

FGD and KII Transcripts

RELEVANCE-RELATED EXCERPTS

“For me, the grant that MRP provided to us was appropriate because it also suited our ability as women. In particular, the sewing machine that they gave us helped women in our area to earn income.” (KII, IDP Leader, Ditsaan Ramin)

“The in-kind grant from MRP was really a big help to my pharmacy business. It was also timely for the sanitary needs of my customers during time of the COVID-19.” (KII, BRG Grantee, Marawi City)

“MRP has helped a lot in providing programs for the IDPs and HCMs. They did a great job in addressing the needs of the beneficiaries. They worked with us closely in the implementation of the programs.” (KII Buadiposo Buntong, LGU MPDC)

“MRP asked people about their needs. The women expressed they needed support for dressmaking to earn income. During the graduation ceremony, I saw the products of women beneficiaries. The women worked hard and committed to support their families. I talked to the beneficiaries, they are the ones who give feedbacks with regards to the improvement that happened. We really appreciate what happened in the MRP, because the community is really the target, the other programs because they already have the design, let's just say that these are the programs this is what to do, unlike the MRP community to choose. The beauty of MRP is that not only the IDPs from Marawi were targeted, but also the host communities. They made sure that the host community and IDPs can work together. I think this approach is important – that they both benefit from the projects. Because the other IDPs who were able to evacuate here have already settled here, we are not telling them to evacuate because they are already a member of the community.” (KII, MLGU, Bubong)

“They [Plan International] did a lot consultations at the outset such as what program is best, who are the intended beneficiaries, and how to go about it. What's good with MRP is that from the start we already talked. In fact, during the early stages, they always give me updates. Until now, we consider Plan International as a significant partner especially on the business and livelihood.” (KII, Task Force Bangon Marawi)

“MRP is in between a sunseting and a new country strategy. But in both instances, support for communities affected by violent conflict particularly in Mindanao is included in the MRP results framework.” (KII, USAID)

“The co-creation process brought together various stakeholders with multi-disciplinary expertise and experience. Most importantly, ECOWEB and MARADECA who are our implementing partners were part of the process. Their experience in implementing development programs in the area were captured in the process.” (KII, Plan International)

“MRP was the first co created activity of the mission. I found the exercise useful in terms of understanding the interventions that Plan International set out to do to address the problem set for MRP. On the other side, the expectations of USAID as a partner of Plan International and their cooperative agreement. So, it was a very useful exercise to really define the scope of work of MRP. There, we were able to define that MRP will have two pathways of support, and that would be economic recovery and social cohesion. The integration of those two objectives streams are were discussed during the formation process.” (KII, USAID)

“The concept of community solidarity groups was already identified from the get go, even at the co-creation stage. We already know that one of the mechanisms are supporting IDPs and we're host communities in Lanao that we will work with community solidarity groups. We will organize IDPs and host communities together and become the recipient unit for receiving micro grants.” (KII, USAID)

“In the last two years of MRP, we ramped up social cohesion, COVID response, and GBV. GBV funds came very timely because of COVID, and we saw an uptick in GBV. The pandemic restrictions affected the GBV rates negatively. So, GBV increased. It was very timely for us because we convinced the local government partners that one of the harmful consequences of COVID in our secondary issues is, other than the health risks are rise in GBV. So, it came very timely for us. We have been opportunistic, Plan International and us.” (KII, USAID)

“Last year and also this year, we received special funds for combating Gender-Based Violence. In 2020, soon after the pandemic erupted, I made the case a proposal for funding for COVID response. We saw that, especially during the first half of 2020, municipalities hosting larger numbers of IDP families have higher rates of COVID-19. So, we made a case for 1.2 million COVID-19 response funds. That is another color of money adaptation.” (KII, USAID)

“For this particular assistance, adaptive management was very essential. For example, we recognize the color money available. If the money comes from the stream of conflict mitigation, we develop assistance along that stream. It influences target setting. But, year on year it's demonstrable that the targets are met.” (KII, Plan International)

“From the start of the pandemic, MRP actively coordinated with the Inter Agency Task Forces (IATF) of the different LGUs. Specific attention was accorded to participation in the Lanao del Sur (LDS) IATF as it covered the majority of MRP project areas. MRP was invited and participated in a number of the LDS IATF meetings.” (KII, Plan International)

“I always say to the people that infrastructure assistance from the government will end. You [IDPs and HCMs] are provided with livelihood assistance so you will not depend on government support. It fits the context because the Maranao's are business oriented.” (KII, Task Force Bangon Marawi)

