

# MAPPING AUSAID'S ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE PHILIPPINES COUNTRY PROGRAM

A SNAPSHOT OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2007-2008

JULY 2010

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## ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANCP	AusAID NGO Cooperation Program
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This mapping exercise characterises and quantifies AusAID's engagement with civil society in the Philippines during the 2007/08 financial year. It contributes to the Office of Development Effectiveness's evaluation of AusAID's civil society engagement, providing a basis for understanding the nature of AusAID's engagement with civil society in the Philippines.

AusAID's engagement with civil society in 2007/08 broadly contributed towards achievement of the *Australia-Philippines Development Assistance Strategy 2007-11*, with major civil society initiatives contributing towards the strategy objectives of economic growth, basic education and national stability and human security. However, this is not an explicit approach, with the strategy making little mention of working with civil society.

Total AusAID country program expenditure in the Philippines for 2007/08 was \$37.9 million. Of this funding, 42 per cent of the total expenditure was on 13 initiatives engaging with civil society, either directly through the Philippines civil society organisations or through intermediaries (such as development contractors or international non-government organisations).

- > One per cent of the total expenditure was through direct financial agreements with the Philippines civil society organisations, usually as part of initiatives involving other organisations (totalling \$0.9 million);
- > Forty-one per cent of the total expenditure was to intermediary organisations that were funded to engage with the Philippines civil society organisations as a primary part of the initiative (totalling \$35.7 million).

In addition, AusAID contributed \$1.7 million to AusAID-NGO Cooperation Program projects that were implemented in the Philippines.

There was a range of reasons for engaging with civil society. The Philippines country program supported civil society organisations to contribute to the peace process in Mindanao, to delivery basic education and health services, and to participant in local governance processes. Two major grant programs also supported a range of civil society local-level initiatives across the country.

There were three Philippines civil society organisations which received direct funding from AusAID in 2007/08: the Philippines National Red Cross, the Mindanao Commission on Women, and the Institute for Autonomy and Governance. Direct funding to the Philippines civil society organisations accounted for 2.5 per cent of total expenditure on initiatives with substantial civil society engagement. Funding for these organisations in 2007/08 ranged from \$600,000 to \$100,000.

It was more common for AusAID to engage with civil society though intermediaries than to directly engage with civil society organisations. AusAID funded a range of different organisations to implement an initiative, who engaged with civil society as part of that implementation. Civil society engagement through intermediaries

accounted for 97.5 per cent of expenditure on initiatives with substantial civil society engagement.

AusAID's intermediaries for working with civil society were private companies (seven organisations), multi-lateral organisations (three organisations) international non-government organisations (two organisations), and one Government of Australia agency. There were no faith based organisations funded for civil society engagement.

The majority of funding through intermediaries went to three private companies managing small grants and service delivery initiatives, and as delegated cooperation through two United Nations agencies.

Civil society engagement was characterised by intermediaries engaging with a wider range of civil society organisations as development partners, often in creating networks of local level state actors and civil society organisations to achieve a common objective.

The aid modality (the way AusAID channelled support) for the majority of initiatives with substantial civil society engagement was project funding. Expenditure for four initiatives was channelled through multi-donor pooled funds. There were no cases of core funding identified.

With some exceptions (e.g. support to the Mindanao Commission on Women), gender sensitivity was lacking from the majority of initiatives considered.

In addition to the initiatives considered, AusAID strengthened civil society through volunteer programs. Thirty-nine volunteers to the Philippines were funded in 2007/08 by the Australia Government Volunteer Program. Nearly 75 per cent of these volunteer assignments were hosted by civil society organisations.

Areas for improving engagement with civil society that the Philippines program might consider include exploring whether there are organisations that might benefit from core funding, after due consideration of the risks.

## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

This mapping exercise characterises and quantifies AusAID's engagement with civil society in the Philippines during the 2007/08 financial year. It contributes to the Office of Development Effectiveness's evaluation of AusAID's civil society engagement,<sup>1</sup> providing a basis for understanding the nature of AusAID's engagement with civil society in the Philippines.

This report is complemented by case studies of the Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program and the School-based Procurement Watch project (*Bantay Eskuwela*).

### Method

The exercise identified 13 Philippines country program initiatives that involved civil society as a primary objective. In addition, 16 projects in the Philippines funded under the AusAID-NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) involved civil society.

Key informants from the country program identified which initiatives included civil society engagement. Documents were sourced, reviewed and summarised into individual summary tables, and the initiatives were further filtered into those with a primary civil society engagement component and those with only minor civil society engagement. Initiatives with minor civil society engagement were excluded from the scope. The summary tables were verified by the Philippines program activity managers, where available, and provide the basis for the analysis presented in this report.

