



# GODPARENT SCHEME FOR ON-SITE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

**The Godparent Mentoring scheme is an effective mechanism for transferring knowledge and skills amongst water service providers (WSP) and water users' associations (WUA) in the delivery of adequate and sustainable access to safe and clean drinking water.**

One of the challenges to achieving the Philippine government's international commitments to the Millennium Development Goal target of halving the population without access to safe and clean drinking water by 2015 is the inadequate local capacities to plan for, design, implement, operate and maintain, and sustainably manage water services. The Spanish-assisted MDG-F 1919: *Enhancing Access to and Provision of Water Services with the Active Participation of the Poor*, which is jointly implemented by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), aims to address this issue by coming up with a capacity development strategy, which is piloted in 36 local government units (LGUs).



Initially, an assessment of mentoring practices was conducted and results of the study indicated that the Godparent scheme is one of the most effective approaches applied in the country.

The Godparent mentoring scheme, which was adapted from the Godfather scheme employed by the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA), involves the on-site coaching and mentoring by a bigger and more successful WSP/WUA to a smaller WSP/WUA. It was

tested in December 2010 in Sibagat, Agusan del Sur where the Bayugan City Water District mentored the Sibagat Water District, with the Tag-oyango Multi-Purpose Cooperative and San Vicente-Ilihan Water System Association (SIWASA) observing and participating.



The mentoring involved a combination of lectures and actual on-site application and demonstration by Bayugan Water District of its operations and maintenance practices. Knowledge and skills transferred are in the areas of water meter calibration, installation of pressure gauge, chlorination, flushing and cleaning, system monitoring, financial management (record keeping, preparation of income and cashflow statements, preparation of books of accounts, etc.) and policy development.

Several months after the completion of the mentoring exercises, Sibagat Water District has reported the following accomplishments:

- Increase in collection efficiency from 40% to 92%
- Increase in the number of connections from 200 to 312
- Development of policies and guidelines on pilferage, disconnection, meter transfer fee and calibration, and concessionaire refund
- Provide further mentoring to Tag-oyango Cooperative



The Tag-oyango Cooperative, meanwhile, was able to increase membership from 70% to 100%, and all members agreed to increase the tariff by 100% because of improved services.

The SIWASA, on the other hand, is able to expand its services from Level II (unmetered communal tap stands) to Level III (metered household connections) due to the new knowledge and skills gained, thereby, increasing their revenues. The new metered household connection services also led to more efficient use of water which alleviated pressure on their water source.

#### **IMPLEMENTING THE GODPARENT MENTORING SCHEME:**

##### **1. Assessment of WUA/WSP's O&M performance**

The assessment should be based on current performance of WUA/WSP against O&M standards to determine gaps and needs on operation, finance, water quality and quantity, and water system management, among others.

##### **2. Design the Godparent Mentoring Module**

This entails packaging of the Godparent Mentoring Module appropriate to increase the required performance levels of the WUA/WSP based on the

results of the capacity and needs assessment. The WATSAN Council coordinates the preparation for the conduct of the mentoring process.

##### **3. Implement the Godparent Mentoring Module for On-Site Skills and Knowledge Sharing**

The WATSAN Council, with the selected mentors and mentees, implement the Godparent Mentoring Module for On-Site Skills and Knowledge Sharing within the span of time required until the mentees gain the required proficiency and performance level.

##### **4. Monitor the conduct of implementation.**

The WATSAN Council monitors the conduct of Mentoring and the progressive O&M data of the WUA/WSP.

##### **5. Evaluate the O&M performance of the WUA/WSP.**

Godparent Mentoring Module for On-Site Skills and Knowledge Sharing evaluation refers to the completion of its conduct and the O&M performance indicators agreed upon among the WATSAN Council, mentees and mentors.

For more details, contact:

**MDG-F 1919 Programme Management Office**  
National Economic and Development Authority  
2/F NEDA-sa-Pasig Building  
12 Josemaria Escriva Drive  
Ortigas Center, Pasig City  
Tel. No.: (+632) 470-8039  
Fax No.: (+632) 470-8039

**Water Supply and Sanitation Unit – OPDS**  
Department of the Interior and Local Government  
5/F A. Francisco Gold Condominium  
EDSA cor. Mapagmahal Street  
Diliman, Quezon City  
Tel. No.: (+632) 925-1145  
Fax No.: (+632) 925-7342

#### **About the MDG Achievement Fund**

*The United Nations (UN) MDG Achievement Fund was created in December 2006 with a generous donation from the government of Spain in fulfillment of its aid commitments in relation to MDG 8 (developing global partnership for development). With almost \$700 million invested in 128 programmes in 49 countries around the world, the MDG Achievement Fund is currently the largest global fund dedicated to achieving the MDGs. The MDG Fund represents a unique initiative of the United Nations that brings together more than 22 UN agencies and programmes, building on the strength of each to deliver effective multisectoral interventions that improve the lives of poor and marginalized citizens.*



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