

New Program Application: Philippines

Engineers Without Borders 2010/2011

Goal of Application

This application was designed to help you, the applicant, accurately present your program to the EWB-Duke Executive Board for potential chapter adoption. The Executive Board will be evaluating applications on the following criteria: adherence to the [EWB-Duke mission](#), compatibility with chapter capabilities, and ease of logistics.

We understand a paper application may fail to capture these criteria due to misinterpretations of the questions and the answers. Therefore, we have tried to make the questions focused while also as open-ended as possible so that you can include this information but not leave out other important details. However, you *do not* have to answer all the questions. You may also provide more information as you see fit. Keep in mind that this is only the first part of the application process. We will work with you to ensure that we understand your program in its entirety. Thanks for applying!

Process Summary

- September 7: ***new program application available.***
- September 20: ***submit an intent to apply.*** Compose a short description, 3 sentences maximum, of your proposed program and email it to Philip Danser, VP Projects (pad13@duke.edu). Shortly afterward you will receive a response to schedule a meeting with the purpose of clarifying questions on the application and beginning a dialogue meant to strengthen the proposed program.
- October 31: ***new program applications due*** to Executive Board by midnight. Before this time, applicants can request a conference with the VP of Projects and the Executive Board to make amendments to proposed details of the program to make them more aligned to the selection criteria. Any meetings are meant to be a building and suggestion process, *not* a critique. We are here to help offer our experience and expertise to craft your program to work better with EWB's model.
- November 10: ***programs are put to a weighted vote of the Executive Board and the general body*** in a GBM and the preferred program is selected. The chapter adopts the winning proposal and work begins immediately.

Community Background Information

In this section we want to “see” the target community. This means that we’d like to know where it is, who lives there, and the circumstances for residents. How do people live at this site? Pictures are always helpful if you have them. Please be as objective as possible in this assessment to separate your personal projections from reality.

- Where is the site located?

The site is located in Bicol, the southernmost region of the island of Luzon, Philippines.

- What are the demographics at the site? What is the ethnic makeup? What is the language, and who speaks it? What is the religion, and who practices it?

The Bicol Region is located at the Southeastern stretch of Luzon, the largest island in the Philippines, and is surrounded by natural barriers. It is bounded by Lamon Bay on the north, Pacific Ocean on the east, and Sibuyan Sea and Ragay Gulf on the west. It also has access to the rest of Luzon through its neighboring province, Quezon. The Bicol languages are the dominant languages of the region. The Filipino language (Tagalog) is also spoken in northern parts of Camarines Norte as well as in the municipality of Del Gallego, Camarines Sur. Two Visayan languages, Sorsoganon and Masbateño or Minasbate, are spoken in Masbate and Sorsogon; they are collectively referred to as Bisakol. The region manifests a mixture of dynamic culture, resilient and religious people, and literate workforce. Bicol is the one of the most secular regions in the Philippines, as only 55% of Bicol Region inhabitants attend church weekly compared to 68% nationwide. However, the region retains Roman Catholicism as the religion of the great majority. The Catholic religion has the highest number of followers than in any other area in the Philippines.

- What is the political structure? Who are the community leaders? What does the local government do? Is there any political tension in the area? What are the big interests in the community?

The provincial government takes care of the functions which affect the people of a certain province. The province is the largest political unit in the Philippines. It possesses the following powers --- 1) to acquire and transfer real and personal properties, 2) to enter into contracts, including those incurring obligations, which are expressly provided by law; and 3) to exercise such other rights and incur such other obligations as are expressly authorized by law. The provinces and sub-provinces elect a governor, a vice-governor, and two provincial board members for terms of six years. And then each city votes for a Mayor, Vice mayor and 12 Councilors. The mayor is the executive official of the city, aided by the appointive heads of the various departments. The vice mayor is the presiding officer of the board. And the city courts exercise judicial functions. The lawmaking body of the city is a council. Among its important functions are as follows: 1) to levy and collect taxes in accordance with law; 2) to enact ordinances; 3) to provide for public works constructions and for the maintenance of a local police force; 4) to establish fire zones within the city and to regulate the type of building which may be constructed

within each zone; and 5) to provide for the protection of the inhabitants from public calamities and to provide relief in times of emergency.