The primary data collection, analysis and drafting of the report were conducted by the Effective Development Group between June and August 2009. Further data analysis and finalisation of the report was conducted by the Office of Development Effectiveness between April and July 2010.

For the purpose of the mapping exercise this report looks at the reasons for donor engagement with civil society as falling under three main categories:

- > 'to strengthen civil society' by building the internal capacity of civil society and the environment in which it operates;
- > 'to deliver services', civil society being an active part of development programs which pursue public good; and

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<sup>1</sup> For purpose and scope of review refer to *AusAID's Engagement with Civil Society: Evaluation Plan*, which is available at <http://www.ode.usaid.gov.au/publications/evaluations.html>

- > to 'increase voice and accountability' by promoting citizen participation with civil society seen as an essential component of an accountable and effective governance system.

### Limitations

The following caveats are made:

- > The report is based on the information available, with some initiatives having limited documentation for consideration.
- > Due to limited information, the mapping exercise did not include scholarship programs, core funding to multilateral organisations, humanitarian assistance or volunteer programs, although a short commentary is made on the latter.
- > The mapping exercise could not determine how much expenditure on regional programs or global programs involved civil society engagement, with the exception of ANCP.
- > The mapping exercise has endeavoured to consider all initiatives which engaged with civil society in the Philippines in 2007/08, however, it is recognised that given the desk based nature of the exercise some activities may have been overlooked.
- > Where an initiative includes both civil society engagement and other activities, it was not possible to determine the amount of expenditure within the initiative that went to civil society engagement.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF AUSAID'S ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

### Alignment with the country program strategy

AusAID's engagement with civil society in 2007/08 broadly contributed towards achievement of the *Australia-Philippines Development Assistance Strategy 2007-11*.

The overarching objective of the *Australia-Philippines Development Assistance Strategy 2007-11*, in line with the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan 2004-10, is 'to contribute to improving the prospects for economic growth, poverty reduction and national stability in the Philippines'.<sup>2</sup> The three pillars under this objective are:

- > Economic Growth
- > Basic Education
- > National Stability and Human Security.<sup>3</sup>

Civil society has little mention in the strategy with the only reference made being under the third pillar where it discusses partnerships with local community, faith-based and non-government organisations as being central to a participative approach to peace building. However, the mapping exercise identified a number of initiatives which involved civil society contributing to the three country strategy pillars, including:

- > contributing to local economic development and participatory local governance;
- > supporting the accountability of school-based management to local school communities;
- > contributing to the peace process in Mindanao; and
- > supporting human security through health, population and disaster preparedness.

### Expenditure on civil society

Total AusAID country program expenditure in the Philippines for 2007/08 was \$37.9 million.<sup>4</sup>

Of this funding, 42 per cent of the total expenditure was on initiatives with major civil society engagement through the Philippines civil society organisations or intermediaries (such as development contractors or international NGOs).

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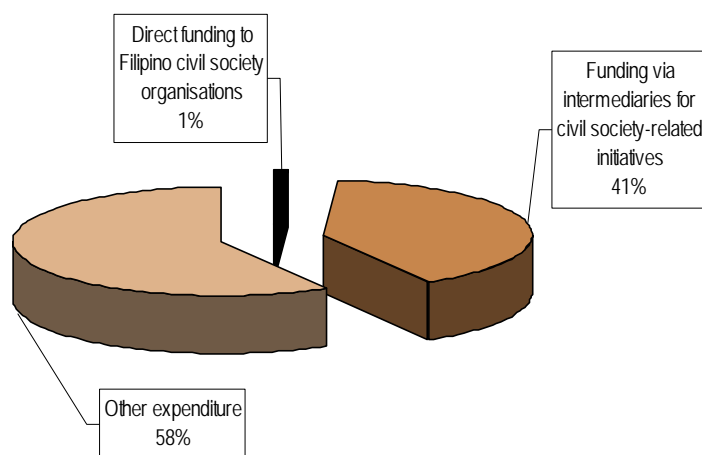
<sup>2</sup> *Australia-Philippines Development Assistance Strategy 2007-11*, May 2007:9.

<sup>3</sup> The mapping exercise focused on the country strategy objectives current in 2007/08. It did not consider analytical and scoping activities currently underway that are related to development of a new country strategy.

<sup>4</sup> AusAID country program expenditure includes bilateral and regional programs. It excludes global programs (such as scholarships, volunteers, ANCP) and expenditure by other government departments.

