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CLIFF Philippines benefits 160 additional urban poor families in Iloilo City

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<http://www.usnewslasvegas.com/provincial/cliff-philippines-benefits-160-additional-urban-poor-families-in-iloilo-city/>

A project that seeks to address the housing needs of informal settlers, those situated in danger zones and affected by various government projects in this city has been expanded to cover four relocation sites initially benefiting some 160 families.

The expansion project is under the Phase 2 of the community-led infrastructure finance facility (CLIFF) which is supported by the United Kingdom for International Development (DFID) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and channeled through the Homeless International.

Sonia F. Cadornigara, regional coordinator for Western Visayas of the Homeless People's Federation Philippines, Inc. (HPFPI), one of the implementing partners in the Philippines, said that this year they will be expanding to four associations established in Barangays San Isidro and Lanit in Jaro district and Veterans Village, City Proper district.

Under the program, in addition to the lot that will be provided by the city, the qualified recipient will be given CLIFF capital in a form of loan depending on their income with a repayment scheme designed based on their capacity to pay.

The initial beneficiaries from the Riverview Village Homeowners Association in San Isidro will be allowed a maximum capital of P250,000 each while the ceiling as set at P90,000 each for members of the Megaworld Homeowners Association in Brgy. Lanit.

Meantime, each of the beneficiaries from the New Baldoza Homeowners in Brgy. Lanit and at the New Site Zone 8 Veterans Village, City Proper can have a maximum capital of P150,000. She explained that 40 household beneficiaries have been identified in each of the four associations but the other remaining members – 50 from Riverview; 60 from Megaworld; 110 from New Site and 185 families from New Baldoza will soon be covered by the CLIFF program.

The program allows extensive involvement of beneficiaries such that they are part of the project development and planning, housing design, as well as procurement and construction management.

Forerunners of the program also tapped the services of various academic institutions here for the making of the housing design as well as for the social preparation stage of the would-be beneficiaries.

The project was piloted in the 172 unit of community-managed resettlement housing also in San Isidro, Jaro with the CLIFF program shelling out some P25 million as capital. Currently, 131 housing units are already completed and they are about to start with the construction of the remaining 41 units.

Cadornigara said that while the impact of the project maybe minimal still they looked forward to have additional revolving fund annually from out of the payments made by the beneficiaries.

“In five years term probably we can already see the impact,” she said.

The CLIFF program is one of the exhibitors in the week-long “Western Visayas Housing Fair” that kicked off here Monday.

It showcases some of the houses that they have built using the interlocking compressed earth block (ICEB) which they themselves produced at the San Isidro Relocation Site.

It is comparatively lower than the conventional housing technology but it is compliant with the socialized housing standards.