

Rural Transport Training Materials

Module 1:

Policies and Strategies

Travel and Transport in Rural Communities Philippines Case Study

Session 1.1

Part 2

Presentation 1.1b



1. Introduction

Learning Objectives

- ③ Explore some practical lessons from the Philippines experience
- ③ Examine how lessons fed into the implementation of the project
- ③ Discuss recommendations for improving the implementation of IRAP

Session Overview

- © Context of the Philippines case study
- © Analysis of the case study

2. Context

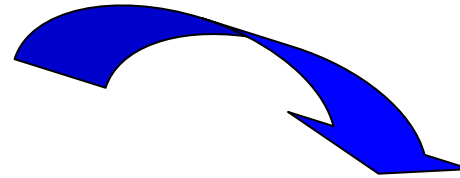
Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning IRAP: what is it?

- ◎ A data gathering and analysis procedure
 - used in local planning
 - to improve households' access to basic goods, services and facilities
- ◎ Direct beneficiaries =
 - local planning and development coordinators
 - in municipalities and provinces
 - provide technical inputs for planning in local development councils

The Philippines Experience

Top-down
planning

Context



Decentralisation

Local government units

Provinces, cities,
municipalities, barangays

Local government code

Greater autonomy
Extra budgets
Flexibility

IRAP

Two types of decision making in Philippines

One

Barangay leaders write priorities 

Submit to municipality 

Submitted to local chief executive

Outcome: list of development initiatives the local administration has decided upon

Two

Budgets allocated to sectors 

Barangays compete for funds 

Outcome: first come, first served

The problem was

- ◎ Absence of sound basis for decision making
- ◎ Planners seldom consulted
- ◎ Planners only consulted once decision made
 - then asked to justify the decision

- ◎ Result?
 - People's goals were not met

Philippines case study



Group Activity

- A. *What are the key issues, and how do these influence the effectiveness of IRAP in the Philippines?*
- B. *What recommendations would you make to increase the effectiveness of IRAP?*

3. Analysis of the case study

Key Issues

identified in 1993-94 evaluation in 13 provinces

- ⊙ Lack of resources for LGUs
- ⊙ Not all villages receive improvements to infrastructure (bridge, footpath etc.) even though IRAP was used for village level planning
- ⊙ IRAP documents do not complement the NGO popular framework (participatory development, consensus building etc.)

More issues ...

- ⊙ Lack of policy from government to institutionalise IRAP
- ⊙ Central government endorsed another local level planning tool at the same time
- ⊙ LGUs seldom tap external funding sources
- ⊙ Legacy of dependency – feudal system
- ⊙ How to harmonise inputs of planners with political agenda

Project's response to issues

- © New module:
 - Proposal packaging & fund sourcing was developed to enable external funding sources to be tapped
- © Project first proved IRAP works, then focused on obtaining recognition from central government

IRAP project also proposed

- © *Accessibility Planning* should address the dynamics of local politics

so that

- © IRAP would be an effective alternative tool for Local Government Units (LGUs)

Successful aspects of IRAP

- ⊙ Accessibility maps produced were seen as tangible outputs
- ⊙ Simplicity, flexibility, adapted to different levels of decision making
- ⊙ Helps conceptualize small infrastructure projects
- ⊙ Provides opportunity for inputs from local planners
- ⊙ Planners share IRAP-based findings with other decision makers, e.g. NGOs

The evaluation highlighted ...

- ③ Planning tools must be simple & very user-friendly
- ③ Local planners can determine what is best for their areas
- ③ Given the opportunity, planners can express their recommendations authoritatively
- ③ Sound decisions can easily be reached if the arguments are based on information that is clearly acceptable to everybody

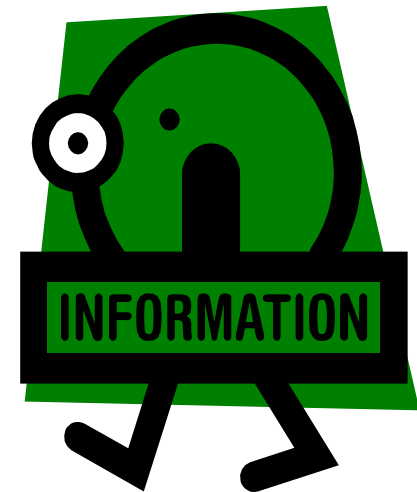
Further highlights ...

- ⊙ Effective presentation of issues and programmes to stakeholders = critical activity
- ⊙ Systems to optimise use of LGUs' resources = essential
- ⊙ The dynamics of local politics can be harnessed to be fully productive
- ⊙ Growing numbers of development-oriented local chief executives

The project believes ...

Sharing of information is
an effective strategy to
address

- ❑ participatory and sustainable development
- ❑ empowerment
- ❑ consensus building



Lessons learnt

Sensitivity

Confidence in the
people

Let people argue on
common ground

It pays to be sensitive

- ③ Understand the policy environment
- ③ Determine the effective entry points in LGUs
- ③ Recognise existing leadership structures and levels/ types of local decision-making
- ③ Assess degree of people's existing involvement and participation
- ③ Be conscious of the indigenous development planning-related practices
- ③ It's easier to adopt IRAP into *existing* modes

Confidence in the people ...

- ⊙ Enhances their ability to learn easily and acquire the technology of IRAP
- ⊙ Is reflected in the confidence and enthusiasm with which they carry out IRAP activities
- ⊙ Makes them effective implementers of the IRAP procedure

Let people argue on common ground

- ◎ Previously, local level decision-making:
 - was vested in the local chief executives
 - people's participation was a myth
- ◎ IRAP enhances participation by ensuring information gathered from the IRAP process is passed to ...
 - association of village leaders
 - local legislators
 - members of the local development councils