

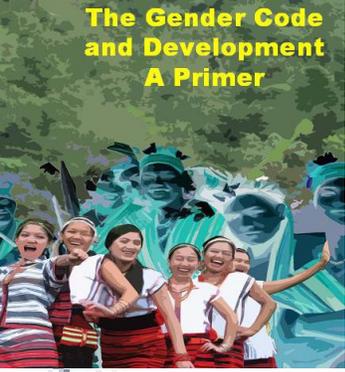
Mainstreaming GAD in Local Policymaking

Development of the Ifugao GAD Code Implementing Rules & Regulations

Case Summary

This report is on the efforts of the Ifugao Provincial Government in mainstreaming Gender and Development through policy development and advocacy. It presents the province's activities towards the formulation, adoption, dissemination, and implementation of the Ifugao GAD Code IRR, including some issues encountered as well as lessons learned.

The Gender Code and Development A Primer



Women in Ifugao, either at home or in the workplace, continue to face gender-related issues such as limited economic opportunities, low participation in decision-making, gender bias, multiple burden, and violence, among others. Recently, however, there has been an increasing awareness of the need to empower women. Measures have been undertaken to increase women's participation in social, economic, and political activities thereby promoting gender equality, women's human rights and empowerment, and gender responsive development.

Crafting of the Gender and Development Code

In 1997, the Provincial Task Force Against Gender Violence (PTFAVG) was created in response to the rising incidence of victims of violence against women and children. The program was institutionalized in 2005 through the creation of the Provincial Council Against Gender Violence and Trafficking (PCAGVT). Likewise, to promote gender sensitivity and encourage fathers to be more responsible parents, the province has developed its Enhancement, Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities Training (ERPAT) program in 2002 and enacted a comprehensive reproductive health care and responsible parenthood plan in 2006. Finally, in 2007, the Ifugao GAD Code was formulated to promote gender equality and facilitate mainstreaming of gender and development (GAD) in the provincial government's policies, plans, programs, and services.

The GAD Code supports and ensures the promotion of women's economic empowerment, gender equality, gender responsive development and governance, as well as women's human rights. Crafting of the Code was spearheaded by Sangguniang Bayan Member Atty. Eugene M. Balitang, the Code's author.

Drafting the Internal Rules and Regulations (IRR), however, was made possible through the collaboration of the GREAT Women (Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women) Technical Working Group, and members of the PCAGVT composed of department heads from the provincial government and officers and representatives from the different agencies and people's organizations.

Supporting Enterprises of Women

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To provide guidance and measures that promote and protect women's rights as well as mobilize and enhance the participation of women in development processes, the GREAT Women Project (GWP) in Ifugao prioritized the formulation of an Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the Provincial GAD Code during its first year of project implementation in the province.

Formulating The Implementing Rules and Regulations

This was initiated by the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) through its head, Ms. Joseline P. Niwane. A series of workshops and consultations were held with various stakeholders, particularly women's groups, heads of offices of the different departments in the provincial government, and representatives from other line agencies and people's organizations. The GAD Code IRR was launched on 12 December 2008 during the culmination of the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) celebration at Lamut, Ifugao.



The salient provisions of the Code include a) health, nutrition, and reproductive health; b) women in governance; c) violence against women and children; d) justice, peace, and order; e) labor and employment; f) environment and natural resources; g) education, media, arts and culture; h) trade, industry, and tourism; and i) other special sectoral concerns such as advocating the rights of differently-abled women and men as well as the organization of elderly women and men.

Provisions In The GAD Code IRR

Though it was explicitly expressed in the IRR that a GAD budget should be allocated in the annual appropriations of the province, no amount was actually set for GAD. Nonetheless, GAD issues and concerns are being integrated into the regular programs and services of the different departments and agencies. A system for monitoring GAD compliance will still have to be developed.

To ensure that the enforcement of the GAD Code would be a collective responsibility, coverage of the GAD Code IRR includes all Ifugao Provincial Government departments, offices and facilities; municipalities and all local special bodies in the province; barangays; accredited non-government and people's organizations in the province; and private or business agencies or enterprises within the province. Implementation and monitoring of the GAD Code was lodged with the Provincial Council Against Violence and Trafficking (PCAGVT) with the governor being the chairman and the PSWDO being the secretariat.

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Gender Mainstreaming In All Levels Of Governance



To make the GAD Code and its IRR as widely known and understood as possible, such as in information and dissemination activities during gender and sensitivity trainings, VAWC celebration, women's convention, orientation at the municipal and barangay levels, and broadcast media through the local radio station at Lagawe.

LGU officials recognized that women's empowerment and gender equality could only be achieved by recognizing the contributions of women in the society. Empowerment is actualized when women take part in decision-making processes through the representation of women groups in local consultative proceedings, as well as in providing programs and services whereby women can derive gainful income. Similarly, after being enlightened of the provisions of the Code, barangay officials, representatives from various people's organizations, day care workers, tanods, and residents began to acknowledge and appreciate the significant contributions of women at home and in the community. They also became aware that crimes against women and children are punishable by law.

Moreover, officers from the different LGU departments gained better understanding of their mandate in ensuring the integration of GAD in all plans and activities, making integrated reproductive health services accessible and available in all health facilities, involving men in reproductive health activities, promoting gender-fair approach to pre-marriage counseling, providing intensive psycho-social and medical services to women and children who are victims of violence, and conducting continuous IEC/Advocacy activities on the GAD Code and IRR, including other related laws and ordinances.

Underlying this achievement in mainstreaming gender and development through local policy development is the provincial government's strong commitment in promoting gender-responsive governance.

Virtually, all GWP areas in Lamut, Kiangnan, Lagawe, Hingyon, Banaue, and Hungduan have adopted the Provincial GAD Code and formulated their own IRR. Also, review and updating of Comprehensive Development Plans and Executive and Legislative Agenda (CDP-ELA) are being done for integration of gender and development, and women economic empowerment concerns in programs and activities.

With the passage of the Ifugao GAD Code and formulation of its IRR, intensified advocacy campaigns on women's rights have been initiated resulting to increased awareness on

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the situation of women in Ifugao and efficiency of reporting system of these incidents to the authorities.

The province partnered with several national agencies providing livelihood assistance and capability building programs for women such as the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Technical Education and Skills Development Agency (TESDA), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

*Assistance
to Enterprises
and Livelihoods*

At the local level, efforts are being undertaken to involve women in enterprise and livelihood projects. The DA is now encouraging increased women participation in its animal dispersal program which was usually male dominated. At the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO), genderized health and nutrition, income and livelihood, institutional development and capacity building, environmental protection, climate change mitigation, and adaptation were included in the components of their special program on Integrated Area Development Assistance Program (IADAP).

The Provincial Agricultural and Environmental Natural Resources Office (PAENRO) is strengthening of women's enterprise groups through its Rural Improvement Clubs (RIC). It also contributes to implementation of the Self Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran (SEA-K) of the PSWDO and women's livelihood groups of the Haggiyo Enterprise Development Program (HEDP).