24	14	38	28	19	47	30	22	52	236	4.23%	288	4.33%	
Height for Age - Normal	168	152	320	156	151	307	389	390	678	339	391	730	393	343	736	390	379	769	381	339	720	3141	63.5%	4261	64.05%	
Height for Age - Tall	86	83	169	15	17	32	24	27	51	5	6	11	8	5	11	4	7	6	3	4	200	5.02%	233	4.25%		
Height for Age - Stunted	27	16	43	33	24	57	125	75	200	137	105	232	152	111	263	143	145	286	121	125	246	1056	18.55%	1302	19.57%	
Height for Age - Severely Stunted	22	23	45	39	41	80	112	88	200	57	57	114	57	51	108	74	67	141	61	48	109	697	12.50%	806	12.12%	
Height/Length for Weight - Normal	216	198	414	200	202	402	476	511	987	459	502	991	539	456	995	531	523	1054	513	467	980	4843	86.89%	5823	87.54%	
Height/Length for Weight - Overweight	24	26	50	12	7	19	15	23	38	14	17	31	11	13	24	21	13	34	11	11	22	196	3.52%	218	3.28%	
Height/Length for Weight - Obese	31	18	49	11	13	24	12	12	24	5	11	16	12	10	22	11	5	16	11	8	19	151	2.71%	170	2.55%	
Height/Length for Weight - Wasted	12	16	28	12	8	20	33	19	52	31	22	53	31	26	57	35	17	52	21	21	42	351	6.70%	394	4.57%	
Height/Length for Weight - Severely Wasted	70	15	85	8	3	11	14	15	29	4	7	11	15	5	20	11	5	16	7	8	15	122	2.19%	137	2.06%	
Grand Total	303	273	576	243	233	476	550	580	1130	543	558	1102	608	510	1118	609	563	1172	563	515	1078	5574	6652	6652		

2018

Municipality of HILONGOS		Region: 8		Child Coverage: (0-71 mos) 6.0%		Number of Barangays with OPT Plus: 51		PSGC Code: [REDACTED]		# IP Children Measured: 0-59 mos: 0		#VALUE! 0-71 mos: 0													
Province: LEYTE		Region: 8		Estimated No. of Preschoolers 0-59 mos.: 0		Total Number of Barangays: 51		Estimated No. of Preschoolers 0-71 mos.: 0		0-59 Months		0-71 Months													
Total Population of the Municipality:		0-5 Months		6-11 Months		12-23 Months		24-35 Months		36-47 Months		48-59 Months		60-71 Months		Total		Prev							
Weight for Age - Normal	299	249	548	215	219	434	480	576	1056	492	484	976	474	488	972	530	477	995	448	743	6,065	69.5%	5,026	67.8%	
Weight for Age - Overweight	17	17	34	5	4	9	11	6	17	5	4	9	7	6	13	2	14	8	3	11	96	1.8%	129	1.7%	
Weight for Age - Underweight	9	4	13	15	7	22	50	100	53	38	91	47	47	94	55	66	121	69	68	138	441	8.1%	579	9.1%	
Weight for Age - Severely Underweight	3	4	7	2	2	4	15	12	12	15	25	8	16	3	3	6	13	12	75	20	1,336	25.5%	85	1.5%	
Height for Age - Normal	245	225	470	149	150	375	412	412	783	393	405	798	417	399	806	424	356	777	402	353	755	741.6%	4,254	72.4%	
Height for Age - Tall	28	27	55	17	14	31	15	17	32	11	18	24	5	6	11	5	4	8	5	7	162	3.0%	169	2.6%	
Height for Age - Stunted	43	17	59	27	19	46	103	111	144	159	105	85	130	188	105	213	99	81	189	900	16.5%	1,090	17.1%		
Height for Age - Severely Stunted	13	5	18	8	9	17	35	39	47	21	29	38	16	19	27	21	19	23	17	19	147	2.8%	157	2.3%	
Height/Length for Weight - Normal	262	215	477	207	205	412	477	499	976	501	493	994	514	468	952	471	430	823	399	922	377	6,000	73%	374	5.9%
Height/Length for Weight - Overweight	24	25	49	5	9	14	22	12	34	14	13	27	8	15	23	10	9	19	12	7	19	166	3.0%	185	2.9%
Height/Length for Weight - Obese	23	18	41	4	4	8	12	5	17	5	5	10	9	9	18	23	2	15	8	8	16	109	2.0%	125	2.0%
Height/Length for Weight - Wasted	11	11	22	15	9	24	23	28	51	28	24	52	20	17	37	28	14	32	25	14	39	218	4.0%	257	4.0%
Height/Length for Weight - Severely Wasted	8	5	13	6	5	11	14	13	27	13	6	19	5	4	9	2	2	8	4	12	81	1.5%	93	1.5%	
Grand Total	328	274	602	237	232	469	548	557	1105	562	519	1101	536	559	1095	600	498	1098	485	432	917	5,470	6,387		

Together with husband Danilo, 45 years old, a farmer and labourer, they learned to strive hard for their family.

“Ang sugal pala ay hindi tama. Ang kita dapat para sa mga kabataan at sa mga kailangan ng pamilya,” said Arceña. She explained that indeed FDS, not just the cash grants, changed her heart and helped her realize to save up for her children and their family’s future.

This has been true to the other beneficiaries of the program.



## LESSONS LEARNED

Convergence strategy, both internal and external, among DSWD programs like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), together with partner stakeholders including the Department of Education (DEPED), Department of Agriculture (DA), the Local Government Unit, Municipal Social Welfare Development Office and the Barangay Officials, is very much significant not just for the enhancement of one program but also for the progress of the entire community.

Gardening, especially that which embraces the bio-intensive approach, is a low-cost and simple farming technique that supports food security and environmental programs by helping even the poorest of the poor families to make the most out of their plot of land. Growing their own vegetables and fruits helps save money wherein the program beneficiaries do not need to rely on other vendors for fresh and healthy products.

Moreover, gardening engages members of the family and even the entire community and teaches them not just to plant but also to take responsibility for such meaningful project.

Consequently, gardening can also cure vices including gambling as in the case of Brgy. Tagnate. It provides them a very significant opportunity to change their ways as they learn to value their families, the future, and ensuring food security among others.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR REPLICATION

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries are all taught and encouraged especially through the conduct of Family Development Sessions (FDS) to be aware of proper nutrition and food security without spending too much money and to have their own gardens with healthy fruits and vegetables for their families and their health and nutrition.

In the municipality of Villaba, Leyte, Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries are engaged in communal gardening and they even showcase their products during municipal activities such as the Nutrition Month Celebration.



Villaba Mayor Juliet Larrazabal expressed her appreciation and awe of the program beneficiaries' participation in the said activity and their bountiful garden products. She then expressed her infinite support to DSWD programs and encouraged the beneficiaries to continuously look for strategies in sustaining their backyard and communal gardens.



**REFERENCES**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>	<b>CONTACT NUMBER</b>
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