

Philippines: NAMFREL, Medicine Monitoring II

Project Adviser: Gerry van der Linden

Budget and Timeline: On September 6, 2010, PTF signed a grant agreement with the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) in the amount of \$33,350. The first tranche of \$15,000 was disbursed immediately after signing of the agreement. The duration of the project is 12 months. However, due to a two-month delay at the start, project implementation began in November 2010.

Project Background and Summary: The partnership between NAMFREL and the Department of Health began in 2004. In 2005, NAMFREL was enlisted to join Integrity Development Committee of the Department of Health Central and local volunteers were designated as members of regional IDCs. Since then, over 1.7 billion pesos worth of procurement items and services have been successfully monitored. In 2009, warehouse inspections were included in the Medicine Monitoring Project to improve the warehousing and logistic system. In Medicine Monitoring II, NAMFREL will build on the experience gained through the first project in reducing corruption in a vital area of public service. This project aims to implement a program for monitoring procurement, delivery and inventory of primary drugs and medicines in 21 hospitals and 7 regional health offices. NAMFREL will continue to work with the Department of Health and deploy volunteers at critical stages in the cycle from procurement to management of stocks of drugs and medicines. The grant was signed by Mr. Eric Jude O. Alvia, Secretary General of NAMFREL, and Mr. Gerry van der Linden, PTF Board Member. :

Project Objectives: The project objectives are as follows:

- a. To ensure transparent public bidding;
- b. To prevent fictitious and incomplete deliveries; and
- c. To ensure proper and timely distribution of priority medicines to intended hospital beneficiaries.

Activities and Current Project Status: The project involves four major activities: (i) mobilization and recruitment of volunteers; (ii) training on the provisions of the Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA) 9184, (iii) consultation meeting; and (iv) procurement contract implementation monitoring.

In October 2010, 32 volunteers composed of 18 provincial team leaders and 14 field volunteers attended a training seminar on GPRA 9184. NAMFREL conducted a consultation meeting in 6 provincial sites from November 12-30, 2010. All hospital and CHDs officials visited agreed: (i) to allow NAMFREL



observer-volunteers to be furnished pertinent documents in the procurement and contract implementation monitoring; (ii) hold quarterly warehouse inspections; and (iii) allow NAMFREL team leaders to be members of the Integrity Development Committee. In November 2010, NAMFREL volunteers monitored a total of Php 184.1 million worth of medicine, hospital supplies, equipment and infrastructure projects in 7 out of the 21 hospitals. As of February 2011, volunteers continued to be involved in procurement activities and were in the process of obtaining documents from hospital and regional health offices, which would be the basis of a “medicine price catalogue.