- > one per cent of the total expenditure was through direct financial agreements with the Philippines civil society organisations, usually as part of initiatives involving other organisations (totalling \$0.9 million);
- > forty-one per cent of the total expenditure was to intermediary organisations that were funded to engage with the Philippines civil society organisations as a primary part of the initiative (totalling \$35.7 million).

Figure 1: AusAID Expenditure in the Philippines 2007/08



In addition, AusAID contributed \$1.7 million to ANCP projects that were implemented in the Philippines. On top of this amount, international NGOs and Filipino NGOs contributed a further \$0.8 million to the ANCP projects.

Of the initiatives with substantial involvement of civil society, 43 per cent of the expenditure was on initiatives based in Mindanao, related to the peace process and basic education. Twenty-seven per cent of the expenditure was on two major grant programs for civil society organisations, with both a Mindanao and a national coverage. The remaining expenditure was on initiatives related to health, education, child protection, disaster preparedness, electoral assistance, and natural resource management.

### Characteristics of Philippines civil society organisations with direct funding

There were three Philippines civil society organisations which received direct funding from AusAID in 2007/08. All of these organisations have an urban base and all are formal entities. Direct funding to the Philippines civil society organisations accounted for 2.5 per cent of total expenditure on initiatives with substantial civil society engagement.

**Table 1: Direct funding to Philippines civil society organisations through the Philippines country program**

Funding Recipient	Total Expenditure 2007/08 (AUD)	Primary Reason for Engagement
The Philippines National Red Cross	600,000.00	Strengthening civil society
The Mindanao Commission on Women	217,500.00	Service delivery
The Institute for Autonomy and Governance	100,000.00	Strengthening civil society
<b>Total</b>	<b>917,500.00</b>	

The funding amounts for some of the Philippines civil society organisations were relatively modest in comparison to funding to intermediaries.

Of the three initiatives which involved direct funding to Filipino civil society organisations, two were focused on supporting the peace process in Mindanao. The third was a national project focused on disaster preparedness and response.

### Intermediaries for engaging with civil society in the Philippines

It is more common for AusAID to engage with civil society through intermediaries than to directly engage with civil society organisations. AusAID funded a range of different organisations to implement an initiative, who engaged with civil society as part of that implementation. Civil society engagement through intermediaries accounted for 97.5 per cent of expenditure on initiatives with substantial civil society engagement.

AusAID's intermediaries for civil society engagement were private companies (seven organisations), multi-lateral organisations (three organisations) international NGOs (two organisations), and one Government of Australia agency. There were no faith based organisations funded for civil society engagement.

Twelve initiatives involved funding to intermediaries for civil society engagement, including two initiatives that included co-funding to the Philippines civil society organisations.

The majority of funding went to private companies managing the Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao initiative, the Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program, and the Philippines-Australia Local Sustainability Program. Major funding was also provided through delegated cooperation to UNICEF (for health, education and child protection activities) and UNDP (for the Act for Peace Programme).

Engagement through intermediaries in the Philippines program included substantial grant programs where a large number of diverse civil society organisations were funded, administered by a managing contractor.

**Table 2: Funding to intermediaries through the Philippines country program**

Funding Recipient	Total Expenditure 2007/08 (AUD)	Primary Reason for Engagement
Sinclair Knight Merz	9,463,943.46	Service delivery
UNICEF	7,451,935.17	Service delivery

Funding Recipient	Total Expenditure 2007/08 (AUD)	Primary Reason for Engagement
Hassall and Associates	6,677,709.31	Service delivery
UNDP*	6,591,424.00	Strengthening civil society, Service delivery
Cardno Acil, including funds administered through the Philippines-Australia Local Sustainability Program imprest account	3,055,753.67	Strengthening civil society
United Nations Population Fund	735,117.00	Strengthening civil society
The Asia Foundation*	715,079.00	Strengthening civil society, Voice and accountability
Gutmacher Institute	400,000.00	Service delivery
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research	225,000.00	Service delivery
AusAID <sup>5</sup> *	203,887.07	Strengthening civil society, Service delivery
New South Global	79,326.85	Strengthening civil society
Effective Development Group	43,951.24	Service delivery
Public Trust Media	28,222.57	Strengthening civil society
Coffey International	30,000.00	Strengthening civil society
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,719,349.34</b>	

\*funding for multiple initiatives

Sixteen initiatives involving civil society engagement were part of ANCP, where International NGOs were funded by AusAID (and contributed their own funding) to partner with the Philippines civil society organisations.

