

Application Form

PART 1: BASIC DATA

Contact details:

CATEGORIES IN WHICH YOU WANT TO APPLY THE EXPERIENCE

1: TYPE OF EXPERIENCE: *choose the most important element (choose only one element which you consider the most outstanding of your practice).*

A) Deliberation Citizen assembly / deliberation workshop / lottery / legislative theater / participatory planning	
B) Decision Participatory budget / referendum / consultation / participatory process with vote	
C) Citizenship Citizenship / community action / permanent council / civic education / associationism / other initiatives to reinforce local democracy	/

2: TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: *choose one only.*

A) Up to 50,000 inhabitants (towns, small cities, rural areas).	
B) Cities between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants.	/
C) Cities between 250,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants.	
D) Large cities or urban areas of more than 1,500,000 inhabitants.	
E) Supralocal, regional, provincial governments	

Experience data: *complete the information below in a clear and concise manner.*

Title of the experience: Relocation and Resettlement of Communities Living at the Shoreline
Name of the city or region: Island Garden City of Samal
Inhabitants of the city or territory: Samaleños
Country: Philippines

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Institution presenting the candidacy: Local Government Unit of the Island Garden City of Samal		
Website of the experience or institution: samalcity.gov.ph		
Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution:		
Start date of the experience: 2008		
End date of the experience: on going		
Budget of the experience: in 2022 – P1,818,460.52 ; in 2023- P 2,071,320.00		
Type of candidacy <i>(mark with an X in the right column)</i>	New experience	
	Innovation on an existing experience	
	Continuity of an experience	/
Type of experience <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Participatory budgeting	
	Participatory planning	/
	Standing council	/
	Workshop / meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	/
	Public hearing / forum	/
	Poll / referendum	
	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces	
	E-government / Open government / Digital platforms	
	Citizen initiative	/
Other (specify):		
	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation	

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Objective of the experience <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion		
	Community empowerment		/
	To empower non-organised citizens		/
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation		
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"		
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		/
	To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy		/
	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		/
	To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public		/
Territorial area <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	All the territory	Local	/
		Regional	
	District		
	Neighbourhood		
Thematic area <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	Governance		
	Education		
	Transport		
	Urban management		
	Health		



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	Security	
	Environment / Climate change and/or urban agriculture	
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements	/
	Culture	
	Housing	/
	Job creation	
	Decentralization	
	Local development	
	Training / learning	
	Economy and/or finances	
	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	/
	All	
Other (write the topic)		
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice <i>(mark with an X in the right column, more than one option can be chosen, you can also add the specific target)</i>	SDG 1 - No poverty	/
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	/
	SDG 3 - Good health and well-being	/
	SDG 4 - Quality education	/
	SDG 5 - Gender equality	/
	SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation	/

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	SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy	
	SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth	/
	SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure	
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	/
	SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities	/
	SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	
	SDG 13 - Climate action	
	SDG 14 - Life below water	
	SDG 15 - Life on land	
	SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions	/
	SDG 17 - Partnership for the goals	/

PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

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Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely. You can add links, images or graphics if you consider it appropriate.

Context:

Samal is a fourth-class component City of the Davao del Norte Province in Region XI which is the first amalgamated City in the Philippines by virtue of RA 8471, merging then municipalities of Babak, Samal and Kaputian on January 30, 1998.

It is a group of islands strategically situated at the heart of Davao Gulf in the Southern part of the Philippines. To date, there are more than 116, 771 Samalenos with more than 26,000 households. The total 46 barangays include 31 coastal areas with major industries on Agriculture, Services and Tourism.

It is geographically separated from mainland Mindanao, yet lies only 900 meters east of Davao City. Its strategic location puts it at the Apex of Davao Gulf, protecting it from typhoons depression. The Type IV climate with rain is evenly distributed over the year. The City is divided into three (3) political districts, Babak, Samal and Kaputian. There are two main islands in the City: Samal Island and Talicud Island, other smaller islands are the Malipano, Big Ligid, and Small Ligid.

Samal has a total land area of 30,130 has and 2, 212 has forest land. It has an estimated length of 34 kms. and 15 kms. width with characterized mountain ranges with 532 meter above sea level (ASL) at Tayapoc, Putting Bato Point. The flat terrains are largely found at Babak District. The sloping areas are mostly along coastal area which spans to a total of 118. Kms.

Precedents:

The proliferation of the informal settlers and squatting syndicates in urban areas and other critical and danger zone areas which are vulnerable to natural disasters and calamities is a common problem in the country.

Hence, achieving the goal “To become an Informal Settlers-Free City” is a big dream to fulfill but it is possible only through the cooperation of all local and national agencies with the participation of all stakeholders towards sustainable urban development and achieving the vision, “An urban center in a garden setting with its constituents living in a disaster resilient community and decent dwellings with tenurial security” as concretized by the birth of the Relocation and Resettlement Program.

