

Sustainable Livelihood Program in Selected Local Government Units of Rizal Province, Philippines: Basis for an Action Plan

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Abstract. This research assessed the Sustainable Livelihood Program's Micro-Enterprise Development Track, focusing on social preparation, resource mobilization, and participant mainstreaming while excluding pre-implementation, as beneficiaries still need to be involved at that stage. The researchers assessed beneficiaries' awareness and identified challenges faced by implementers. Data was gathered through cluster sampling from 150 out of 234 beneficiaries of Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Cainta in Rizal Province, Philippines, and nine implementers were purposefully selected. The findings indicated that the Seed Capital Fund was the primary assistance modality utilized by beneficiaries. However, beneficiaries had lower awareness of the two-day capability-building activities than other social preparation elements. Implementers encountered problems such as inadequate training evaluation tools, limited space, and the need for an SLP office. Although beneficiaries were generally aware that monitoring and assessment are crucial to government programs, challenges included insufficient contact information and unsustainable livelihood projects. An action plan was proposed to address these issues, focusing on enhancing the social preparation and program mainstreaming stages, using a mixed-method approach with a sequential explanatory design for data collection. By adopting this plan, program implementation may be enhanced. Additionally, the plan calls for follow-up studies to evaluate the livelihood program, assess its impact, and oversee the execution of the SLP Employment Facilitation Track, which remains part of the national government's SLP initiative.

Keywords: Micro-enterprise development track; Seed capital fund; Sustainable livelihood program.

1.0 Introduction

Poverty remains a significant barrier to human development and economic growth, with millions experiencing extreme hunger, a situation worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, which marked the first rise in poverty levels in over two decades due to factors like income inequality and issues of resiliency (Ghecham, 2022.). The pandemic has adversely affected socio-economic conditions, impacting health, food systems, and employment. Nearly half of three billion people globally lost their jobs and other sources of livelihood, including poor farmworkers and cultural minorities, being particularly hard hit. It also highlighted that the pandemic's effects have disproportionately affected these vulnerable groups, underscoring the immediate necessity to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development (Aromolaran & Muyanga, 2020).

The livelihood initiative is a governmental approach designed to combat poverty, in line with worldwide endeavors like the international community's 17 goals for sustainable development, primarily SDG1 (End

Poverty) and SDG2 (Zero Hunger). This program addresses various issues, including the impacts of the 2019 world widespread virus, conflicts, and calamities that affect communities globally (UNO, 2020). In the Philippines, the SDGs are integrated into the government's national plan, emphasizing socio-economic transformation to generate employment and reduce poverty (NEDA, 2023). Through the DSWD, the national government implements the Sustainable Livelihood Program through its MC 22, s. of 2019. This program features two main components: the Micro-enterprise Development program and the Employment Facilitation program. The MD Track grants funding and capability activities to help participants launch or grow micro-enterprises, including skills training and initial capital. At the same time, the EF component aids individuals in finding local jobs through partnerships, providing support for initial employment needs (DSWD, 2019). The SLP is executed nationwide, targeting municipalities and cities identified as the poorest and most vulnerable by the statistics authority agency in the Philippines and the *Listahan* database (Acosta & Avalos, 2018). Its goal is to empower families and communities across all regions, improving quality of life through poverty reduction strategies.

One of the private management principles and practices applied in citizen administration was the NPM in the 1990s, which spread and developed in Europe (Indahsari & Raharja, 2020). Marketization that involves measures such as outsourcing, common markets, contract administration, and market analysis, as well as corporate management through performance incentives, management by results, and a focus on customer service, are also applied to the public sector, often alongside budgetary reforms aimed at enhancing effective management (Bevir, 2007). Reinventing government aimed to make a public sector deliver better services to the people but economizes costs, as explained by Osborne and Gaebler in 1992 (Brillantes & Fernandez, 2008; Rosenbloom et al., 2022). Quality Management System (QMS) to meet customers' satisfaction and regulatory requirements through international standards like ISO 9001:2015 and its application of the PDCA (Plan, Do, Check, Act) cycle in QMS processes, originally conceptualized by Dr. W. Edwards Deming and modified by the Japanese in 1951 (Moen & Norman, 2006; Betlloch-Mas et al., 2019; Gueorguiev, 2022).