**Table 3: Funding to ANCP organisations**

Funding Recipient	Total Expenditure 2007/08 (AUD)	Primary Reason for Engagement
Anglican Board of Mission*	267,321.00	Service delivery
Australian People for Health, Education and Development Abroad	15,225.00	Service delivery
Christian Blind Mission*	314,680.00	Voice and accountability, Service delivery
Childfund Australia*	197,426.00	Voice and accountability, Service delivery
International Need Australia	8,000.00	Service delivery
Opportunity International Australia	630,000.00	Service delivery
PLAN International Australia	115,627.00	Service delivery
Reledev Australia	34,139.00	Service delivery
Salvation Army	98,217.00	Service delivery
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,680,641.00</b>	

\*funding for multiple initiatives

Where funding for civil society engagement was through intermediaries there was a range of reasons for engagement. The primary reason for civil society engagement was service delivery, accounting for six country program initiatives and 14 ANCP projects. Six country program initiatives focused on strengthening civil society. The

<sup>5</sup> Includes direct payments for administrative and communication costs, monitoring and evaluation costs, etc.

remaining one country program initiatives and two ANCP projects were focused on strengthening voice and accountability.

Civil society engagement was characterised by intermediaries engaging with a wider range of civil society organisations as development partners, often in creating networks of local level state actors and civil society organisations to achieve a common objective.

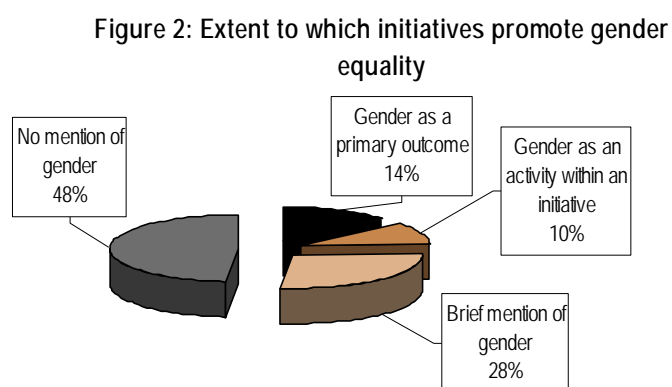
### Modalities for engaging with civil society

The aid modality (the way AusAID channelled support) for the majority of initiatives with substantial civil society engagement was project funding. Expenditure for four initiatives was channelled through multi-donor pooled funds (Disaster Preparedness and Response Facility, Australian Contribution to UNICEF CPC6, Support for Population Initiatives, and Act for Peace Programme). There were no cases of core funding identified.

### Promoting gender equality

The mapping exercise considered the extent to which AusAID's engagement with civil society is gender sensitive.<sup>6</sup>

Overall, gender sensitivity, including gender based indicators in initiative designs, was lacking from the majority of initiatives considered.



The country strategy states that 'the Philippines rates highly in terms of national indicators for gender equality and empowerment of women' and makes a commitment to 'mainstream gender and collect gender-disaggregated information to inform program management decisions'.<sup>7</sup>

From the documents reviewed the majority of initiatives had little evidence of gender sensitivity with 48 per cent of initiatives making no mention of gender and another

<sup>6</sup> Gender sensitivity is taken as consideration of the impact of the initiative on males and females and the relationships between them as well as the extent to which gender equity is promoted.

<sup>7</sup> *Australia-Philippines Development Assistance Strategy 2007-11*, May 2007:16.

28 per cent making only a brief mention of gender in design documents or through sex disaggregated data with little reporting and analysis on the effect of their program on gender roles and equity. This provides marginal evidence of gender sensitivity in action, let alone gender mainstreaming.

Three initiatives and one ANCP project had gender as a primary outcome.

- > The Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program supported projects such as Alternative Women's Center Focusing on Violence Against Women; Children Cases Project; and Transcending Poverty and Violence through Barangay Sisterhood. The majority of projects funded through this program reportedly contributed to promoting gender equality through 'improved women's basic welfare relative to men, access to factors of production, participation in planning and implementation of projects; and new awareness of culturally-determined gender roles'.<sup>8</sup> Technical support to mainstreaming gender and development in line with the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development and other legislation on gender and development was also being developed under the program.
- > Gender is a significant outcome in the design of Australian Contribution to UNICEF CPC6 and thorough gender analysis is included in reports. The program's Quality at Implementation report states: 'UNICEF CPC6 planning, implementation and M&E is gender disaggregated. Activities focused on mothers and children who are one of the poorest sectors and most affected by disparity.'<sup>9</sup>
- > Supporting Peace in Mindanao works specifically with the Mindanao Commission on Women and projects under the initiative focus on women, youth and media which are responsive to gender concerns.
- > The ANCP project Access to Economic Means of Development for Women Experiencing Social Exclusion, implemented by Reledev in partnership with the Foundation for Professional Training in the Philippines, is focused on providing training and industry relevant experience for women from low-income families.

