



**Mobilizing Older People's Associations for Advocacy in the Philippines**  
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Older people filled up the whole gallery of Congress when they filed the social pension bill on October 01, 2007



# Organized Area



Pampanga

Hagonoy, Bulacan

Metro Manila

Rizal

Cavite

Camarines Norte

Legaspi

Negros

Agusan

Davao City

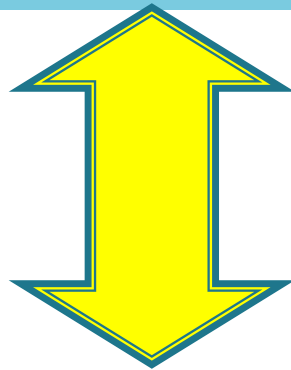


# Philippines

- ▶ As of 2004, the Philippines' population aged 60 years old and above totaled 5,705,591 (5.7 million older persons). This is equivalent to about 6.9 a percent of the total Filipino population. Total population, Philippines = 82,637,000
- ▶ Shifting Population of people living in urban and rural areas
- ▶ Effects of migration on Older Persons
  - The extended family tends to become nuclear in the urban areas
  - No gainful employment (esp. men)
  - Breakdown of family values
  - Begging / homelessness
  - Loss of culture

# Issues and Concern of OPs

- ▶ lack of access to health care and support for income security
  - ▶ discrimination
- ▶ Lack of economic opportunity



- ▶ lack of support from the children
- ▶ Lack of concrete support from the community including the government

# Why organize?

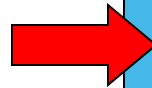
Situation

Point of View

Response



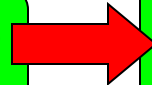
Passive



Actors are the  
Outsiders  
Token  
Participation



Rights Base

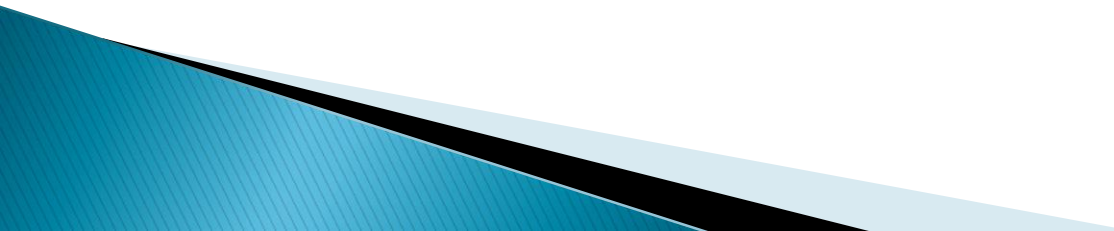


Participative-  
People  
Centered –  
people are the  
actors





**Basis of organizing older people**

- any issue of a society should be brought back to the community the issue of older people is the issue of all.
  - older people have the basic rights to live as human being, to decide on their lives' direction and be the primary actors in pushing for their rights.
  - older people to remain in the community to share their experiences and wisdom, and to teach us all about our own aging and remain active members and be part in the community
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# Community Organizing

A process wherein the people are the actor in defining the direction of their lives, the change they dream to happen. It is a process that helps the older people to understand context or structure that affect their lives and collectively take action to respond towards goals set

## Awareness and Advocacy

Mobilize older people to bring their agenda for policy formulation and implementation at all levels through partnership building, networking, awareness building, active engagement with local government and monitoring the implementation of the existing laws

## Capability Enhancement

Leaders, older people and the organizations

Providing opportunities to bring the wealth in them and at the same time gain confidence in voicing out their issues leading their groups toward tangible changes they dream

# Advocacies of Older people

Older people Taking care of one another – through programs

new circle of friends. As one of the leaders said, ” before we were organized, we did not know each other that well. We just ignored each other if we met. But now we are one community”



## Older people convinced other groups/individuals to get involved and get organized

- ❑ Awareness and conscientization of the identified issues to the older people, partners, and the public
- ❑ Community discussion
- ❑ The result of the first phasing of organizing older people has made positive impacts to the members through concrete activities and programs. This inspired older people in other communities to be organized. Leaders were trained on how to conduct focus group discussion of new members. Leaders together with community organizers went around house to house discussing the importance of older people being organized. More and more groups of older people organized. New leaders trained. More groups were organized. Groups of older people get organized to federation in every city



# Older people talked and convince policy makers Lobbying – meeting with policy makers



# Older people Participate in governance



# Building allies – policy makers, academe, NGOs, key individuals – champions



Media exposure



- ▶ Set as the priority agenda at all mass gathering

- ▶ Participation of OPs in advocacy issues that affect the older people and all the more highlights the voice of the older people among other sectors



- ▶ Intensify organizing older persons – expansion (organizing new groups in regions, enhance the capacity of OPA in their roles to advocate)





- ▶ Capability enhancement of leaders and training new leaders as the advocates and
- ▶ Production and dissemination of IEC Materials




# Older people take the lead–Mobilization of OPs in filing the bill and in participation in mass rallies



# ▶ Lesson form organizing older people



# Lessons Learned.

- ▶ Working with older people starts by listening to the older people.
  - ▶ started with concrete issues and concrete result must be seen so that the older people will appreciate the value of being together or organized. It is not simply doing an activity but the sense of doing it, the process of how they get involved
  - ▶ it is important they must recognize their own rights. It is not about pity but about compassion with older
  - ▶ The venue of learning must always be there so that older people are confident in taking the lead
  - ▶ older people, the older people must be the primary actors, they are not only receiver but they are part of the process of development
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# Key Learning

- ▶ Older people take the lead throughout the process – they are the best advocate
- ▶ Action – reflection – new strategies
- ▶ Building allies –
- ▶ Piloting – translating the idea as evidence at the local level
- ▶ Continuous pressure