What enabled CHECKMYSCHOOL to operate in a difficult environment like Mindanao in the Philippines?

By Redempto S. Parafina

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GPSA Webinar
Difficulties in Mindanao

- Far from center in Manila
- Frequent conflict and security concerns
- Less involved citizenry, even in education issues
Adapting Checkmyschool in Mindanao

- Shift from education department’s central program to school-focused concerns; from item-specific to integrated checking of school services
- Opportunistic partnership
- Capacity building on social accountability and activity protocols
- Decentralized operations
- Brokering local engagements
- Coordination and handholding via online and offline platforms
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Schools covered</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalilangan, Bukidnon</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Abag Kalambuan, Inc.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midsayap, North Cotabato</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Integral Development Services Philippines, Inc.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alubijid, Misamis Oriental</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Military Auxiliary Service Philippine Task Force Movement, Inc.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marawi City, Islamic City of Lanao del Sur</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Mindanao State University^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Sur</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Zamboanga del Norte Federation of Parents Association*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur</td>
<td>18+6</td>
<td>ECOLINK Foundation*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zamboanga City</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Ateneo de Zamboanga University^</td>
</tr>
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Local partnerships
- interest in education
- established operations, understand risks
- links with education stakeholders, esp. government

*CSO
^Academic institution
Local operations

Launching activity

School visits for data-updating

Exit report and closing ceremony
Gather information/feedback

Send report to authorities

In some cases, reports are forwarded to private sectors

Send response to schools
Institutional support - at various levels
- indicated trust and political will
- enabled free flow of feedback
New school building constructed at Rangaban ES, Midsayap Cotabato, through Integral Development Services Inc. in Cotabato.
Change.org makes a difference in Zamboanga

By Nikko Dizon
Philippine Daily Inquirer

9:57 pm | Monday, December 31st, 2012

MANILA, Philippines—Change.org founder Ben Rattray was struck by one particular petition that appeared on the popular petition website—the one about a collapsed wall beside a school in a remote Zamboanga del Sur town that posed an absolute danger to the pupils.

It was posted by an online group of young people called Checkmyschool.org in October 2012. It gathered nearly 3,000 signatures, enough to send officials of the Department of Education (DepEd) scrambling to inspect what came to be called the "landslide wall" at Otto Lingue National High School.

Sen. Pia Cayetano was sufficiently roused to provide the funds for the repair of the wall. The local government of Pagadian City came out vowing to protect the students.

The ripple effect of the change that every successful petition on Change.org brings is what excites and inspires Rattray, 32, who was chosen by Time Magazine as one of the world's 100 most influential people in 2012 because of how the social media platform that he founded has revolutionized the way people campaign for political or social change.
Lessons

• In a difficult environment, social accountability capacity has to be reinforced by reliable local partnerships and institutional support.

• Proponents must learn to adjust social accountability program to the people and their situation; not the other way around.

• A suitable measure of social accountability effectiveness in a difficult environment allows adjustment to risks.

• To contribute to education governance, micro-level school issues must be consolidated and translated into a policy discourse.