There is currently no political tension in the region, and the community interests rely mainly upon familial values and the preservation of a traditional lifestyle.

- What is the lifestyle of the typical resident? What is the household size? What is the weekly income and how is this income earned? How do family members use their time? Do they have access to education and/or work?

The people are living in peaceful and orderly communities where efficient basic services and facilities are accessible and affordable. Access to livelihood opportunities is made possible to improve infrastructure facilities. Local schools supply early education up until secondary school in most parts, but access is severely limited by income.

The average family size is approximately 6 per household, and the weekly income around \$14 (32,000 PHP annually for the lowest income populace). The typical lifestyle of a resident is that of construction, service work, farming, manual labor and public transportation.

- How is the infrastructure? Are there transportation, energy, and water systems in place? About what percentage of the population has access to these services?

The region's transportation system is primarily road based, relying mostly on public transportation vehicles such as Jeepneys, tricycles, and motorbikes. Reliance on road transportation is the main reason for the high cost of goods and services in Bicol and is the one of the main reasons why investors avoid the region. Water transportation serves the islands of Masbate and Catanduanes. Bicol has nine national ports which are operated and maintained by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA). In addition, the region has 36 municipal ports, six barangay (district) ports, seven fish ports and 13 private ports. Water transportation also connects the coastal barangays. All the people of Bicol have these services for their use; it's whether or not they can afford it that is the problem.

Basic concrete housing has been provided by the partnering organization, and the area has access to limited energy and water systems. Each family has basic access to these systems.

- What are the largest problems that face community members?

The main problems include the lack of clean energy systems, water quality and transportation, and a central community space constructed for functions and important community gatherings. Also, Bicol is the region of the Philippines most affected by flooding and landslides due to typhoon damage.

Logistics

In order to complete a program in a site, that site must be readily accessible by EWB groups over several years.

- Is the site accessible? What would it take to get there from Durham, North Carolina?

The site is certainly accessible and near to large cities when transportation is needed. Bicol is four hours south of the capital Manila by car. Also getting to Manila can be simply done by plane travel from Durham, North Carolina.

- Are there any grants or fellowships that can be applied to travel or research in the area? In the past students have found money through area specific funding sources such the Duke Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

As of now, there are numerous international grants that could help supply the funding necessary, as well as national grants in the Philippines itself (Rotary Club, Universities, etc.). Also the center for Asian studies at Duke may be a good source of support and funding.

- Where would EWB members stay?

The partner organization suggests that members should live with the community members in their homes, allowing for important interactions and a great chance to experience the local culture. If this is seen as a disagreeable situation, there are also local hotels and lodgings for members.

- Is there reliable phone and e-mail access? How many days a week? Is it difficult to obtain?

Phone access is cheap and easy anywhere in the region. Email access is also very reliable through the use of internet cafes which tend to be widespread. The number of times these are accessed is dependent upon the need to do so.

- In an emergency situation, would members be able to get to an international airport in due time?

Yes, within four hours the capital city can be reached for flight, but there are also nearer sources for emergency care if needed, and airports that allow for domestic flights.

- Are you aware of any significant safety risks in the proposed area such as disease, war, extreme weather or lack of access to medical treatment?

None that exist as of now, and none for the immediate future are expected.

Impact

It is very important that the abilities of the community and the abilities of our chapter align so that we can serve the community in a way that also benefits our members.

- What is the community's investment in this program? How did you find out about it? Were you approached by a member of the community? Can they provide materials? Money? Transportation? Labor?

The community investment in the program is more than agreeable. The community was found through the partner organization as a site they have been involved with, but saw the potential for future change with help from our chapter. We have communicated closely with members of the organization, both in their administration and located at the proposed site. They will likely provide transportation sources and labor, but money and materials are still left for discussion as they are a non-profit organization.

