

OTHER INTERVENTIONS WITHIN STRATEGIC AREAS:

QUALITY RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES

As one of the most vulnerable countries in the planet in terms of natural calamities, Philippines is one of the main beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance of the Spanish Aid, and is envisioned as a Strategic guidance of our intervention for CPF 2014-2017. The most recent intervention is linked to the internal displaced people in Zamboanga after the so called siege in 2013. This population is suffering now the drought caused by El Niño.

HEALTH

From 2008 to 2014 a sectorial-approached budgetary support operation (SWAp) was carried out with the Department of Health (DoH) of the Philippines, aimed at the improvement of sanitary infrastructures in the rural areas Bicol and Caraga regions, as well as specific zones in Mindanao. The four phases of budgetary support totaled to 11.5 million euros worth of assistance.

EDUCATION

AECID supports the Department of Education (DepEd) of the Philippines in its *Introduction of the Spanish language in Secondary Education Project*, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2012 between DepEd and the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, and the Instituto Cervantes.

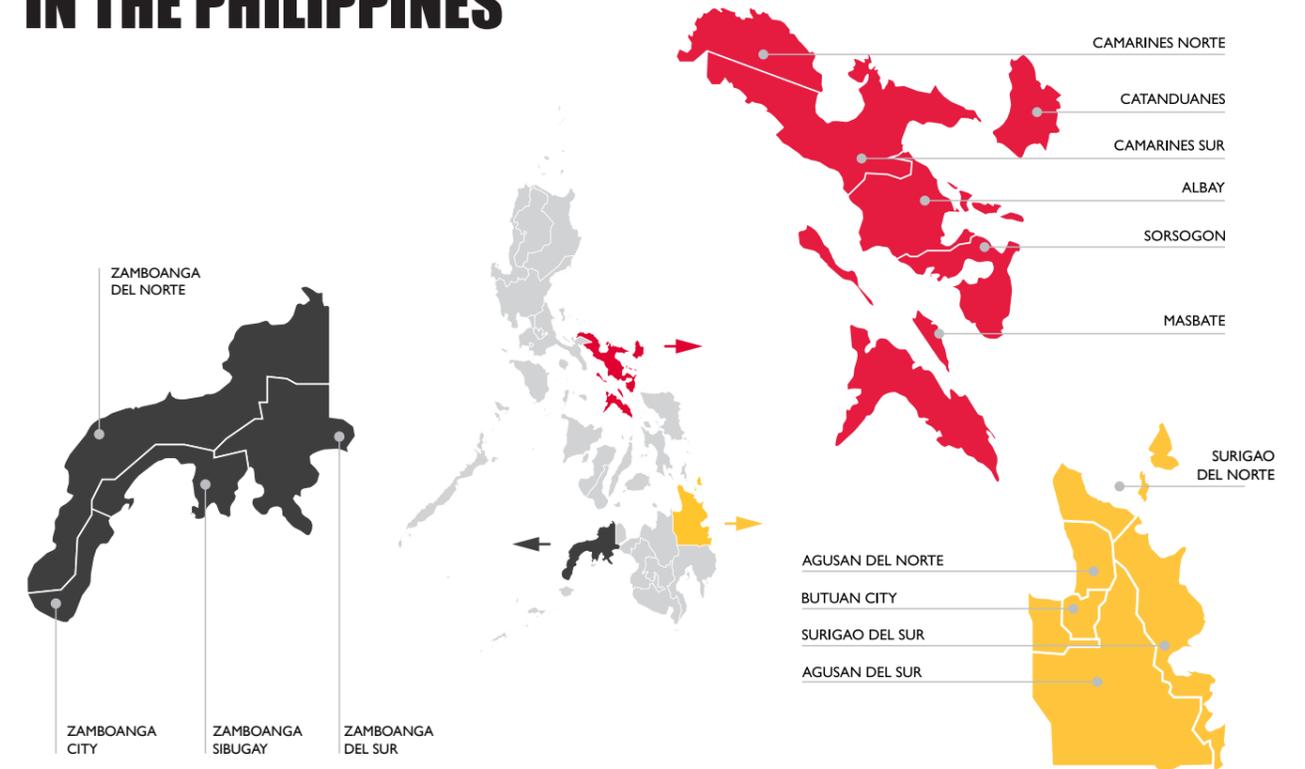
Since 2008, Spanish Aid has been working on the *Escuela Taller de Intramuros* Program, which carries out technical workshops in professions related to the restoration of the Philippine cultural heritage, aimed for the youth with limited economic means and are at risk of social exclusion (Please see <https://etinramuros.wordpress.com/>). In 2014, two extensions of the Escuela Taller were opened in the island of Bohol, where technical workshops will be given on the reconstruction of churches damaged by the 2013 earthquake..