United Nations, as an international community, originally defined governance as compound strategies, methods, partnerships, and societies where the public communicates their concerns, carries out their rights and duties, as well as solves their disputes (Thomas, 2012). Similarly, governance creates public and social value, which is essential for transforming and improving public service delivery and responding to prolonged relations among government, businesses, citizens, civil groups, and other partners. (Khan, 2018; Wiśniewski, 2018; Bilan et al., 2019; Monkelbaan, 2019; Liddle, 2023). It also focuses on poverty alleviation, employment and self-reliant livelihoods, sustainable environment, & empowerment. Researchers have further explored governance. The New Public Governance uniquely influenced the administration of people or citizens. This administration model comprises the public sector, business sector, civic organizations, and other societies' partnership or collaboration to respond to the dynamic conditions of society (Barbier & Tengeh, 2023). Similarly, collaborative governance is very important in raising communities' awareness of the distinct roles they can play in empowerment and social capital's role in bringing localities' drive through solidarity and peace-building (Maharjan, 2015; Abubakar, 2019; Afandi et al., 2023; Wisnumurti et al., 2020). This emphasizes collective efforts among stakeholders through integrated strategies. Policies promoting micro-enterprise development through financial support and entrepreneurship training have been implemented to foster local economic growth, resilience, and inclusive livelihoods, aiming to alleviate poverty (Ansell & Gash, 2008; Eadie et al., 2020; Naz & Saqib, 2021).

A livelihood framework for sustainability is one tool that can identify reasons or constraints or improve livelihoods and reveal how they connect with each other. This considers five key capital assets - natural, human, material, financial, and social capital - that people draw upon to build sustainable livelihoods (Serrat, 2017; Li et al., 2021). Recent research expanded the SLF to consider ecological and cultural capital as important factors, especially in developing countries and rural areas (Li, 2017). However, the framework should be adapted to the local context and needs rather than seeking a universal solution. Key factors that influence sustainable livelihoods include capital endowments (e.g., land, skills, networks), government policies and programs (e.g., poverty alleviation, rural development), participation of multiple stakeholders (e.g., government, private sector, communities), consideration of the socio-economic, and political aspects, ability to handle and regain strengths from trauma and distresses (Deng & Zhang, 2020; Fitzpatrick & Akgungor, 2020) – similarly, Knowledge, Attitude, & Practice (KAP) behavioral change model. Liao and Sasaki (2022) cited that this originated from Bandura's social learning theory in the 1970s and Roger's innovation theory in the 1990s. This *Knowledge* pertains

to the comprehension of the acquired data. In contrast, *Attitudes* pertain to an advantageous or disadvantageous perception of a goal, and *Practices* refer to usual actions that are affected by transferred standards of society and their beliefs. This framework helps public administrators measure the effects of their initiatives, trace priorities for enhancement, and enlighten their decisions.

Inclusivity in livelihood programs contributes to national economic development, such as women's empowerment through their incomes (Akter, 2022). These provide them with an independent source of income, higher quality of life, and greater control over household resources (Blau & Winkler, 2018; Kponou, 2020; Gulomjanovna, 2021). Demographic factors, roles, and experiences primarily affect women's business participation. (Gabriel et al., 2020; Solina, 2020). Financial support through loans, tax exemptions, and skills training can help women overcome these barriers and increase their self-belief and confidence. Similarly, women's involvement in making decisions empowers them in their families. In our country, the national government, through Congress, passed policies to protect the rights of women as well as the indigenous peoples (CHR, 2016; PCW, 2016). People with disabilities must also be considered. Factors such as achievement necessities, intrinsic motivations, environmental influences, and transparency greatly affect their entrepreneurial success (Samer & Rashid, 2024). Similarly, there is a relationship between poverty and disability. Many PWDs rely on family and NGO financial assistance through loans and skills training. This underscores the importance of diverse laws with practical measures to respond to these difficulties or constraints (Mulubiran, 2021). In the study on alternative learning programs for the youth, literacy, and numeracy, they improved both learners and implementers professionally and socially. Quantitative research on senior citizens showed that there is a correlation between the provision of employment and education and the life quality of senior citizens. (Baybay & Heria, 2023)

Garidzirai et al. (2019) defined local economic development as a procedure or instrument for improving growth in the local economy, employment, and poverty reduction. Economic sectors for production significantly influence these outcomes. Specifically, services to the localities, businesses, infrastructures, funding, and electricity suppliers are connected to the development of local economies. However, local development is primarily sourced from manufacturing and agricultural activities, but with little effect. Strategies can promote local development through cooperatives (Shava & Hofisi, 2019), infrastructure development in transportation & technology (Kiss & Rácz, 2019; Prus & Sikora, 2021; Wang & Dong, 2022), private-public partnerships, collaboration, and research by higher educational institutions & related agencies. (Quingco & Leonoras, 2019; Chankseliani, 2021; Ramces et al., 2022; Mubangizi, 2022). Approaches to leadership, management, institutional capabilities, and human capital development are also equally important (Ypil & Gempes, 2023).