“The first convergence of DTI with MRP, as the undertaking was economic, was on the area of legitimization of the business – registration, business name, input/lectures from DTI onwards to securing business permits.” (KII, DTI, Lanao del Norte)

“I like MRP’s approach of CSG organizing. They included both IDPs and the members of the host communities. I believe that such organization is appropriate for socio-economic intervention.” (KII, DTI, Lanao del Norte)

EFFECTIVENESS-RELATED EXCERPTS

“At one point during the pandemic, the sales from the face masks was our main income. Our income kept our lives going during that very challenging time.” (KII, CSG Member, Brgy. Cabili, Iligan City)

“If we compare our situation before and now, now is better. For example, my two sons who stopped school for two years are now back to school because of the income we have from the handicrafts that we make.” (KII, Business Recovery Grant Recipient, Marawi City)

“At first, we were given livelihood, which included sewing machines, and there were fabrics. Those fabrics were used for us to make mokna (veil), and malong. We sold our produce, bought again fabrics to increase our income. It takes a long time to roll over. But we had five cycles. On one rolling, I get P2,000 plus” (KII, HCM Leader, Ditsaan Ramin)

“MRP’s assistance really helped my business. I was able to buy “bongo” (delivery truck) and a mini-truck. As a result, I was able to send my children to school and meet my family needs.” (KII, BRG Recipient, Lumba Bayabao)

“The members of our CSG have a chance to benefit from the projects we received from MRP. And they received trainings that helped them earn a living.” (KII, HCM leader, Women CSG, Buadiposo Buntong)

“MRP has helped us through the provisions of sewing machines and trainings. The income we derived from our products augmented our families’ daily needs, especially for the school expenses of our children.” (FGD, Women CSG Members, Marantao)

“The hijab we made from the fabric earned us Php19,950.00. So far, our profit has reached Php40,000.00. All members received their share. We are now on our fifth cycle. My life before MRP came was difficult. It's hard, sir because all we do is hope and depend on my husband, a motor driver. We rent it, that's our only source of income. So really poor. When MRP came, somehow, somehow, I can say that we got a source to earn because, sir, our arrangement there, the member who sews and produces, they are given income. Personally, if I didn't join MRP, maybe I was just at home and didn't have a job. It's really a bit difficult, you know, the motor driving of my husband, you can't always earn a lot, especially now that there are so many motors, a lot of competition. When MRP came, it was already there, as long as personally, it really helped me a lot.” (KII, IDP Leader, Ditsaan Ramin)

“It's different sir, because when we didn't get a bakery we didn't have much income, then when we got a bakery, it helped us a bit, because we met our needs a bit, and our children's school fees. During special events like graduation a lot of people order from us. We are sharing his

profit. At first, we were able to divide P500 per member. We have increased our capacity to buy food for our family.” (KII, CSG, Baloi)

“MRP helped a lot. Because, the fulltime housewives really have no job and no sewing machine. They didn’t just earn economically, but it also helped every household with small children, they just sewed their own children's clothes. Those that can be sold in stores, was sold. Before MRP, only my husband had a source of income. It was hard. With the livelihood support I got from MRP, I am earning Php 300.00-500.00. I used it for medicine and food. This seems not that much, but it has helped a lot.” (FGD, CSG, Buadiposo Buntong)

“I have observed that apart from the economic and financial benefit, the social interaction among ourselves has also improved. Because without the MRP, the people here would not meet since there's no reason for them to do so. The interaction with other people has been intensified because of the project activities.” (KII, HCM leader/Women CSG, Buadiposo Buntong)

“MRP has helped a lot so far. Because weaving first and foremost, it doesn't happen all the time, for example 8 hours, so the body can't do that. So I asked for looms and sewing machines. When the sales of hand weaving were weak, that's when we focused on sewing because we also know how to sewing clothes and curtains. So, instead of relaying the income from hand weaving we still have income because of sewing. The impact of the intervention is not on me but on my community because I'm just helping them. Somehow, I have a little salary but my focus is really to help my community. At first it was difficult because there were no materials, no equipment. Now it's easy because aside from the grants I received from MRP, I also have friends from other organizations. that helps our coop.” (KII, BRG Recipient, Marawi City)

“During the first two years, you could probably measure the impact of the project not directly on the economic development right away but on the appreciation and acceptance of the community that the assistance for them is anchored on their expressives. Definitely, in the earlier part there are a few who have assistance and may not have been able to nurture it. But they realize that the assistance for them is not time. They appreciated that the help given to them is something that they can benefit in the long term and with other members of the community not only personally. Later on, in terms of economic benefit we have observed improvements. For example, when we visited a household at first there was no electric fan. When we revisited the same household, they have already purchased one.” (KII, Plan International)

