

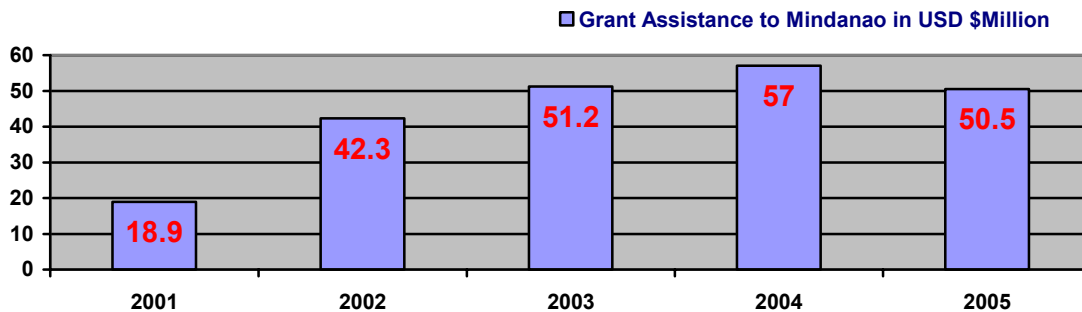


## USAID/PHIL ACTIVITIES IN MINDANAO

### USAID objectives in Mindanao :

- ◆ Former combatants reintegrated into the economy
- ◆ Business climate improved and economic growth made more equitable
- ◆ Local government units strengthened
- ◆ Family planning, health and nutrition services improved
- ◆ Productive Life-sustaining natural resources protected
- ◆ Remote villages electrified through renewable energy
- ◆ Access to quality education improved

### Grant assistance levels to Mindanao:



**FORMER COMBATANT REINTEGRATION** - Helps people in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao to re-build a peaceful economy and community life.

- **Livelihood Enhancement and Peace Program (LEAP)** - Assists former combatants in making the transition from guerilla fighters to farmers/fishermen by providing them with all the required production inputs, training and marketing assistance needed to become small-scale commercial farmers. LEAP also provides post-harvest facilities to their communities to help increase productivity and profitability of their efforts. About 28,000 former MNLF combatants have received, or are currently receiving assistance, and are now sustainably producing corn, rice or seaweed.

**BUSINESS CLIMATE and ECONOMIC GROWTH** – Promotes equitable economic growth and opportunities for broad participation in such growth and its benefits.

- **Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM)** – Expands economic opportunities by:
  - Strengthening business support organizations, such as producers associations and chambers of commerce, to better enable them to provide needed services to members
  - Expanding the production, marketing and export of high-value commodities.
  - Constructing more than 800 small and medium-scale infrastructure projects, of which 275 have already been completed, benefiting almost a million families.
  - Installing pre/post-harvest facilities in more than 500 barangays, benefiting more than 28,000 families, mostly of former MNLF combatants.
  - Improving governance and education in the ARMM.
- **Targeted Intervention in Economic Reform and Growth (TIERG)** – Funds policy development expertise on a national basis and also in areas vital to Mindanao's economy, e.g., ports and shipping, customs, local government, biotechnology, and anti-corruption.

- **Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (MABS)** - Assists Rural Banks throughout Mindanao to develop the capability to profitably provide loans and deposit services to microenterprises. There are currently 228 participating MABS banks nationwide; collectively they have provided loans to about 215,000 microenterprises, of which 70% are in Mindanao. Eighty-five percent of borrowers are women.
- **Credit Union Empowerment and Strengthening (CUES)** - Assists 40 partner savings and credit unions (a total of 117 branches) in Mindanao to implement best practices in portfolio management and to expand financial services to the poor, reaching more than half a million members.