Micro-enterprises are essential for economic development through employment, domestic products, foreign investment, and community livelihoods (Mabasa et al., 2023). Nonetheless, these micro-enterprises face high interest rates and accomplishment issues because of less business management skills, insufficient monetary resources, limited financial literacy, infrastructure constraints, inadequate training, less technology, and other issues like felonies, torts, and corrupt practices. (Mhlongo & Daya, 2023). Addressing their challenges through targeted policies, educational initiatives, and financial support can significantly enhance their performance and contribute to broader economic goals (Pandey & Chaudhary, 2024). Similarly, successful livelihood programs also require ongoing support, training, and monitoring to help beneficiaries build sustainable enterprises (Valenzuela et al., 2020; Naganag, 2022; Cristobal, 2023; Purwanti et al., 2022; Sambrana et al., 2023; Saguin & Cagampan, 2023). Challenges include a lack of financial assistance, limited marketing support, and weak stakeholder partnerships. However, governments also require dynamic capacities such as adjusting, understanding, and reconciling services based on public demands, resiliency, and online platforms. Technology utilization can help improve local administrations during unpredictable situations, like the 2019 world-wide virus. (Mazzucato & Kattel, 2020; Clement & Crutzen, 2023).

Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Cainta are municipalities located in Rizal Province (Sobremonte-Maglipon et al., 2024), whose communities are vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly flooding from the Marikina River, which disrupts infrastructure, agriculture, and the local economy during typhoons. Environmental challenges, such as quarrying in Rodriguez and the over-extraction of natural resources, have adversely affected groundwater levels and water quality, impacting the local tourism sector (Lichauco, 2022). Similar persistent poverty issues, such as environmental degradation, inadequate housing, and sanitation, were observed by the primary author of this

research, who has lived in Rodriguez and San Mateo for so many years. Nonetheless, participatory approaches that assess community needs, & advocacies on human rights focused on poverty alleviation, mobility, and equality on public service delivery may contribute to sustainable livelihoods (Cheruiyot, 2020; Sano, 2020). To support sustainable livelihoods, the researchers are interested in assessing the SLP's MD Track implementation in the previously mentioned local government units. This assessment focused on understanding the beneficiaries' awareness level and the implementers' perceptions, aiming to improve the stages of implementation through a plan of action.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Research Design

The mixed method of research, particularly the sequential explanatory design, was utilized in this study. Creswell (2003) explained that this method gathers and analyzes the numerical and qualitative data. In the explanatory sequential design, the numerical data is gathered and analyzed first before an assortment and discrete data examination on the qualitative results. The latter is utilized to explain the numerical data results.

2.2 Research Locale

This study was carried out in selected local government units, namely Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Cainta, municipalities located in the Province of Rizal. These areas are categorized as semi-urban due to their closeness to Marikina and Quezon cities in the central region of the Philippines. Semi-urban regions display urbanization traits like infrastructure, building development, population growth, and mobility, though they are less densely populated than fully urban areas (Meeus & Gulinck, 2008).

2.3 Research Participants

The study involved 150 persons of the SLP-MD Track during 2021-2022, identified as eligible beneficiaries based on a final list of priority barangays approved by the national government through the DSWD. Cluster sampling was utilized to achieve this sample size from the 234 beneficiaries from Rodriguez, San Mateo, and Cainta, Rizal Province. This study included all 12 respondents from Cainta, 49 from San Mateo, and 52% of the 173 individuals from Rodriguez, totaling 89 respondents. The cluster sampling technique is applied by splitting the population into divergent groups, usually dependent on geographic locations or other relevant characteristics. This method is particularly advantageous when dealing with large, dispersed, hard-to-reach populations (Blair & Blair, 2014). Additionally, the researchers chose a group of nine implementers through a non-probability purposive sampling approach.

2.4 Research Instrument

The researchers prepared a survey questionnaire. This survey questionnaire consists of modalities of assistance availed by the beneficiaries, their awareness level as to the program implementation stages such as the pre-activities phase, societal training phase, mobilization of resources, and beneficiaries' performance appraisal. In obtaining the numerical responses, the researchers adopted the Likert scale of five utilized by Paguigan & Jacinto (2018). The issues and challenges faced by the implementers were identified through an interview guide. This consists of questions formulated when the numerical data results were analyzed and interpreted. Also, the interview guide questions were validated by individuals of expertise. Finally, the research findings were a basis for the researchers' proposed action plan.