This housing program endeavored by the City Government of the Island Garden of Samal aims to provide informal settlers the opportunity to own decent, standard and socialized housing areas equipped with basic utilities such as water, power, sewerage and drainage,

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as well as easy accessibility to schools, hospitals, religious institutions and the like. Further, this program fosters resilient community by providing secured dwelling units to the displaced populace living along infrastructure development areas, danger zones and indigenous ancestral dwellings.

With the collaboration of relevant local government units and national agencies, along with the participation of the community and other stakeholders, it has shifted the approach from being government-driven to community-driven, as Samaleños shared the vision and took action, resulting in the establishment homeowners-initiated communities where hundreds of families now live in a safer and more resilient environment.

Also, the program has led to the creation of thirty housing associations, benefiting 3,663 families. This program was made possible through funds from the LGU, donations from private sectors, and community-initiated support, demonstrating that successful implementation requires the convergence of multiple stakeholders.

Objectives of the experience:

The Relocation and Resettlement Program is a housing program endeavored by the City Government of the Island Garden of Samal whose goal is to provide informal settlers the opportunity to own decent, standard and socialized housing areas equipped with basic utilities such as water, power, sewerage and drainage, as well as easy accessibility to schools, hospitals, religious institutions and the like. Further, this program fosters resilient community by providing secured dwelling units to the displaced populace living along infrastructure development areas, danger zones and indigenous ancestral dwellings.

Methodology:

As early as 1994, the City of Samal began providing safe and secure communities for Samaleño families by relocating informal settlers from danger zones. To encourage these illegal settlers to relocate, the City Government launched extensive awareness campaigns, discussing the impact of the government's project not only on the pertinent beneficiaries but also on the entirety of Samaleños. The City Government also provided financial and manpower assistance to achieve this goal

The turning point for the program was in 2015 when the first community-driven initiative was successfully established which demonstrates the positive impact of housing and

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resettlement programs and inspiring other Samaleños to shift their behaviour towards safe and secure homes.

To further empower the beneficiaries, associations in the community have been established to enable homeowners to convey their concerns and aspirations to through active participation in local councils as a Civil Society Organization/People's Organization. The program has also become an avenue for strengthening people's participation in good governance, creating a more inclusive government for Samaleños.

To support the economic sustainability of the beneficiaries, the government has invested local funds and forged partnerships with private and national agencies to provide training and upskilling opportunities. Income-generating projects, such as the vegetable project (backyard garden) led by the empowered women of the areas which cultivates the agricultural aspect of development by providing seeds and technical assistance to the beneficiaries for them to grow their own food and help them save on daily expenses and ensure there is food on their tables. The program aims to lift up all women and support gender equality in terms of livelihood and jobs. Meanwhile, trainings such as *bangus* (milk fish) deboning, hollow block, and cobbles making are offered to the community, with a focus on women.

Innovation:

The government has been facing difficulties in relocating informal dwellers to a new place, which requires strategic planning, thus, holding orientations and seminars, encouraging the dwellers to move to a new place that is prepared by the local government.

Hence, the city government is the only city that has a diplomatic way in relocating the dwellers without court and execute the three (3) strategies to relocate them in an assured and safer place; **organize settlement, private donations, community facilitated**

The program has also introduced advanced training courses suited for every beneficiary and eco-friendly project like organic container gardening for livelihood. Communal gardens have also been made for all residents of every housing organization, which will help with their financial needs and daily food consumption.

In the future, this endeavor will present resettlement with housing components and designs that maximize space and provide comfort and satisfaction for all family members.

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Inclusion:

The collaboration of different government agencies, along with the participation of the community and other stakeholders helped the vision of the city to provide decent shelter to improve the quality of life through lifestyle changes and opportunities to enhance settler's well-being.

Over the years, private institutions partnered with the city government by donating lands as resettlement areas shifting from usual strategy to purchase lands. Also, other groups of illegal settlers were inspired to establish their own community with the help of the government.

To further empower beneficiaries and with inclusivity in mind, they have representations in the council meetings as an avenue for strengthening people's participation. Also, women take part in the progress of the community through economic sustainability by providing food for the table through vegetable gardening and other trainings as an approach in lifting their morale and support gender equality in terms of livelihood and jobs.

Communication:

The most difficult part the city government has faced in the implementation of the program was in convincing the community to vacate the place they have grown old with despite the dangers in living along the coastlines, simply because their main source of income is fishing as well as the familiarity and accessibility.

To foster understanding and peaceful execution, several community dialogues and public hearing were conducted to attend to their concerns and reassuring them that the government has always their welfare put first. The processes were thoroughly presented to ensure that each step is well- implored.

Also, concerned agencies were invited to expound the benefits, policies and laws that governed the initiative to ascertain that all aspects are well-defined and included in the discussion.