“One manifestation of economic improvement is when we visit them during beneficial monitoring, they have improved their livelihood grant and they have improved their houses. For example, they have added a certain section in their house. We have also seen they have purchased additional furniture and appliances. There are instances that I visited far flung areas. I observed house improvements. Given the distance from hardwares, it would be difficult to bring construction materials to their areas. So we observed they have disposable income that they have probably incurred from the benefit they have from the livelihood grants they received from the project. Also, there is always inventory in their small sari-sari stores. Since we do the

monitoring every six months, we have observed those changes overtime.” (KII, Plan International)

“One of the changes I can say is that I have established a close relationship with other people I am not close to because we meet here two days a week because we need to sew. It's much better now that I'm involved in MRP because I seem to enjoy it a bit because I always have someone with me. When I didn't join the MRP, I was just at home. Now that I have joined MRP, I can sew and sell bed sheets. The things I don't know, I can learn from my colleagues.” (KII, HCM Leader, Ditsaan Ragain)

“I think they used to be at home, now they have something to work on. Those women helped the children's education. If before only their husbands were the earners, they were dependent on their husbands, but now they have helped too. In Ragayan, we used to give only what we could see, but now they have bought their own sewing machine equipment faster. Their Madrasa was renovated from Plan International. Because they had another project in social cohesion, that is a group because their social cohesion is making money, so they are helping the children in the Madrasa.” (FGD, Maradeca)

“They [MRP] did a good job, and I was one of them because all the people here, the ones you interviewed before, are the only ones who know how to sew. Before, only a few here knew how to sew. I observed many are interested in sewing because we were taught how to do it during the training. Somehow the women would make money. And I'm happy too. They bought fabrics, made bedsheets, and sold them to earn an income. Something has changed in them now, especially the IDPs, then they didn't seem to have anything, I'm not saying they don't have anything to eat, but now they are interested in the project, it seems that their life has improved a bit.” (KII, Barangay Captain, Ditsaan Ragain)

I can say that economic condition of the beneficiaries improved, because before when they were in Marawi, they had a small business, but now, they have doubled. Their stores have grown more, unlike when they were in Marawi which was small. They have income there in Marawi but their income didn't go down when they were here. So, I can say that there is also an improvement (KII, MPDC, Buadiposo Buntong)

Economic improvement is on meeting the expenses of the family. Their livelihood helped with the daily expenses for their children. For example, grocery shopping on a daily basis. Also, before they say problems. But now they're going with a smile. No more crying. That's in their reaction compared before and now, maybe that's also manifestations that they seem to have recovered at the same time their economy has changed. (FGD, Maradeca)

“We have no issues with the IDPs here because they are our relatives. Some of them have old houses here.” (FGD, Women CSG Member, Buadiposo Buntong)

We accept IDPs because they are Muslims, and Maranaos. They are IDPs now but we experienced their situation in the past.” (KII, Barangay Captain, Ditsaan Ragain)

“Based on our experience, we don’t have conflicts between HCMs and IDPs. They work together in our community. Our Mayor didn't leave for the whole 3 years and they go to the IDPs, we are all with them, and we really go with the mayor, sometimes the LGU sleeps here, because we really look at the IDPs. There is really no discrimination here by saying that you are just IDPs, no. Because life has become more comfortable here for IDPs, so we have more IDPs. But now there are only a few more than 300 families left, because the others returned to Marawi City, and the others went everywhere. But at that time, we were shocked, because even the other municipalities went here, not because we were saying that we were from Buadipuso Buntong, they were joking with us, when they said Buadipuso Buntong was loving, and our service was heartfelt program.” (KII, LGU MPDC, Buadiposo Buntong)

“Before MRP, we didn't pay much attention with each other, especially since I just evacuated here, I don't know them, I'm ashamed to talk to them, my house is just at the end there, I really don't have any friends. I just go here when I want to buy in the store. I really don't know anyone. Then, when MRP started, there were meetings, and we became close. Now, we help and support one another. One of them, sir, is what I'm telling you when something happens, and someone dies? We go there and help that way, and when there is a wedding, everyone is invited. Then there are seminars here, and everyone will be informed.” (KII, IDP Leader, Ditsaan Raman)

“In the beginning those IDPs expected that only they would be helped. They really thought that the HCMs would not be helped. But when they found out that the HCMs were with them, it was okay with them. Even the barangay chairman became friends with the IDP and the host. Overall, I think the relationship between IDPs and HCMs is tight because the process is facilitated for both.” (FGD, Maradeca)

