

PROJECT BRIEF

PROJECT NAME/PURPOSE: Arao Community Infrastructure Project

LOCATION: GK Arao, Barangay Estefania, Bacolod City

PROJECT CODE:

PARTNER:

AMOUNT REQUESTED:

1. What is the Project?

- GK Housing Project for GK Arao, Barangay Estefania, Bacolod City.

2. Target Beneficiaries of the Project

- Families in GK Arao that are relocated by the Arao Family who donated the land to GK.
- GK will also coordinate with Bacolod City Housing Authority (BHA) for possible list of beneficiaries in the city.

3. Background of Project

- The Housing Project in GK Arao, Barangay Estefania is a community-driven initiative made possible through land donated to Gawad Kalinga. With 3 hectares available for development, the project aims to provide decent and secure housing for families in need.
- Purok Arao is home to 203 families, many of whom live in substandard conditions. This housing project seeks to give them a fresh start, fostering a safe and thriving community. Beyond housing, the initiative will promote livelihood programs, community engagement, sustainable development, and long-term progress for the families of Purok Arao.

4. Background of Barangay

- Barangay Estefania before and until now is widely known as an agricultural land because of its large tracts of sugarcane plantation within the area, most commonly called haciendas, owned by prominent clans of the Maravilla, Gonzaga, Alunan, Montelibano, Goroceta and other prominent families in Negros, known for their benevolence in donating some of their properties for social and charitable purposes.
- Purok Arao is a fitting tribute to Aniano and Elisa Arao of Bacolod City, whose kindness and generosity have served as inspiring examples that their 10 children have tried to emulate.
- Aniano and Elisa Arao's success in life are evidenced not only by the material things they left behind but, more importantly, in the descendants they produced. All their 10 children achieved success in school, in their careers and in their family lives. Their 21 grandchildren have likewise carried on the family tradition of achievement. And, as of 2023, they have 22 great-grandchildren.
- This Gawad Kalinga project has been made possible by the Arao siblings' donation of 4.5 hectares, a portion of their inheritance. It gives them great satisfaction to contribute the housing and well-being of the Arao hacienda's former workers and their families, as well as to continue their parents' lives of giving and helpfulness.

- The extended Arao family finds it very gratifying that their patriarch and matriarch are being immortalized in the creation of Purok Arao. The family will continue to support this community in the years to come, especially during the purok's annual fiesta on April 9, Aniano Arao's birthday.
- The Arao family generously donated 600 square meters of land to each family in the initial group of beneficiaries residing in Purok Arao. These recipients primarily consisted of former hacienda workers and their families, hailing from various towns and municipalities within the province, many of whom were rooted in agricultural backgrounds. By providing families with a piece of land, this donation not only addresses immediate housing needs but also contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty and instability associated with landlessness. The impact of the Arao family's donation goes beyond a simple act of generosity, as it addresses the fundamental challenges that the community faces, fostering a positive change in the lives of those it benefits.
- The area surrounding the donated land was transformed into a relocation site under the direction of the city mayor. Subsequently, additional housing projects were introduced, altering the transportation dynamics within Purok Arao. Unfortunately, these developments led to limited access for the residents, and over time, they found themselves somewhat disconnected from the primary projects and initiatives of the city.
- In 2023, the current leader of Purok took the initiative to contact Bobby Magalona, who serves as the Head of Gawad Kalinga (GK) in Negros Occidental, addressing a pressing issue concerning a hazardous footbridge and flooding affecting five households. Remarkably, these households are situated within the 4.5 hectares of land generously donated to GK. Purok Arao is divided into two zones, namely Zone 1 and Zone 2. Zone 1 is designated for families receiving 600 square meters of land each, and it houses the majority of community facilities. On the other hand, Zone 2 is situated near the farm area, separated from Zone 1 by a small creek. The distance between Zone 1 and Zone 2 can be covered with a brief 3-minute hike.

