Applying Open Contracting in Digital Information for Monitoring and Evaluation (DIME) Project

PROJECT DURATION: JULY 2019 to JULY 2020

The project aims for government programs in the Philippines to be designed to include mechanisms and platforms for civil society organizations (CSOs) and citizens' engagement / participation. The end goal is for CSOs to be able to use government data for evidence-based advocacy.

WHAT IS PROJECT DIME

What is DIME? It is a program of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) where on-going big-ticket public projects are tracked in terms of physical accomplishment using digital imaging technologies such as satellite imaging and drones, as well as tracked in terms of fund utilization through budget data.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Outcome 1: The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has included participatory mechanisms for citizen engagement in the design of Project DIME and has included machine readable contracting data in the DIME platform

Achievements: CODE-NGO was able to influence the inclusion of a participatory mechanism in the DIME platform and processes. Particularly, we were able to provide inputs in their prototype of the DIME Transparency Portal. Also, we influenced their process in developing their Operations Manual by making the process participatory.

To date, machine-readable contracting data are not yet included in the DIME platform because of the limitation of the platform. But contracting data are already posted in the platform. CODE-NGO was also instrumental in linking the DIME team with PhilGEPS, who is currently the holder of most contracting data.

TIMELINE	ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED
August – October 2019	Coordination meetings with DBM and PhilGEPS
June 2020	Online CSO consultation for the DIME Process Manual

Outcome 2: CODE-NGO members and partners have began engaging government by providing actionable feedback on DIME projects

Achievements: CODE-NGO was able to create demand from its members and partners in utilizing the DIME portal by raising awareness about DIME and providing them the opportunity to monitor projects under the DIME.

TIMELINE	ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED
November 2019	Capacity building of CSOs
January – July 2020	Action research / monitoring of projects under DIME

Outcome 3: Feedback from projects monitored by CODE-NGO members and partners are reviewed and acted upon by government

Achievements: A policy paper is crafted by CODE-NGO and will serve as roadmap in CODE-NGO's advocacy work for open contracting. Beyond this project, CODE-NGO will continue to engage DIME as part of our commitment in the PH-OGP 5th National Action Plan until 2022.

TIMELINE	ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED
July – August 2020	Development of Policy Paper and information dissemination materials