2.5 Data Gathering Procedure

The researchers applied particular steps in the data gathering. After securing permission from the Regional Office IV-A and local chief executive officials of the three municipalities, the researchers administered the surveys to the program beneficiaries using various methods, including face-to-face interactions, online platforms, electronic mail, short message services, and mobile calls. The researchers protected respondents' right to privacy throughout the process. The researchers assessed and interpreted the numerical data acquired through the survey questionnaires, forming the basis for the formulation of interview guide questions. These questions were validated before conducting one-on-one interviews with implementers via Google Meet. The researchers coded the interview transcripts and thematically analyzed the responses with similar meanings. Ultimately, this research's results helped the proponents develop a comprehensive action plan.

2.6 Ethical Considerations

This study was designed, planned, and executed by ethical standards and considerations for conducting research and ensuring compliance with the 2012 Data Privacy Act and other relevant laws that protect individuals' privacy rights. Participants' identities were kept confidential, and their consent was obtained before involving them in research activities, such as completing survey questionnaires and interview guides. Importantly, no research instruments included their names, addresses, or other contact details. The researchers adhered strictly to research protocols, which included the acquisition of permits from government institutions in the setting of this study and maintaining proper coordination. Additionally, SLP beneficiaries and implementers were given adequate time to complete the questionnaires and respond to the interview questions. In all the research procedures, this research assured a higher degree of impartiality, honesty, & transparency in discussing and analyzing the results. Hence, the study was conducted and considered research ethics, including plagiarism-free.

3.0 Results and Discussion

This section provides data results from the modes of assistance availed by the MD Track beneficiaries and their awareness level, as well as perceptions of the implementers for the program execution at the various stages, namely, social preparation, resource mobilization, and program participant mainstreaming. The data below are presented, analyzed, and interpreted.

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of SLP-MD beneficiaries as to the modalities of assistance

Modalities of Assistance	Frequency	Percentage
SCF	141	94
STF	9	6
CBLAF	0	0
Total	150	100

As revealed in Table 1, Seed Capital Fund is the most availed modality of assistance by the program participants, with a frequency of 141 or 94%. Skills Training Fund ranks second as a modality of assistance availed by the program participants, with a frequency of 9 or 6%. None of them availed the CBLAF. One of the beneficiaries said,

"I need capital for my business more than skills training during the Pandemic period."

However, another participant justified that,

"I do have a little capital. However, I have little knowledge of operating a business. I also need to join a skills training program."

None availed of the CBLAF because this assistance mode was only granted to beneficiaries who used it to protect their natural and physical assets. This was likely not the priority of the program beneficiaries during that time. During the 2019 world widespread virus, the Seed Capital Fund was a livelihood assistance grant provided by the national government to the beneficiaries to recover (Manacsa et al., 2023).

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of the awareness level of the SLP-MD beneficiaries during the social preparation stage

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
1. SLP Assembly or a half-day orientation	4.20	Much Aware
2. Two-day Capability-Building Activities	3.93	Much Aware
3. Requirements as to the SLPA Formation	4.22	Very Much Aware
4. Project Proposal Preparation	4.21	Very Much Aware
Average	4.14	Much Aware

Note: 4.21-5.00 Very Much Aware, 3.41-4.20 Much Aware, 2.61-3.40 Aware, 1.81-2.60 Less Aware, 1.00-1.80 Not Aware

Table 2 revealed a total mean average of 4.14, which is verbally interpreted as Much Aware in the case of the awareness level of the beneficiaries during the Social Preparation stage. Specifically, their awareness level as to SLP Assembly or half-orientation was 4.20, which is average and interpreted as Much Aware. In the two-day capability-building activities, the beneficiaries' awareness level acquired 3.93 as an average, verbally interpreted, Much Aware. Regarding the awareness level of the Requirements for the SLPA Formation and Project Proposal Preparation, they obtained mean averages of 4.22 and 4.21, respectively. Similarly, they are verbally interpreted

as Very Much Aware. These findings imply that beneficiaries were mostly members of the SLP association, and their social interaction with each other affected their level of awareness.