- Are there any other groups (EWB, NGOs or otherwise) working in this area? What have they done? Were they successful?

Yes, Gawad Kalinga is currently in the area. Low cost housing was given to the residents through volunteer efforts and is still in use successfully. The organization has been successful in providing shelter to families across the country, and this region is one of them. They have also partnered with other universities in order to work in regions around the country, such as their work with Georgetown University in Laguna, Philippines.

- Do you have reason to believe that the community has sufficient infrastructure and interest in the program to sustain a project in the absence of an EWB team after completion? In other words, does the community have the capacity to service and provide maintenance for the project independently?

Yes, when projects like these are given to the community, they will closely monitor and maintain them.

Community Partner Information

The community partner contributes a useful perspective in accurately determining community needs, and helps coordinate activities when members are not at the site. Choosing a reliable and appropriate partner is therefore very important.

- Is there a community partner identified for this program?

Yes, Gawad Kalinga which is an NGO built for the improvement of family living conditions in the most squalid of communities through active involvement and restructuring. It is currently the most widely known and successful organization in the Philippines and has provided housing and basic needs nationwide.

- What is the history of the partner? What is their mission? Have they done any similar work in the community?

Gawad Kalinga was originally started as a part of the organization Couples for Christ in 1995, when they had first worked to change the lives of 127 gang members in the slums of Manila. Through the training and education of former juveniles, the organization launched a series of beautification projects in communities nationwide. The first “GK House” was built in 1999, and since then communities have been reconstructed, not only nationwide but internationally in the poorest of regions through the work of volunteers and motivated leaders. Their mission reads “Ending poverty to 5 million poor families by 2024: Land for the Landless. Homes for the Homeless. Food for the Hungry.” And their vision: “Gawad Kalinga is building communities empowered by people with faith and patriotism; driven by a culture of caring and sharing, dedicated to eradicate poverty and restore human dignity.”

In Bicol, there has been work done for their mission including the building of familial homes and basic systems fulfilling the community’s most dire needs. But far more is needed in both these and the surrounding regions.

- Is the partner staffed full-time? Will they be able to do monitoring and coordination activities when EWB members are not present?

No, the partner is not staffed full-time. GK national will do the monitoring and coordination activities though when EWB is not present. They are easy to communicate with and consistently in touch when needed.

- Is the partner a reliable magnifying glass of the community? Are their opinions trustworthy and relevant to the larger population they will represent?

They are definitely a reliable source of information on the community. Their opinions are more than trustworthy and relevant as they have offices located in the region providing all the community with an opportunity to ask for what they truly need. The organization is full of active leaders who are all extremely excited to learn that a group like ours would

like to work towards the same mission as their own. The name Gawad Kalinga calls for a certain respect in the Philippines, and is testament to their generous record of service work.

- Will the community partner be able and willing to maintain close contact with the EWB team during the school year?

Yes, definitely. Residents are willing to maintain close relations with the EWB team.

Proposer Information

We'd like to get to know a little more about you, too!

- Why do you care about this program? Why did you propose it?

We are both very interested in bringing people to our home country, and getting the chance to make a significant impact on a place that we both have a very strong affiliation with, seeing as Moh has lived there for 10 years and Alex is Filipino. The Philippines is one of the poorest countries in the world, and there is so much need that is apparent even while driving down the highway of the main city. Typhoons, landslides, flooding and other natural disasters cause development to be a slow and painful process. Despite this, people are still very happy and love life to the fullest, and because of this we think that the Philippines would be a perfect location for an EWB project. So due to the cultural experience that would certainly give EWB members a new perspective, and the chance to make a truly remarkable impact, we know this project has potential.

- Have you recruited others to your cause?

We have definitely heard of interest from other members of EWB.

- Do you intend to be the project leader of this program or do you plan to recruit another student for that role? Do you feel that you, if you are assuming the role of project leader, or the person that you plan to recruit will be able to take initiative and dedicate the time and effort necessary to lead a team?

Yes we are fully capable of taking lead and would like to take the opportunity to do so. We will be able to dedicate the time and effort necessary and will be more than able.