**LOCAL GOVERNANCE** – Assists local governments to combat corruption and improve public administration:

- **Transparency and Accountability (TAG)** – Applies experience from successful USAID programs in other parts of the country to improve public service delivery in Mindanao. Focuses on increasing transparency and accountability at the local level, particularly in the ARMM.
- **Barangay Justice Service System (BJSS)** – Promotes community peace and develops the capacity for alternative dispute resolution by training Barangay Justice Advocates and other service providers, thus giving marginalized and disadvantaged groups greater access to justice. At the end of 2004 a total of 1,030 barangays in the ARMM and conflict-affected areas in Mindanao had been reached.
- **Community Policing** – Works in selected municipalities of the ARMM to promote collaboration between the local government units, the police and the public in the planning and implementation of peace and order plans, and strengthen civilian oversight of the police.
- **Integrated Multisectoral Capacity Building in the ARMM** – Aims to build the capacities of regional and local government officials and other important stakeholders in designing, planning and implementing development projects.

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT** – Assists national agencies, local governments and communities to effectively manage natural resources, improve urban environmental management, promote open and competitive markets for electricity, and use of renewable energy.

- **Environmental Governance Program (EcoGov)** - Assists local governments to mitigate critical threats to natural resources, particularly illegal logging, destructive and over-fishing, and solid waste, with emphasis on transparency, accountability, and participation. In 2004, 113 local governments had improved management of more than 40,000 hectares of coral reefs, mangroves and sea beds.
- **Fisheries Improved for Sustainable Harvest (FISH)** – Seeks to increase fish stocks and conserve biological diversity in at least four biologically and economically important marine ecosystems in the Philippines, including Mindanao.
- **Coastal Resources and Fisheries Conservation** – Aims to conserve marine biodiversity and fisheries resources in Tawi-Tawi and other priority sites in the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Ecosystem by enhancing capacities of local institutions and organizations to manage marine protected areas.
- **Transforming the Marine Aquarium Trade in the Philippines** – A Global Development Alliance initiative to transform the marine aquarium trade, from destructive and unsustainable practices to certification of collectors, working with partners and communities to achieve economic incentives.
- **Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (AMORE)** – A public-private partnership to assist remote communities of former combatants to install, operate, maintain and finance renewable energy systems on a sustainable basis. To date, some 6,000 households in nearly 200 communities of former combatants have benefited.

- **SUCCESS Alliance for Smallholder Cocoa Development** – A public-private alliance to assist smallholders to improve quality and quantity of cocoa through adoption of improved crop husbandry, propagation and integrated pest management, and linkages to the market to reduce pressure to clear natural forests for shifting agriculture.
- **Environmental Justice** – Supports public interest law groups providing legal assistance to local organizations and community groups to resolve conflicts and legal issues related to the conservation and management of natural resources.

**FAMILY PLANNING AND HEALTH** - Assists local governments, private sector and communities to improve the delivery of family planning and health services, including the prevention of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

#### Nationwide projects including Mindanao

- **Local Government Health Services** - Provides performance-based grants to local government units to strengthen family planning, immunization, vitamin A distribution and other health services; enhances the quality of health services in public facilities through standard setting and awards; develops and improves the capacity to provide voluntary sterilization in selected public and private health facilities including four hospitals in Mindanao.
- **Midwife Entrepreneurs** -- Increases private sector participation in the provision of family planning and maternal and child health services through a franchise network of private midwife clinics. USAID supports some 81 midwife clinics operating in Mindanao.
- **Contraceptive Self-Reliance** -- Ensures national responsibility for contraceptive supply by advocating increased domestic spending/promoting national and local government cost sharing for contraceptives; promotes increased private participation in family planning.
- **Family Planning Communications** -- Supports family planning communication and advocacy programs of the Department of Health, the Commission on Population and other groups to increase the social acceptability of family planning. Special focus in Mindanao, particularly in ARMM, is the dissemination of the national fatwa (Islamic opinion), issued in March 2004, in support of reproductive health and family planning.
- **HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Prevention** – Supports monitoring and education activities in two major cities in Mindanao, both of which have experienced increases in high HIV risk populations; strengthens public health systems to better diagnose and treat TB, malaria and dengue; strengthens tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment among private physicians and clinics.
- **Vitamin A Supplementation and Micronutrient Fortification** -- Boosts Vitamin A supplementation in 14 cities and provinces in Mindanao with the highest levels of vitamin A deficiency; makes Vitamin A, iron and iodine fortified foods widely available in order to increase the micronutrient intake, particularly among pre-school children and women of reproductive age.
- **Enhanced and Rapid Improvement of Community Health (EnRICH)** – Provides grants to help address local health conditions, focusing on family planning, maternal & child health and tuberculosis. Builds the capability of government health workers to provide family planning counseling and integrated management of childhood illnesses.