Four initiatives included gender sensitive activities such as: gender training; mainstreaming of gender through development plans; use of a social development and gender framework; strengthening the role of men in family planning; and addressing the needs of boys and girls in education curricula as well as providing alternative learning systems to address the increasing number of boys not completing school.

### Engaging with civil society through volunteers

In addition to the initiatives considered, another way in which AusAID strengthens civil society is through volunteer programs.

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<sup>8</sup> Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program Quality at Implementation Report, QAI-A0189-2, April 2008.

<sup>9</sup> Australian Contribution to UNICEF CPC6 Quality at Implementation Report, QAI-A0194-2, April 2008.

Thirty-nine volunteers to the Philippines were funded in 2007/08 by the Australia Government Volunteer Program.<sup>10</sup> Nearly 75 per cent of these volunteer assignments were hosted by civil society organisations.

*The Australian Government Volunteer Program Review Final Report 23 February 2009* comments that a key rationale for volunteer cooperation is civil society strengthening which supports civil society organisations and their human resources needs.

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<sup>10</sup> Through Australian Business Volunteers, Australian Volunteers International, Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development and Volunteering for International Development from Australia.

## ELEMENTS OF DONOR GOOD PRACTICE

In relation to international good practice for donor engagement with civil society the following points are made:<sup>11</sup>

### AusAID current good practice in the Philippines program

- > AusAID has clear examples of donor harmonisation within the Philippines program. The Strategy states Australia will 'take a strategic and selective approach to expanding aid, focusing it where we can maximise our impact in partnership with other donors, particularly the multilateral development banks'.<sup>12</sup> Joint donor support for civil society took place through the Act for Peace Programme, Support for Population Initiatives, Australian Contribution to UNICEF CPC6 and the Disaster Preparedness and Response Facility.
- > AusAID worked in the Philippines with small, less known organisations within civil society at a sub-national level. The Philippines-Australia Local Sustainability Program supported approximately 400 local civil society organisations, 90 per cent of which were assessed to have 'low maturity'. Funding was provided to these organisations to implement projects and complemented with capacity building in project and financial management through formal training and ongoing mentoring. Over 270 local civil society organisations were supported through the Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program, via a managing contractor. It should be noted that direct AusAID agreements with civil society were still only made with national level, well known civil society organisations.
- > International good practice experience suggests donors need to be clear about what they want to achieve and select the most appropriate type of engagement and delivery intermediary to achieve that. The country strategy states that Australia will 'identify options to increasingly use and strengthen Philippine government systems and thereby increase the sustainability and effectiveness of our aid' with funds channelled through other donors with established practices when risks are judged too high to engage directly.<sup>13</sup> Although engagement with the Government of the Philippines was a significant part of many of the initiatives considered, the delivery intermediary varied depending on the type of program. AusAID maximised already existing systems and utilised other donors for a number of initiatives.
- > Although increasing voice and accountability was not a primary component of most initiatives considered, where it was a key focus (e.g. the Philippines Electoral Assistance initiative) AusAID worked through both government and civil society. AusAID utilised civil society to monitor the election as well as provide materials

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<sup>11</sup> Good practice in the PNG program was assessed in reference to a working draft of Jo Hall and Jude Howell, *Good Practice Donor Engagement with Civil Society*, 2010, prepared for the purpose of the Office of Development Effectiveness Civil Society Engagement Evaluation.

<sup>12</sup> *Australia-Philippines Development Assistance Strategy 2007-11*, May 2007:2.

<sup>13</sup> *Australia-Philippines Development Assistance Strategy 2007-11*, May 2007:15.

which supported government officials in better implementation of the election process. Other initiatives which primarily supported government also included civil society in a 'watchdog' role, for example, having civil society monitor and provide report cards on government progress made in the transport sector.

- > Civil society is an essential service provider in the Philippines and inclusion of civil society as part of sector approaches with governments is seen as good practice. The Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao included Parents, Teachers and Community Associations as part of the activities. It also included civil society organisations as service providers, and consultations to validate priority areas included the Department of Education Divisions, local government units and NGOs. Further efforts to support civil society involvement in sector approaches may be worthwhile exploring.
- > Poverty is predominant in rural areas with 30 per cent of the population below the Philippines' poverty threshold and over two-thirds of the poor being in agriculture dependent households. From the initiatives considered the geographic focus was spread relatively evenly between rural and urban locations. All initiatives were implemented either country-wide or in the poorest provinces in the Visayas, Mindanao and Bicol. Some ANCP projects were also focused in other areas of the country.