Mose et al. (2024) considered self-help groups through partnerships, networks, and entrepreneurial competencies affected by their involvement in livelihood training. Similarly, awareness of the project proposal preparation means that the beneficiaries were already aware of the requirements to implement the SLP-MD Track. In an interview with the implementers on the issues and challenges they encountered during this social preparation stage, they mostly said that the two-day capability-building activities were insufficient to ensure full learning of program participants. One said,

"We do not have a conducive space or area for the capacity training since the program is only implemented by a PDO, a staff of the Field Office, who coordinates with the municipality. We find available places in the municipality to provide us such as Covered-court."

Another implementer said,

"Sometimes, we also conduct the activities in available residential houses." Another said, "There is no designated office for SLP accommodation since the PDOs as field staff are the ones implementing the program during this stage."

Other implementers also said,

"We have only the pretest and posttest results to measure the success indicators of the two-day capability-building activities of the program participants, but no other aspects to evaluate as to the venue, food, and trainers."

Table 3. Descriptive statistics of the awareness level of the SLP-MD beneficiaries during the resource mobilization stage

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
1. Assessment of the proposed livelihood projects before its approval	4.15	Much Aware
2. Direct release of the grant to each eligible beneficiary	4.40	Very Much Aware
3. Full disbursement of the grant as to its purpose only & authorized person to receive the grant is the one whose name is in the approved grant proposal.	4.41	Very Much Aware
Average	4.32	Very Much Aware

Note: 4.21-5.00 Very Much Aware, 3.41-4.20 Much Aware, 2.61-3.40 Aware, 1.81-2.60 Less Aware, 1.00-1.80 Not Aware

Table 3 revealed a total mean average on the awareness level 4.32, which is verbally interpreted as Very Much Aware. Specifically, the awareness level of the beneficiaries in the Assessment of the proposed livelihood projects before its approval acquired 4.15 as an average, interpreted as Much Aware. In the direct release of the grant to each eligible beneficiary, it acquired 4.40 as an average and was interpreted as Very Much Aware. Also, in the Full disbursement of the grant, as to its purpose only & authorized person to receive the grant is the one whose name is in the approved grant proposal, it acquired 4.41 as an average and interpreted as Very Much Aware. These results imply that assessment of the proposed livelihood projects and financial issues requires the highest awareness level of the beneficiaries for greater responsibility and accountability since the SLP-MD Track is usually monetary assistance granted by the government. In an interview with the implementers, they said,

"We strictly implement the release of the financial assistance fund directly to the program participants because we have accountability with the public funds." "We assure that the program participants are fully aware of the financial assistance funds they availed."

In related research, authors considered the necessity of knowing finances for information and monetary protection of vulnerable people (Lusardi & Messy, 2023).

Another implementer said,

"Many participants have less knowledge and skills on entrepreneurship, which is why some program participants cannot sustain their entrepreneurial livelihood project."

Table 4. Descriptive statistics of the awareness level of the SLP-MD beneficiaries during the program participant mainstreaming stage

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation
1. Continuous tracking, mentoring, coaching, and capability to ensure continuous capacitated self-governance & operations of the established micro-enterprise	3.68	Much Aware
2. Monitoring and assessment quarterly, semestral, and annually from the period that the business began its operations.	3.63	Much Aware
3. The monitoring results serve as the basis for actions that stakeholders or development partners can consider.	4.16	Much Aware
Average	3.82	Much Aware

Note: 4.21-5.00 Very Much Aware, 3.41-4.20 Much Aware, 2.61-3.40 Aware, 1.81-2.60 Less Aware, 1.00-1.80 Not Aware

Table 4 revealed an acquired 3.82 as a total average and interpreted as Much Aware. Specifically, the average obtained with regards to the awareness level of the beneficiaries in the “Continuous tracking, mentoring, coaching, and capability to ensure continuous capacitated self-governance & operations of the established micro-enterprise,” is 3.68, which is verbally interpreted as Much Aware. In the “Monitoring and assessment quarterly, semestral, and annually from the period that business began its operations,” the awareness level of the beneficiaries obtained an average of 3.63, which is verbally interpreted as “Much Aware.” In “The monitoring results serve as the basis for actions that can be considered through the stakeholders or development partners,” the awareness level of the beneficiaries obtained an average of 4.16, which is verbally interpreted as Much Aware. Overall, it is evident that the beneficiaries are aware of Much Aware. However, in the interview responses from the implementers, they said that,

“There are available monitoring and assessment tools that we use, but we encountered constraints due to the contact information of the program participants. Some of their mobile numbers were no longer active and valid”.

