



Enhancing Access and Control to Sustainable Livelihood Assets: Philippines 2011/12

This project was implemented by Oxfam's partner, Paglilingkod Batas Pangkapatiran Foundation Incorporated (PBPF). It sought to strengthen community governance, improve household food security, and empower women among a group of indigenous peoples (comprising of approximately 200 households) that reside in the Manobo-Mamanua Ancestral Domain of Mindonao.

Considerable training was carried out by the project through farmer's field schools. Female "para-technicians" were also trained to further promote improved agricultural practices, particularly among women farmers. This was intended to increase agricultural productivity and ultimately improve household food security. The project also established a food bank. Here, households exchange their crops for both cash and food supplies not easily accessible in the area, such as rice.

A secondary objective of the project was to bolster the decision-making influence and power of women residing in its catchment area. The project sought to achieve this in three ways: First, it trained female para-technicians who are then to pass on their skills to fellow female farmers. Second, joint household-level farm development planning between husband and wife was a requirement for support.

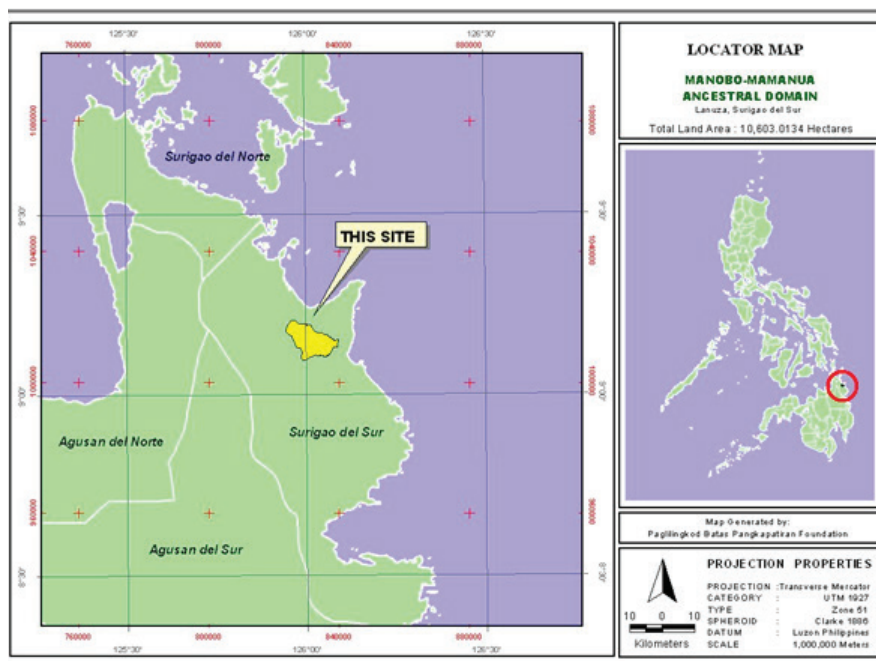


Figure 1: Map showing location of Ancestral Domain located in the Municipality of Lanuza in the Province of Surigao del Sur located on the north-eastern side of Mindanao.

Photo and map credit: PBPF

Evaluation Method

To assess the effectiveness of the project in empowering women and improving household food security, a quasi-experimental impact evaluation design was implemented in March, 2011. This involved administering surveys to 316 household in six villages – three targeted by the project and three neighbouring comparison villages. To reduce bias, propensity score matching and multivariable regression were used in the statistical comparison of the two groups. Progress of the project towards a number of key outcomes was assessed through this process. These outcomes included the extent to which women are involved in household-level decision-making and influencing affairs at the community level; women's self-efficacy; the attitudes of both men and women towards the economic roles of women; and various measures of household food security, agricultural production, and income.

Results

There is evidence that project successfully affected several of these outcomes but not others. In general, there is more evidence that it has contributed to empowering women than enhancing household food security. In particular, significant differences between respondents in the project and non-project villages were identified for several of the women's empowerment measures. These include those related to women's perceived role in influencing community affairs, women's self-efficacy, and the attitudes of men towards the economic roles of women. There is little evidence that the project was successful in improving household food security. However, more households in the project villages reported increases in both agricultural production and income and being in a position to meet household needs than in the non-project villages.

Rating key: ● - Evidence supporting large impact; ● - Evidence supporting more modest impact; ● - Evidence of large impact, but only for specific sub-groups/measures; ● - Evidence of modest impact, but only for specific sub-groups/measures; ● - No evidence of impact

Outcome	Rating	Commentary
Outcome 1 – Oxfam GB's global indicator for women's empowerment	●	Evidence of impact on increased women's involvement in influencing affairs at community level. Inconclusive results of impact on household-level decision-making.
Outcome 2 – Increased women's self-efficacy	●	Strong evidence of impact; women in project sites demonstrate greater self-efficacy than those in non-project sites.
Outcome 3 – Improved attitudes about the economic roles of women	●	Evidence of impact on attitudes of men but not women; attitudes of men in project sites still poor, however.
Outcome 4 – Improved Household Food Security	●	No evidence of impact for most food security indicators; some evidence of impact on diets of men, however.
Outcome 5 – Increased Agricultural Production	●	No evidence of impact on most production measures; however, more households in project sites reported increases in both production and income

Going forward

To ensure the reviewed project brings about greater impact on household food security and income in its second phase, Oxfam is working with its partner, PBPF, to ensure that more intensive support is provided to the targeted households to bolster crop production, processing, and marketing. Monitoring and management oversight mechanisms will also be strengthened in support of this. Oxfam will further support PBPF to gather reliable evidence on the project's effectiveness towards the end of its second phase.