### Good practice for consideration in the Philippines program

- > No instances of core funding provided to civil society by the Philippines country program was identified in this mapping exercise. Core funding to civil society organisations is considered to be international good practice as it allows for long-term but light-touch support, and the flexibility for civil society organisations to set their own priorities. It can cause a shift in the power dynamics, with civil society organisations better able to engage in strategic dialogue because they have a firmer base from which to operate. Engaging in core funding does incur higher risk to the donor and a risk that only large well known civil society organisations will be supported. The good practice review conducted for this evaluation suggests that core support given through partnership agreements, where the donor and civil society work together, can share the risk and benefits, as well as provide greater donor transparency. It is noted that ANCP provides a flexible mechanism for long-term funding of projects under which Australian NGOs and their local counterparts can nominate priority areas,<sup>14</sup> and may provide a starting point for an examination of the benefits of core funding.
- > The documentation available for this mapping exercise and feedback from peer review of the mapping exercise has highlighted the need for AusAID to think more strategically about how it engages with civil society; the dialogue AusAID

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<sup>14</sup> It is worth noting that as a whole program Australian NGOs have reported that over 90 per cent of ANCP activities are meeting their objectives at a satisfactory level or above.

has internally and with partners; and the indicators AusAID chooses to use to monitor and evaluate civil society engagement.

## APPENDIX A: DESCRIPTIONS OF ENGAGING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

### Supporting Civil Society to Promote Government Accountability

The Philippines is ranked the second lowest country amongst its East Asia neighbours on Transparency International's corruption surveys. The country program strategy states 'corruption in the Philippines undermines the social contract between the state and its citizens, with integrity of political and electoral systems frequently called into question'.<sup>15</sup>

Although the Partnership for Economic Governance Reforms facility<sup>16</sup> was primarily aimed at engaging with government and the private sector to promote good economic governance and growth, an activity under this initiative included utilising civil society in a 'watchdog' role. The initiative, through a parallel co-financing arrangement with the World Bank of the National Roads Improvement Program, utilised the Transparency and Accountability Network to support *Bantay Lansangan* (Road Watch), an organisation comprised of various road stakeholder groups. *Bantay Lansangan* monitored the Department of Public Works and Highway's performance. A Road Sector Status Report Card was produced by the Road Watch to inform citizens and road users on the status and performance of the road sector.

In the Philippines Electoral Assistance initiative AusAID engaged The Asia Foundation, an NGO with proven history in election programs through the Asia-Pacific region partners, with the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and local Muslim organizations in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The program developed user friendly guides for poll workers with post-election response showing that poll workers had increased confidence in administering the May 2007 elections. These elections showed a notable increase of civil society participation with the Council deploying nearly 440,000 people in 82 per cent of all precincts in the country to monitor and provide reports on nation-wide election-day polling.

### Building the capacity of civil society organisations

The Philippines-Australia Local Sustainability Program aims to strengthen the capacity of local government and civil society to plan, manage and utilise their physical, human and financial resources, and in turn manage activities that will improve sustainable livelihoods. Through the program, 386 community based organisations have been assisted with the majority of these (over 90 per cent) being 'vulnerable groups assessed to have low organisational maturity' with more support

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<sup>15</sup> *Australia-Philippines Development Assistance Strategy 2007-11*, May 2007:4.

<sup>16</sup> This initiative was not included in this mapping exercise, as the civil society engagement component of this large program was relatively minor. However, the Roadwatch activity is an innovative approach to working with civil society that is worth highlighting.

needed to become sustainable.<sup>17</sup> Through the support of the program all of the community based organisations became accredited and registered with the Department of Labor and Employment. Support to these organisations included formal training and mentoring in proposal writing and project implementation, including ongoing mentoring for 129 organisations by financial tutors.

### Services delivered by civil society organisations

A primary component of the ACIAR Research & Development Activities initiative is the formation and strengthening of land-care institutional structures and their links with other government or civil society stakeholders. Civil society is seen as an important supporter to increasing investment and focus on land-care programs. ANCP projects focused on working through civil society organisations in the sectors of microfinance, technical vocation, agricultural livelihoods and water and sanitation.

Civil society engagement is a key focus of the Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program which works through local government units and civil society organisations to:

- > address enhancement of livelihood opportunities;
- > promotion of social development through peace-building and increased access to basic services; and
- > building community capacity to meet their own needs and advocate for their rights.