“The CSGs have made requests from the municipal LGUs. They start to coordinate directly with them. Compared to before, they handle this now on their own. The relationship between LGUs and CSGs is open. This paves the way for greater LGU support.” (FGD, Maradeca)

“When there are activities, for example when the projects are received, the chairwoman and the barangay councilors are there as witnesses. The relationship is close because the whole barangay is planning, talking as a group.” (KII Buadiposo Buntong, HCM leader, CSG women)

“Before MRP, only my husband had a source of income. It was hard. With the livelihood support I got from MRP, I am earning Php 300.00-500.00. I used it for medicine and food. This seems not that much, but it has helped a lot. (FGD, Women CSG Member, Buadiposo Buntong)

“The beauty of MRP is that not only the IDPs from Marawi were targeted, but also the host communities. They made sure that the host community and IDPs can work together. I think this approach is important – that they both benefit from the projects.”(KII, Municipal Administrator, Bubong)

“After being displaced, we never thought we would have the opportunity to be part of a community again, let alone vote for our chosen candidates in any election,” (Youth leader, Lumbatan)

“Yes, there is a change in the participation of IDPs and HCMs in the barangay. Like what I said before, they will be fine. Before, they didn't know, but now they seem to know, no matter what they participate. The women you interviewed are recognized as women's association in the barangay. Apart from their sewing, the women participate in the affairs of the barangay. (KII, Barangay Captain, Ditsaan Ramin)

“The IDPs and HCMs are even more eager to participate because they know that they are already part of the community and they are being targeted of a certain project, so they are more intrigued, “let's listen” when the LGU or the barangays have programs and projects they are really attending. They [MRP] made sure that the host community and IDPs can work together. IDPs who evacuated here have already settled in our place, and they are already members of the community.” (KII, MLGU, Bubong)

“We have more participation now in community affairs Sir. Most members of our CSG are women only the president and secretary are not. Also, our relationship with the host community members is okay Sir, because our neighbors here are kind, they accept us.” (KII, CSG, Baloi)

“We are helping the youth and women federations in their accreditation in the municipality. They already have by-laws and policies which are the requirements for accreditation. They can become members of our local special bodies. The women can be registered as cooperative and the youth can be accredited by National Youth Commission. This is important for their representation.” (KII, MLGU, Bubong)

“Yes, I have observed that they have increased their capacity to be self-reliant because they already have newly acquired skills, and then, the others already have skills, they say they sew at home but it's even more enhanced, they are now accepting even uniforms, they sew. That I appreciate Maradeca the way they do, I believed in the saying that, if you give a man a fish, you feed him a day, but if you teach him how to fish you could feed him for lifetime. So good, they have acquired the skills, and they have the tools to do whatever their skills are.” (KII, MLGU, Bubong)

“We still have a plan to go back to Marawi because we have a place there. My parents' house was in my name, and then there was still a place.” (KII, IDP leader/farmer, Balindong)

‘I think that is one reason [inclusion of HCMs] why some IDPs feel comfortable in the local community and they have an on-going livelihood. But they will eventually return to Marawi because they are from the place.’ (KII, Task Force Bangon Marawi)

“There are instances where the sharing of resources to IDPs became an issue. With MRP, the host communities are included. I think that is one reason why some IDPs feel comfortable in the local community and they have an on-going livelihood.” (KII, Task Force Bangon Marawi)

“When we ask them, they really want economic support. That's anchor for the recovery. But we know that we have to invest in social cohesion because they will stay in their new

communities for an extended time. So, in a way we're trying to facilitate the integration of IDPs in their new communities in Lanao.” (KII, USAID)

“In operation, there is a bit of complexity in gauging the performance of the project since there’s no life of project for the most part. So, for this particular assistance, it’s really more of adaptive management and the recognition of the color of money. It is because the source of funds will dictate the kind of assistance that will be provided to beneficiaries. If the money comes from the stream of conflict mitigation, we may develop assistance along that line. There that kind of effect in target setting. But, year on year, the meeting of the targets is very demonstrable.” (KII, Plan International)

SUSTAINABILITY-RELATED EXCERPTS

“They implemented activities that help sustain the business/livelihood of beneficiaries. Examples are the series of trade fairs and business fora. These provided beneficiaries opportunities to sell their products and establish link to the market. Through the value chain approach, we really endeavored to have their products sold even outside of Marawi.” (KII, Task Force Bangon Marawi)

“MRP is conducting monitoring. Then they will look at our businesses to see if they still have the capital or not, then they will look at our products to see if they still have. There are also times they take us to attend seminars like about financial, about business. The seminars helped us to sustain our business. As a CSG we also thought that when we buy fabric, the seamstress has a salary so that she has an interest in sewing, then the one who doesn't sew is the one who sells, and the seller also has a salary. We give a percentage so that the capital is not lost, no matter how small it grows.” (KII, HCM Leader, Ditsaan Ramin)