Another one said,

“Some of them changed their residence or address. Others, if employed, do not pursue business enterprise anymore”.

Odhiambo et al. (2020) revealed a significant positive relationship between tracking progress, keen observation, and assessment for livelihood program implementation. A study also concluded that checking and appraisal significantly affect the successful implementation of livelihood programs (Thambura et al., 2023)

Proposed Plan of Action

The researchers prepared a proposed action plan based on the research findings. This action plan includes strategies, general objectives, activities, timelines, responsible persons, budget estimates, sources of funds, and success indicators. The action plan focuses on capability-building activities, designing a training evaluation tool, conducting consultative meetings, collaborating with stakeholders, and constantly monitoring and assessing the SLP-MD Track program participants. The capability-building strategy involves training on micro-entrepreneurship, basic bookkeeping and accounting, legal processes to start a business, and micro-enterprise feasibility. These will be accomplished within four days. Responsible persons involved in the activity are the SLP-MD Track program participants, project development officers, trainers from HEIs, TESDA, or other learning institutions, and livelihood workers for support services. The estimated budget is Php 200,000, and the source of funds from the national government and support services from the local government unit. The success indicator will evaluate the activities with a rating of at least very satisfactory.

Another strategy to be implemented is designing a training evaluation tool, which will be developed during a two-day seminar-write shop. The PDO, the MSWDO head, and a livelihood worker for support services will be responsible for this initiative. The estimated budget for this activity is Php 50,000, with funding derived from the central government and local units. The success of this strategy will be measured by the successful creation of a consolidated training evaluation tool as an output.

The third strategy is to conduct a one-day consultative meeting involving key stakeholders, including the project development officer, municipal mayor, MSWDO head, and a livelihood worker. The estimated budget for this meeting is Php 10,000, with funding provided by the central government and local units. The success indicator will be through a signed Memorandum of Understanding or Memorandum of Agreement among the contracting parties.

The fourth strategy is to foster collaboration with stakeholders through a series of two-day collaborative meetings. The responsible parties include the project development officer, municipal mayor, MSWDO head, livelihood worker, representatives from universities and colleges (private or public), a TESDA representative, and a business sector representative. The estimated budget for these collaborative meetings is Php 100,000, with funding from the central government and local units. The successful indicator will be measured by a signed Memorandum of Understanding or Memorandum of Agreement among the participating stakeholders.

Lastly, the strategy for constantly monitoring and assessing the SLP-MD Track program participants involves monthly tracing and visitation activities. The project development officer and a livelihood worker will implement this strategy. The estimated budget for these monitoring efforts is Php 100,000, with funding from the central government and local units. Success will be indicated by the maintenance of an updated database system that records all beneficiaries.

4.0 Conclusion

This study revealed that the Seed Capital Fund was the priority modality of assistance the SLP-MD Track beneficiaries availed. The SLP-MD Track beneficiaries have a lower awareness of the two-day capability-building activities compared to the other processes in the social preparation stage. The encountered issues and challenges mostly by the implementers were focused on training evaluation tools, limited space or area to conduct the capability-building activities & non-existence of the SLP office to accommodate the target program beneficiaries. In the resource mobilization, all program beneficiaries were very aware and knew from the start that monitoring & assessment are components of any government program. The issues and challenges faced by the implementers were focused on the inadequacy of the contact information of some of the beneficiaries, and their livelihood projects were not sustained for some reasons.

The researchers concluded that collaborative governance is essential for effective poverty reduction despite challenges affecting human development. The involvement and cooperation of stakeholders with the government are deemed vital for attaining sustainable human development objectives. Furthermore, an action plan was proposed to promote sustainable livelihoods, focusing on enhancing the social preparation and program mainstreaming stages. In addition, follow-up studies are recommended focusing on the livelihood program evaluation, impact assessment, and the implementation of the SLP Employment Facilitation Track, which is still part of the national government's SLP.

5.0 Contributions of Authors

This research has two authors. The primary author is a graduating student in the DPA program, while the second author is the student's/ researcher's adviser. The student took charge of writing and revising the study. At the same time, the adviser played a crucial role in enhancing the research by providing guidance and valuable insights, particularly regarding ethical issues and concerns related to the study's conduct and adhering to prescribed guidelines and formats.

6.0 Funding

The researchers did not receive any funds or grants from any agency.

7.0 Conflict of Interests

There is no disagreement of interest in this research, as the authors are solely attentive to understanding the participants' responses and perceptions.

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