**EDUCATION** – Seeks to increase access to quality education and livelihood skills in selected areas, particularly those most affected by conflict and poverty.

- **Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS)** - USAID's new \$30.4 million EQuALLS Project will reduce high illiteracy and drop-out rates; improve math, science and English levels (particularly in grades 1-3); and address problems of out-of-work youth. In addition to working with

- the Philippine Department of Education, USAID is partnering with a broad range of local partners (e.g. Ayala Foundation, Consuelo Foundation, Synergea, Knowledge Channel, Makati Rotary Club).
- **GEM-2 Education Improvement Activities** - Currently focused on the following areas:
  - Computer Literacy and Internet Connection (CLIC) Program. In partnership with the private sector (i.e., Makati Business Club and the Ayala Foundation) and other donors (Japan and Australia), USAID has introduced computer and internet education in 225 schools in the ARMM and other conflict-affected areas of Mindanao and plans to reach an additional 200 to 300 high schools over the next two years. About 206,000 students and 5,000 teachers are benefiting so far.
  - Education Awareness Support Effort (EASE Program). EASE works with Parent-Teachers-Community Associations (PTCAs) and local groups to raise awareness on the state of education in the ARMM. Under this program, USAID directly matches – peso for peso - any funds that the PTCAs and other community groups raise to finance improvements in the schools. Assistance is provided directly to the PTCAs. USAID has awarded matching grants to Parent-Teacher Community Associations (PTCAs) in 165 schools with a total enrollment of approximately 135,000 students, in the ARMM and neighboring conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. USAID anticipates awarding about 100 of these matching grants each year.
  - Congressional Internship Program. USAID is implementing a congressional internship program for recent graduates of colleges and universities in the ARMM. Under this program interns spend four months working in the Philippines House of Representatives to develop greater understanding of how legislation is developed and enacted. Some 20-30 interns are selected each year and a total of 30 interns have participated to date.
- **Tudlo Mindanao Teacher Training Project**. With USAID funding the Peace Corps is conducting a training-the-trainer program for elementary and secondary level teachers of English and Information Communication Technology from the ARMM and Regions 9 and 12. To date 110 trainers have been trained and these, in turn, have trained 348 teachers. By the end of the project in 2006, more than 1,500 teachers of English and ICT will have been trained in current approaches.
- **Assistance for Comprehensive Educational Development in Mindanao (ASCEND Mindanao)**. This project allows out-of-school children to go through self-paced modules or alternative learning classes and then take accreditation tests to re-enter school. It assists the DepEd in developing and testing curricula and classroom materials for more effective teaching of English, science and math, including in ten pilot madaris. These madaris will serve as models of how an enriched madrasah curriculum can better address the learning needs of children in Muslim communities.
- **Development for Peace in Sulu (American Foreign Policy Council)**. The Project seeks to build and sustain peace in Sulu by first revitalizing the public education and health systems in order to spark economic development. The project is building model elementary and secondary schools that will serve as centers for future teacher training and vocational training.
- **Television Education for the Advancement of Muslim Mindanao (TEAM Mindanao)**. The project will expand learning opportunities through educational television targeting 70 schools in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur for the first year and 80 more schools in Tawi Tawi, Sulu, and Basilan by the end of three years. It will upgrade capacities for teaching science, math and English through provision of training modules for teachers. To support the reintegration of out of school youth, TEAM-Mindanao will develop a 10-part video series on livelihood and business skills.