“First, we ensured that the LGUs own and commit support to sustain the gains of the project. Second, we have introduced the CSGs to the other development actors in their communities. We are not only co-workers, they also benefit from the networks and links of the implementing partners. We also have youth groups that are very active in social entrepreneurship. And there is that conscious push for them to be strengthened and integrated into the ongoing initiatives of the government at the provincial level. So we made sure that in every opportunity with engagement with our provincial government, the youth groups of MRP will be included. Most of them have their own specific advocacy issues such as peace building and social entrepreneurship.” (KII, Plan International)

“There is an overall commitment that we generated from five pilot LGUs in relation to referral pathways for gender-based violence and VAWC. In particular, the utilization of the 5% fund allocation for GAD. During the start of the program, we were involved in the review of their plans. Our participation focused on the establishing or strengthening of the referral pathways. Right now, they are already at a stage of having a written formal resolution for the fight in the five municipalities that I think they are within this year they are going to table the presentation to be included in the budgeting cycle come October.” (KII, Plan International)

“We at the LGU are also encouraging them, because when we federated those organizations, they are not yet registered in CDA or now CBS. For those youth, they are not registered with the National Youth Commission, so we are extending our helping hands through our cooperative officer so that we can register them to have a legal entity that is their organization. Because they already have by-laws, those are the requirements, then the organization, there they are. If there are gender and development programs, then we will target them.” (KII, MLGU, Bubong)

"For the BRG distribution of in-kind inventories, DTI complemented by training the individual entrepreneurs along the areas of business and financial management, marketing – pricing, costing." (KII, DTI, Lanao del Norte)

“My colleagues want to be able to do a seminar on coop as well so that they can understand better what a cooperative is. It is important because sometimes they don't seem to understand me; if I tell them the ways we do, I have a hard time because they don't seem to believe. If we become Coop, many will help with the sale. They seem to be interested in us being a coop so that they don't get lazy so that they understand what we're doing.” (KII, HCM Leader, Ditsaan Ragain)

“The intention of forming the group [CSG] is really not for it to become a formal organization immediately. It's really to simplify and make it more efficient for grants to be delivered. As it turns out, because the groups are composed of people, some have evolved to more formal groups. They now have a formal platform to pursue their aspirations. The grant served as anchor for that design.” (KII, Plan International)

“The beauty of MRP is that not only the IDPs from Marawi were targeted, but also the host communities. They made sure that the host community and IDPs can work together. I think this approach is important – that they both benefit from the projects.”(KII, Municipal Administrator, Bubong)

“There are instances where the sharing of resources to IDPs became an issue. With MRP, the host communities are included. I think that is one reason why some IDPs feel comfortable in the local community because they have already assimilated there and they have an on-going livelihood.” (KII, Task Force Bangon Marawi)

“As a women community solidarity group, we committed at the start to sustain what MRP gave to us. We knew that what they gave would really help us. For me, we will really continue this sir, because we are women. The women are engaged in sewing, and even if we are just at home and we can continue sewing. I see that as an opportunity to earn money. So do you hate that? No right? As a woman, that's really a big help.” (KII, IDP Leader, Ditsaan Ragain)

“Yes, the programs were appropriate because we are the ones who decided that we want to sew. I hope our business grows, not just in sewing. What we want is for us to be able to buy space in the markets so that we can display our products there so that people can easily buy them.” (KII, HCM Leader, Ditsaan Ragain)

“We develop policies on how to manage our investment and income. We set some rules on the percentage sharing of income between those who are involved and the rest of the CSG members. 20% of the income will go back to our capital investment, and 10% is also shared with all members even if they are not working on the sewing machines. This way they continue to participate in our CSG. We believe we need to do this to sustain what we received from MRP. Through this, we hope to increase our operations.” (KII, IDP Leader, Bagoinged, Ditsaan Ragain)

“Giving them agency not only the grants. The grants will give them extra motivation to stay especially if their livelihood grants turned out to be productive. But the agency, they were provided with technical support, technical assistance for the projects. They will also be upscaled, they have additional learnings like basic accounting. They also have other trainings like how to source out new buyers, how to network. They will benefit from those. The mentoring they received like how do you conduct yourselves when you talk to an LGU official because you’re asking for funding, it builds their self-confidence. Whether or not they stay, we’re pretty much confident that they will be productive members of wherever they will be residing in the future.” (KII, Plan International)