

INTEGRATION OF THE PEACE BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT APPROACH INTO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

CONTEXT

Armed conflicts that have taken place in the Philippines in the last fifty years have produced a very negative effect on the lives of the Filipinos: causing loss of human lives, serious interruptions of economic and social activities, and the inability of vulnerable groups – among them, the indigenous peoples -- to access basic resources. Given this reality, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) committed in 2010 to the new peace initiatives of the Philippine Government, by running a pilot project with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) in the Province of Sorsogon (Bicol). The objective of the said project was to create a model for the construction of a culture of peace and participatory development that could be replicable in other conflict-stricken areas in the country.

With this experience, the AECID undertook from 2011 to 2017 a multi-year project with OPAPP to contribute to the development of peace in the Philippines, through institutional strengthening -- both national and local -- and the empowerment of civil society. The *Integration of the Peacebuilding and Development in Local Government of the Philippines* project was framed within the Government's national strategic plan for peace and development, known as PAMANA. Its first stage was focused on improving the capacities of local governments to prevent and manage conflicts and promote inclusive local development.

As a continuation of this project, a new collaboration between OPAPP and AECID was initiated in 2017: *Consolidating the benefits of peace in the communities affected by armed conflicts in the Philippines*. The project aims to strengthen confidence in the peace process by promoting the development of communities affected by armed conflict by increasing their income opportunities. The project is then focused in fifteen (15) conflict-affected barangays covered by existing peace agreements, more specifically in the following peace and conflict areas:

1. Areas under peace agreement implementation or post-conflict situation (e.g. Mountain Province for Cordillera People's Liberation Army peace negotiations and Negros Oriental for Revolutionary Proletariat Army peace negotiations) where the whole bureaucracy of government is addressing the peace and development concerns in these areas.
2. Conflict-affected areas where parallel development can be initiated while the peace negotiations are ongoing.
3. Areas where indigenous peoples are predominant.

Through the development of a capacity building framework, the intervention fosters LGUs, CSOs and community participation and accountability to properly implement and monitor conflict-sensitive and peace promoting (CSPP) livelihood projects in the targeted areas.



PROJECT INFORMATION

DAC/CRS Code: 15220

Sector of operation:

- Peace building and conflict prevention

Managing agency:

- AECID

Executing Government agencies:

- Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
- Co-executors: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG); Local Government Units (LGUs); civil society and private sector.

Duration:

- Project 1: December 2011-June 2017.
- Project 2: October 2017-September 2020.

Areas of intervention:

- Philippines (entire country)

AECID Contributions:

- 2011 Grant: 1.500.000 €
- 2015 Grant: 500.000 €

TOTAL	2.000.000 €
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