

Philippines-Spain Development Cooperation

People, Prosperity, Our Planet and Peace

Peace Building

Partnering Philippine policies on peace and development with particular focus on resilience of the most vulnerable population and equal access to justice for all.

Context

Peace and Stability are a prominent global public good, a basic element to any development process, and are especially important in strategic middle-income countries such as the Philippines.

One of the key elements in overcoming the so-called middle-income trap is the Philippines' struggle to overcome politically and/or religion-based armed conflicts. These old conflicts affect several areas of the territory and have a dramatic impact on the lives of the population, causing loss of human life, disruptions in economic and social activities and the inability of the most vulnerable groups, such as the indigenous people, to access basic resources.

Ensuring peace and security is one of the crucial foundations supporting the three pillars of the **Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022**. The strategies laid out for attaining just and lasting peace are supported with two major programs focused on the peace process in Bangsamoro, as well as on the protection and development of conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable communities nationwide.



Significant progress in the peace process with Muslim organizations like MILF and MNLF has led to the approval of the Bangsamoro Organic Law in 2019. Consequently, a new transitional authority and government for the **Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao** has been founded. This recent transition represents a new opportunity for the region that must now face many challenges.

Conflict with the **communist rebels** persists in several mountainous areas of the country. However, the fighting has different features depending on the resources and social dynamics of each zone. The government is promoting a localized approach to resolve the conflict with high incentives to demobilized fighters.

The decision of the Philippine government to integrate the **Justice Sector Coordination Council** will also help improve performance in the five pillars of the justice system. This improvement is key in fighting against impunity in an environment with widespread use of violence from different origins.

Strategic Approach

The **Philippine – Spain Country Partnership Framework** aims to increase the resilience of people in poverty and reduce their exposure to vulnerability to extreme events linked to disasters and social, economic, environmental and climate change crises.

More specifically, it endeavors to contribute to the **strengthening of policies, institutions and national and local capacities** to protect **human rights and peacebuilding** under the rule of law, through improving coordination and collaboration between public institutions and civil society organizations.

With the aim of contributing to the development of peace through institutional strengthening, and the empowerment of civil society, the Spanish Cooperation has partnered with the **Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)**. The Integration of the Peacebuilding and Development in Local Government was framed within the Government's national strategic plan for peace and development, known as PAMANA. The objectives of this strategy were to improve local governance, community empowerment and poverty reduction through sustainable rural development, community infrastructure and basic social services. It is worth highlighting the **high-level visits of the OPAPP and the Justice Sector to Spain as the culminating moment of this partnership**.

In keeping with the priority lines of the peace building strategy, several interventions, building on present partnerships, are in the process of identification and formulation. Among them, we underscore the components on access to justice and civil society of the **Support to Bangsamoro Transition program, SUBATRA**, jointly funded by the European Union and the Spanish Cooperation.

Furthermore, the Philippine government has requested support for the **reconstruction of Marawi** areas most affected by the 2017 conflict. The Spanish Cooperation is working jointly with the World bank to contribute to its reconstruction.



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Peace Building main actions

Relying on the Country Partnership Framework, ongoing interventions in peace and development are guided by the following priority lines:

- Supporting Philippine localized, inclusive and participatory peace and development policies in areas affected by conflict and violence with a focus on most vulnerable population resilience – specifically considering gender equality and indigenous population.
- Contributing to access to justice of the population in areas affected by conflict and normalization with transitional justice, culture of peace and human rights approaches.
- Supporting the implementation of policies for socio-economic development, including infrastructure, with a resilience approach within the framework of the plans for normalization, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Promoting partnerships among government institutions, civil society and other private sector organizations.

In this regard, the current peace building portfolio includes the following interventions:

Main Implementation partner	Intervention title	Total Grant	Location
OPPAP	<i>Inclusive growth for all: Bringing Peace Dividends (livelihood support) to communities affected by armed conflicts</i>	1.000.000 €	National
CFSI (MTF)	<i>Promoting access to basic social services and strengthening capacities of conflict-affected Mindanao communities</i>	1.000.000 €	Mindanao
IAG	<i>Modelling Inter-LGU Alliance in Basilan</i>	800.000 €	Basilan, Mindanao
CBCS	<i>Advance Transitional Justice</i>	240.000 €	Mindanao
ATENEO de Manila	<i>Building capacities for mainstreaming peacebuilding and community security management approaches</i>	100.000 €	National
PBSP	<i>Systems Strengthening Towards Effective Youth Development, Lanao del Sur</i>	300.000 €	Lanao del Sur, Mindanao
Manos Unidas	<i>Promoting social cohesion and human security to face the systematic violation of the human rights suffered by the vulnerable population of Zamboanga and Basilan, in a context of absence of peace, inequality, exclusion and a high vulnerability to disasters and climate change</i>	2.500.000 €	Zamboanga City and Basilan
Concordia y Libertad	<i>Strengthening professional skills, civic engagement and employability of youth and displaced women in Marawi and Zamboanga, Mindanao</i>	587.062 €	Marawi and Zamboanga, Mindanao