5. Main Contact Person in the Community/Barangay

- Area Development Coordinator - Kyle Adrienne Amor
- Arao Youth Council President - Brien John Villaranda
- Purok Arao Council President - Henry Hervias
- GK Provincial Head - Bobby Magalona
- Brgy. Captain - Hon. Jerry Tingson

6. Site Coordinates

- <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fsoJYkQC76fXTpvB8>

7. Community Details

- Name of the community: Purok Arao / GK Arao
- Location: Brgy. Estefania, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

- Number of families: 203 families
 - Zone 1: 115 families
 - Zone 2: 88 families
- Total Population: 684 individuals
- Land Area Distribution:
 - Residential: 35%
 - Agricultural: 65%
- Livelihood and Skills:

Food and beverage, baking/pastry making, dressmaking, tailoring, culinary arts, automotive servicing, food preservation, electrical servicing, welding, beauty care, cosmetology, massage therapy, and communication and information technology.

8. Challenges

- Community Organizing
- Youth Organizing
- Farm Development
- Waste Management
- Accessibility (medical and educational assistance)
- Overcrowded Households

9. Opportunities

- LGU partnerships
- Active Purok Tanods for security
- Active Purok officers and youth officers
- Facilities: Training Center, Covered court and Farm areas

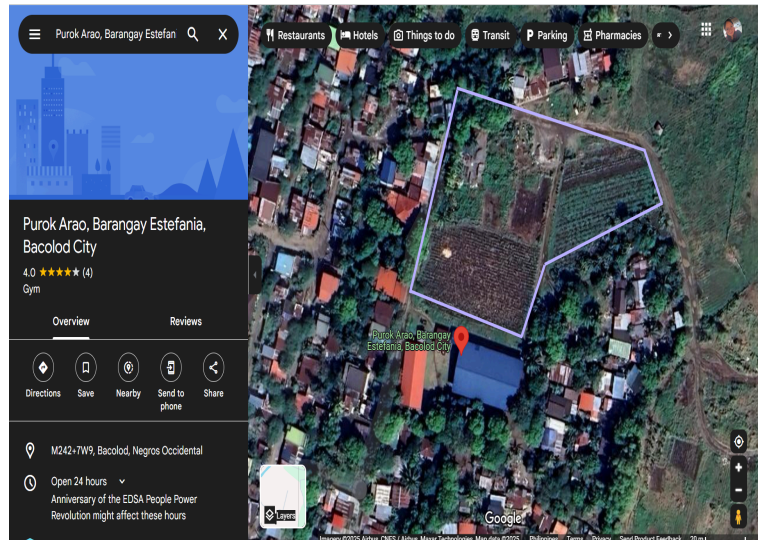
10. Gawad Kalinga Programs: 2023-2024

- Community Footbridge Project
- Bayani Challenge 2023 – Host community
- Riverside Colleges Incorporated (RCI) as Caretaker Team
- Maleta Library from United Architects of the Philippines – Bacolod Chapter
- RCI Learning Center for daycare and ARAL Program

Upcoming Plans for GK Arao:

- Land Area
 - Productivity Hub with partnerships with agricultural companies and SEED Philippines
 - Development of GK Farm for local produce and market
 - Development for additional housing
 - Access to the main roads
- Child and Youth Development
 - Implementation of ARAL Program with teachers in surrounding communities
 - Empowering the youths in Arao to have their own activities
 - BWI Youth Leadership Camps
 - Involvement of SK Youth Leaders in GK Arao
- Education
 - Recruitment of SEED Scholars to help develop the available land areas
 - Partnering with colleges and universities for scholarships
- Livelihood
 - The productivity hub as a training center for skilled workers in the community
- Organizing
 - Community Capacity Building Training
 - Community facilitators

11. Location of the project: Proposed area for the housing project – estimated 2.2 hectares.



Target Implementation Date: April 2025

Budget:

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DATE OF REQUEST: February 25, 2025
REQUEST PREPARED BY: Kyle Adrienne Amor
APPROVED BY: Mary Francis Therese Betuin