

**CANADA FUND PROJECT BRIEF**

- 1. Project Title : Integrated Assistance for Dagmay Novelty Items Processing (Abaca-Woven Fabric)
- 2. Location : Davao Oriental
- 3. Project Sector : SME development  
Cottage industries and handicraft
- 4. CIDA Contribution : Php 848,040.00
- 5. Implementing Organization : Fr. Oming Mapansa Foundation, Inc. (FOMFI)  
Gloria Pobar  
Program Coordinator  
Central, Caraga, Davao Oriental  
Tel: (087) 811-5603
- 6. Duration : March 04, 2005 - April 30, 2006
- 7. Project Description :

The project is about creating opportunities for the Mandaya tribespeople to earn income and/or gain employment through converting their household dagmay weaving activity into a formal micro-enterprise. It aims to benefit the abaca farmers, the weavers who are mostly women, and the sewers (women, men and out-of-school youth who will also train on sewing the dagmay cloth into various novelty or utility products).

The dagmay is a fabric made of abaca (musa textiles) that is one of the most important commercial plants of the Philippines. The uses of the dagmay are varied. In the Mandaya tradition, the dagmay was originally produced and sewed as blankets, skirts for women, jackets for men, hammocks, and "dividers" to separate the sleeping quarters of the couple from the other members of the household. It is also sewed as limbutong (garment) for men especially the Baganis (warrior-leaders), Matikadongs (political leaders and elders), the Yakapula (chief of staff) during consultation and the Baylans (priests). Likewise, it is used as gifts, as a bail bond for arrested criminal suspects, and as means of exchange in trade (barter system).

However, when its commercial value was recognized, a more varied handicrafts and novelties are manufactured out of the cloth. These include tablecloths, edgings for curtains, curtains, hats, handbags, wallets, coin purses, placemats, coasters, cushions, pillows, carpets, blankets, shoes and other forms of commercial items.

8. Beneficiaries : 225 abaca farmers, 68 women dagmay weavers and

9. Expected Results :

- Provided accessible market for 225 listed small abaca farmers and/or fiber producers;
- Provided additional employment and accessible market to 68 identified dagmay weavers;
- Created employment to at least 20 sewers (men, women and youth);
- Increased income of weavers and sewers by 15% monthly (the project, being small-scale, is not expected to provide sustained measurable impact to each of the 225 abaca farmers and/or fiber suppliers);
- Improved the socio-economic conditions of the project participants as to be indicated by their increased capability to procure their needs;
- Contributed to the local revenue generation for the local government unit as to be indicated by the receipts of payments of taxes (business permits, sales tax);
- Indirectly created at least 88 jobs in the municipality (68 weavers, 20 sewers);
- Maximized the productive use of abaca resource in the municipality