Reports showed the program had managed 448 projects through 276 civil society organisations in over 1500 communities throughout the Philippines since January 2005. In the mid-term review, the projects were assessed to be generally of a high standard and effective in meeting the needs of communities. The Focal Community Assistance Scheme component of the program is respected amongst government and has 'successfully demonstrated how to create linkages between community-driven development and [local government units]'. The Responsive Assistance Scheme component 'displays aspects of accepted 'good practice' in social funds: its highly competitive nature appears to be contributing to quality projects, it promotes innovation, and is prepared to take risks.' It has been able to respond to 'the community development agenda where local governance is lacking or does not yet enjoy the trust of the community...and plays a critical role in conflict-affected communities, and could be central to building stable and peaceful communities that recognize and value the processes of development.'<sup>18</sup>

AusAID provided support to Australian Contribution to UNICEF CPC6, a component under which UNICEF partners with local government units and NGOs

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<sup>17</sup> Philippines-Australia Local Sustainability Program Quality at Implementation Report, QAI-A0191-2, 2 April 2008.

<sup>18</sup> Cited in the Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program Quality at Implementation Report, QAI-A0189-2, April 2008.

in implementation of its programs in Mindanao. A key feature of this partnership is increased political support to children's involvement in decision making, especially on laws, policies and projects that directly affect them. The program 'has proven to be a highly effective community development rallying point for both local government and civil society organisations advocating for child participation'.<sup>19</sup>

Civil society was a key stakeholder in the Disaster Preparedness and Response Facility. A program under the facility Hazards Mapping and Assessment for Effective Community Based Disaster Risk Management was implemented by the Philippine National Red Cross, with support from the International Federation of the Red Cross, working together with local government units, church groups, local residents' associations and NGOs to identify priority communities at risk.

ANCP projects focused on HIV, reproductive health as well as advocacy and support to people with disabilities.

### Building connections between communities and government

The Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao has partnerships with various service providers which include NGOs. MINCODE (a coalition of development NGOs in Mindanao) has been an active partner with BEAM and involvement has included regional forums on Indigenous education and facilitation of the development and trialling of a peace-education curriculum framework. This program has worked with various international NGOs in developing a counselling package for children in conflict areas as well as supported 119 Community/Tribal Learning Centres to build classrooms for learners and a multi-purpose hall for community activities.

### Strengthening civil society to build an enabling environment

In an effort to strengthen peace-building and sustain the gains for peace and development in southern Philippines, the Act for Peace Programme provided support to various local government units and political organisations. These groups mobilized civil society organisations, church-based institutions and private groups to support internally displaced people as well as to conduct large community interfaith dialogues and psychological healing activities for children. The program encouraged peace-building approaches in civil society programmed interventions as well as promoting peace infrastructures, for example, by providing support to the Council of Elders in local conflict management and the Moro National Liberation Front in participatory governance.

A training program to increase the capacity of marines in peace building was delivered through the Institute of Autonomy and Governance in collaboration with a local non-government organisation, the Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc. and the

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<sup>19</sup> *The Child-Friendly Movement, Accelerated Efforts to Reduce Disparities in the Southern Philippines*, Proposal to AusAID from UNICEF, 2004:15.

Philippine Marine Corps through the Enhancing Philippine Marines Role in Mindanao Peace Process initiative. The Engagement Strategy in Mindanao and the CAAs initiative utilised The Asia Foundation to prepare a conflict analysis and develop a strategy for AusAID engagement in Mindanao. This included consultations with various stakeholders including NGOs.

A number of projects under Supporting Peace in Mindanao are implemented by The Mindanao Commission on Women, an NGO active in articulating and promoting gender mainstreaming in peace and development in Mindanao and influencing public policy and opinion. Activities include seminars on multiculturalism, peace and comparative religions; training of trainers for youth peace circles; and women's leadership forums.

Working towards poverty reduction in an area that is sensitive to a significant portion of both civil society and government is a challenge which AusAID, together with the United Nations Population Fund and specialised local Philippine NGOs, are taking on through the Support for Population Initiatives. The program aims at advocating and influencing policy as well as providing avenues in which information on reproductive health can be accessed. Advocacy has resulted in the government agreeing to pilot test an Adolescent Reproductive Health curriculum in 60 elementary and high schools of 10 pilot provinces in September 2008. The Guttmacher Institute Reproductive Health Project engaged a local NGO, Likhaan, to disseminate policy-relevant findings to strengthen the case for investment in reproductive health services in the Philippines.