Articulation with other actors:

As the initiative is a collaborative effort of different stakeholders, an intensive dialogue and conferences were held for clarification and strategic planning to ensure that the implementation is successful. Each stakeholders have to engage in negotiating, facilitating, resource scouring and policy formulation to make such endeavor possible.

Also, as this program entails uprooting and changing the way of life of thousands of people, it has taken a great challenge at embracing such forceful move. However, the realization and witnessing the fruits in this battle of providing better living conditions to Samaleños everything was worth the risk and effort.

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Evaluation:

In collaboration with relevant local government units and national agencies, has set a bold goal to become a city free from informal settlers which requires the active participation of the community and stakeholders. Also, part of its achievement is the provision of funds from the local government, private sector donations, and community-initiated support. This collaborative approach ensures the sustainability and effectiveness of the program.

Further, the city government created the housing unit for monitoring and evaluation per indicators set in the program design. Results of the evaluation are then presented to the community and discussed to resolve concerns. Also, recommendations and suggestions coming from all stakeholders were brought to concerned agencies for appropriate action.

Impacts and results

At present, thousands families who formerly lived along the shoreline have been provided with a livable community with economic sustainability and empowered women partaking in the livelihood activities.

As everyone needs a home to be own, healthy dwellings also enhance physical and mental well-being of an individual, especially in a family. A healthy house is one that is secure and devoid of physical risks. Poor quality and inadequate housing, on the other hand, contributes to health issues such as chronic illnesses and injuries, and can have a negative impact on children development.

For the City Government, the provision of decent dwellings with tenurial security concretized its vision as an urban center in a garden setting with its constituents living in a disaster resilient community.

Thus, the Program's long-term impact contributes not only to safeguarding families, but also to upholding vibrant economy and flourishing tourism industry in the Island Garden City of Samal. It has led to the creation of thirty housing associations, benefitting thousands of families.

Beyond improving housing conditions, the program has had a profound impact on various aspects of community life. It has contributed to environmental conservation by reducing waste pollution in the sea and preserving marine life. Moreover, it has led to a decrease in domestic waste levels, fostering a cleaner and healthier living environment. By providing informal settlers with safe and secure homes, the program has restored privacy and peace, empowering them to build a better future.

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PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

The Relocation and Resettlement Program, implemented by the City Government of the Island Garden of Samal, aims to provide informal settlers with the opportunity to own decent and standardized housing in areas equipped with essential utilities. This program not only addresses the challenges faced by displaced populations living in infrastructure development areas, danger zones, and indigenous ancestral dwellings but also fosters resilient communities that are secure and sustainable.

The program focuses on offering secure dwelling units to informal settlers, particularly those residing along the coastline. Samal Island's picturesque shoreline, a primary livelihood source for approximately 3,500 fishing families, presents inherent dangers from extreme natural phenomena and longer-term risks of coastal erosion and sea level rise. By providing relocation options that offer easy accessibility to schools, hospitals, religious institutions, and other essential services, the program aims to protect lives and properties from these threats.

However, relocating informal settlers from coastal areas faced resistance due to deep-rooted behavioral and social factors. Despite awareness campaigns and financial incentives, some residents remained attached to their coastal homes due to their fishing livelihoods or emotional connections. Encouraging voluntary relocation became a genuine challenge. To address this, the program shifted from a government-driven approach to a community-driven model. Samaleños actively participated in the vision, resulting in the establishment of homeowners-initiated communities where families now reside in safer and more resilient environments.

In collaboration with relevant local government units and national agencies, has set a bold goal to become a city free from informal settlers which requires the active participation of the community and stakeholders. Also, part of its achievement is the provision of funds from the local government, private sector donations, and community-initiated support. This collaborative approach ensures the sustainability and effectiveness of the program.

The Relocation and Resettlement Program has led to the creation of thirty housing associations, benefitting 3,663 families. Beyond improving housing conditions, the program has had a profound impact on various aspects of community life. It has contributed to environmental conservation by reducing waste pollution in the sea and preserving marine life. Moreover, it has led to a decrease in domestic waste levels, fostering a cleaner and healthier living environment. By providing informal settlers with safe and secure homes, the program has restored privacy and peace, empowering them to build a better future.

Also, the program is a transformative initiative aimed at creating resilient communities. By providing secure housing options and overcoming behavioral and social challenges, the program ensures the safety and well-being of informal settlers. The program's positive impact extends beyond housing, encompassing environmental conservation and improved



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quality of life as dedication to creating resilient and sustainable communities makes it an exemplar in fostering inclusive social progress.

Further, the city government created the housing unit for monitoring and evaluation as well as in-charge in forging linkages and partnerships to better improve the program and concretizing the vision of “An urban center in a garden setting with its constituents living in a disaster resilient community and decent dwellings with tenurial security”.