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SPANISH DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN THE PHILIPPINES



GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITIES OF SPANISH COOPERATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

According to *Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2013-2016*, the Philippines is the **only priority country in Asia**. The first mutual Cooperation Agreement dates back to 1974, and in 1992 this relationship was strengthened with the opening of the Technical Cooperation Office of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) in Manila. For the past 25 years, the Spanish Cooperation has consistently conducted programs and projects which have made the Philippines one of the major beneficiaries of Spanish development aid worldwide. **In the last fifteen years the total amount of Spanish**

Official Development Aid (ODA) to the Philippines has reached nearly 300 million euros.

Significant activities have been carried out by AECID with the Philippine government institutions on areas such as governance, support to the peace process, education and health. Additionally, various comprehensive programs have been implemented under Disaster Risk Reduction. In the provinces of Nueva Ecija and Albay, programs for Disaster Preparedness and Response were implemented, thus strengthening the capabilities of local authorities. Moreover, Projects such as Escuela Taller and various activities for scientific and academic cooperation make the Spanish Aid in the Philippines one of the most comprehensive in terms of aid modalities and financing instruments.

Apart from AECID as the main actor of Spanish bilateral aid, there are other

key players tasked to carry out this strategy. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) stand out among the most important entities implementing field cooperation. There are currently 15 Spanish NGOs working in the Philippines in close partnership with Philippine Civil Society Organizations, 11 of which have permanent representation in the country.

Significant Spanish ODA resources have also been invested through the United Nations agencies. Spain has been one of the main funders to the UN System's multilateral programs in the Philippines, with a contribution of approximately 24 million Euros. Amongst them, the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F) stands out the most. The new Sustainable Development Goals Fund (MDGF) started with an intervention in water and sanitation for \$ 3 Million. There are also ongoing projects with UN Habitat and UN Women.

MAIN PROJECTS OF THE SPANISH COOPERATION PROGRAM OF THE AECID IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the Philippines gathers all priorities of the Spanish Aid in the country for the period 2014-2017, which have been formulated in accordance to the IV Master Plan of the Spanish Aid. The following is an explanation of the interventions currently being executed in accordance to each of the two Development Results in which the Cooperation is concentrated.

RESULT 1: The population in the priority areas for the Spanish C exercise their rights as active citizens and is able to access to justice

Spanish Cooperation supports the Philippines in the area of democratic

governance from a twofold, human rights-based approach: the improvement of democratic institutions and strengthening of civil society.

Among the developed projects under this field, it is worth highlighting the *Institutional Strengthening Project of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR)*. Launched in 2011, this project aims to contribute to the improvement of capacities of the CHR within its mandate, in areas such as supervision and guarantee of human rights, and community and institutional trainings at a local level. The initiative KaSaMa (developed by several donors), has been integrated into the framework of this project. Its fundamental objective is to support organizations of the Philippine civil society for the execution of innovative projects on human rights. In 2016 has been approved the GOJUST HUMAN RIGHTS project, which is a new and expanded phase of the above mentioned initiative integrating the support to CHR of the European Union and the Spanish Cooperation, including a delegated cooperation approach.

In support to the initiatives of peace process in conflicts experienced by the

country, AECID began in 2011 a multiannual Project with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), titled *An integration of the peace and development building approach in local governments of the Philippines*. The Project supports the initiative "PAMANA: Resilient Communities in Conflict Affected Areas", which goes after the strengthening of local governments and reduction of poverty and vulnerability in conflict-affected areas, through sustainable rural development, providing of infrastructures and betterment of basic social services. A second phase of this program has been approved in 2015 with a specific approach in remote areas not included in other initiatives.

In consolidation with public policies on gender equality and women empowerment, AECID is carrying out an Institutional Strengthening Project with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), in support of gender mainstreaming in national politics, in public institutions and in Local Government Units. This project is complemented by the Safe Cities initiative, implemented by UNWOMEN and the municipality of Quezon City to abolish sexual harassment in public spaces of the city.

RESULT 2: The population in the priority areas for the Spanish Cooperation increases their resilience to natural disasters and improves their living conditions

Within this Strategic guidance, Spanish aid will concentrate on its first Action Plan, in continuity with the ambitious projects on

disaster prevention and preparation which were carried out in recent years in various provinces in the country.

The Spanish Technical Cooperation Office is working with the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Social Welfare and Development in the enforcement of national policies of Disaster Risk Reduction Management. Those two projects build over a long experience in supporting local governments of

Bicol and Nueva Ecija in prevention and response preparedness of natural disasters with very good results.

The present approach intends to spread out the lessons learnt to other provinces. Furthermore, the Humanitarian Aid Office of the AECID is currently developing a technical assistance, to be executed via the FILAPP, in order to strengthen the capacities of Philippine local institutions in terms of disaster prevention.



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© Juan Manuel Navia - Educational Center and Shelter in Alcala (Laguzpi)



© Miguel Lizana - Tacloban Hospital rebuild with support from Spanish Cooperation



© Miguel Lizana - Zamboanga Shelter Padre Angel supported by Spanish Cooperation