## APPENDIX B: INITIATIVE CHARACTERISTICS

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	07/08 Expenditure	Length in Years at 30/6/08	Target Location	Primary DAC Sector
INA813	Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program	6,759,329.24	1.0	Urban/Rural	15150 - Strengthening civil society
INE078	Philippines-Australia Local Sustainability Program	3,056,664.59	9.8	Rural	15110 - Economic and development policy/planning
INE272	Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao	9,550,609.33	1.0	Urban/Rural	11110 - Education policy and administrative management
INF895	ACIAR Research & Development Activities	225,474.89	4.1	Rural	15110 - Economic and development policy/planning
INF947	Australian Contribution to UNICEF CPC6	7,470,485.65	4.0	Urban/Rural	11110 - Education policy and administrative management
ING014	Support for Population Initiatives	753,495.14	3.7	Urban/Rural	12110 - Health policy and administrative management
ING024	Act for Peace Programme	5,369,853.39	3.6	Urban/Rural	15110 - Economic and development policy/planning
ING238	Supporting Peace in Mindanao	468,853.46	2.9	Urban/Rural	15220 - Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution
ING581	Disaster Preparedness and Response Facility	1,854,504.65	2.1	Rural	72010 - Material relief assistance and services
ING938	Philippines Electoral Assistance	277,579.00	1.6	Urban/Rural	15161 - Elections
INH755	Gutmacher Institute Reproductive Health Project	400,000.00	0.5	Urban/Rural	13010 - Population policy and administrative management
INH839	Enhancing Phil Marines Role in Mindanao Peace Proc	100,000.00	0.2	Urban/Rural	15210 - Security system management and reform
INH840	Engagement Strategy in Mindanao and CAAs	350,000.00	0.3	Urban/Rural	15220 - Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution
ABM1	Agriculture & Livelihood Support Program	72,576.00	1.0	Rural	31150 - Agricultural Inputs
ABM2	Water & Sanitation Program	194,745.00	1.0	Rural	14030 - Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation
APHEDA	HIV/AIDS Education & Support	15,225.00	Insufficient Data	Urban	13040 - STD control including HIV/AIDS
CBM1	Batangas CBR	59,043.00	5.0	Urban/Rural	12191 - Medical Services
CBM2	CBR Coordinating Office	67,070.00	1.0	Urban	Insufficient data
CBM3	Cebu CBR Pag-Amoma Project	54,526.00	3.0	Urban/Rural	Insufficient data
CBM4	Holy Face Rehabilitation Project for Mental Health	58,678.00	4.0	Urban	Insufficient data
CBM5	Simon of Cyrene CBR Programme	75,369.00	2.0	Urban/Rural	12191 - Medical Services
CF1	Engaging Children & Youth in Leading Their Own Development	90,231.00	Insufficient Data	Urban	Insufficient data
CF2	Enhancing Reproductive Through Youth Participation - Macalelon	40,845.00	Insufficient Data	Urban/Rural	13020 - Reproductive health care
CF3	Enhancing Reproductive Through Youth Participation - Roxas City	66,350.00	Insufficient Data	Urban	13020 - Reproductive health care
INA	Philippines Project Extension Initiative	8,000.00	Insufficient Data	Urban/Rural	11330 - Vocational training
OIA	Poverty Alleviation Through Microfinance & Enterprise Development Services	630,000.00	Insufficient Data	Urban/Rural	25010 - Business support services and institutions
PLAN	Sustainable Livelihoods	115,627.00	Insufficient Data	Rural	31181 - Agricultural education/training
Reledev	Access to Economic Means of Development for Women Experiencing Social Exclusion	34,139.00	3.0	Urban/Rural	11330 - Vocational education
SA	Water & Sanitation Program	98,217.00	Insufficient Data	Urban	11330 - Vocational training

## APPENDIX C: ENGAGING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROGRAMS

Apart from the 13 initiatives and 16 ANCP projects considered, two multi-country initiatives, active in the Philippines in 2007/08, included civil society engagement to a limited extent. It was difficult to draw out specific work at a country level from the data considered, however the following was determined.

Under the initiative ASEAN Sustainable Response to Child Sex Tourism initiative, AusAID partnered with the Philippines government, as well as other Association of South East Asian Nations member countries, in development of a transition plan for combating sex trafficking in the region. Partners from the Philippines government included Office of Tourism Standards, Department of Tourism, Counsel of Women and Children Victims, and the Philippines National Police. With the assistance of Australian-based NGO, Child Wise, the Association of South East Asian Nations has established a Regional Task Force to Combat the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Tourism Destinations. Child Wise training is conducted for tourism operators and in some cases NGOs as part of this initiative.

The HIV/AIDS Workforce Capacity Development Strategy, funded through the HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Program Fund, saw increased collaboration in the Philippines to combating HIV with nine NGOs from the region developing one HIV and AIDS work plan, with resolve to increasingly collaborate across their sectors.