

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY: INCREASING PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT AREAS IN MINDANAO (WPS)



END OF PROJECT REPORT (2013-2015)

Submitted by: Miriam College- Women and Gender Institute (WAGI)
to the U.S. Agency for International Development

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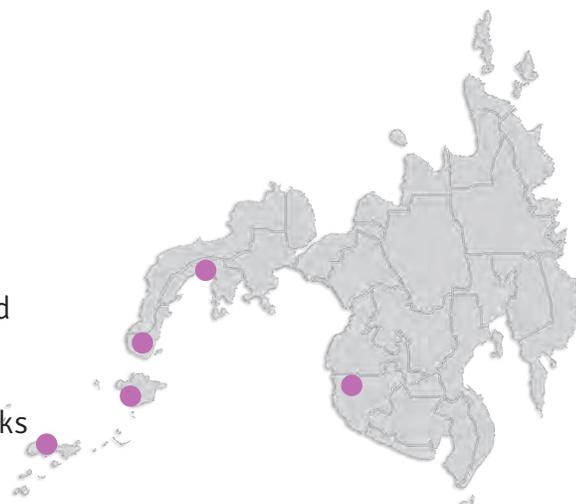
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INTRODUCTION

Increasing Women's Participation in Conflict-Affected Areas

In August 2013, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) approved the women, peace, and security project proposal entitled, "Increasing Women's Participation in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao." Through a Fixed Obligation Grant (FOG) amounting to \$498,646.66, the Women's Peace Table Network implements activities and events, which seek to increase the involvement of women in peace processes by building peace constituencies; capacitating women in peace negotiations; and developing replicable community-based strategies in support of the Philippine National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security (NAP-WPS) and the Mindanao 2020 peace and development objectives. It seeks to strengthen the country's commitment to international treaties, which aim to enhance women's participation in decision-making bodies, as well as, in peacebuilding, post-conflict recovery and reconstruction activities. The project focuses on six conflict-affected areas in Mindanao, namely: North Cotabato, Basilan, South Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, and Zamboanga. It has the following specific objectives:



a) Build a national constituency for peace among women and different strategic groups (such as business, media, youth, religious, legislature, and the academe) in support of the Bangsamoro peace agreement by scaling up the formation of Women Peace Tables (WPT);



b) Develop the capacity of women peace negotiators, peace builders and peace advocates to ensure that the Basic Law on the Bangsamoro is gender-responsive; and,



c) Localize the implementation of the Philippine National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security (NAP-WPS) in USAID's six selected conflict-affected areas in Mindanao -- North Cotabato, Basilan, South Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, and Zamboanga.

PROJECT MILESTONES



1. PROJECT LAUNCH

The women, peace and security project entitled, “Increasing Women’s Participation in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao” was launched last February 6, 2014 at the Environmental Studies Institute of Miriam College, Quezon City, Philippines.

Peace advocates, representatives from various international development organizations, foreign embassies, media and government agencies attended the event. Administrators, faculty members and students of Miriam College were also present to show their support for this timely project that aims to empower women in conflict-affected areas, specifically in Mindanao.



"... lasting peace is only possible if the voices of women are heard, their contributions acknowledged, and participation ensured. The Framework Agreement signed in October 2012 opened an opportunity for women in Mindanao, particularly as it guarantees the participation and protection of women in conflict-affected areas." - Ms. Gloria Steele, USAID Philippines Mission Director



2. ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN'S PEACE TABLE CORE GROUP AND CONDUCT OF GENDER ORIENTATION

The Women's Peace Table (WPT) is an initiative which was made possible through the collaboration of ten (10) conveners from various sectors of society, particularly: the academe, the media, business, religious, and civil society. While the WPT was formally launched in 2012, implementing this women, peace, and security project, through the support of USAID, was instrumental in the formation of its core groups and in the expansion of the network.

The WPT Core Group members are women leaders from the six conflict-ridden areas covered by this project. They were strategically chosen because of their potential to influence members of their local communities in fostering an inclusive, democratic, and gender-responsive environment where women

are encouraged to participate in decision-making, peace-building and post-conflict recovery. They were invited by the three project implementers, namely: Miriam College-Women and Gender Institute (WAGI), the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID), and the Mindanao Commission on Women (MCW).

The WPT Core Group members underwent a basic gender sensitivity training, legislative advocacy orientation for a gender-responsive Bangsamoro Basic Law, and a lecture on gender-sensitive analysis of the Mindanao situation, among others. The first workshop was held on September 19 to 22, 2013 in Quezon City while the second workshop was held in conjunction with the project launch last February 5 to 7, 2014 in Miriam College.





3. BASELINE RESEARCH ON THE ISSUES AND STATUS OF WOMEN IN MINDANAO

With clear recognition that voices of women from the ground must be heard and with a pool of community partners through WPT Core Group members in place, an empirical study on the status and issues of women from conflict-affected areas in Mindanao was conducted across the six conflict-affected project areas, particularly: Cotabato City, Isabela City, the municipality of Jolo, Lamitan City, Marawi City, and Zamboanga City. The objectives of the Baseline research were:

- (1) to provide basic socio-economic data on Moro women and their households;
- (2) to expand existing knowledge about women's experiences of conflict;
- (3) to assess women's level of awareness about the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL); and
- (4) to describe women's political participation in the aforementioned areas and other political exercises such as elections.

The research employed a sequential mixed-method approach to achieve its objectives. A survey was administered to 596 women to gather quantitative data on the demographic and socioeconomic profile of women in the six conflict-affected areas. To provide more detailed analysis to the survey, 6 focus group discussions gathered in-depth information on women's experiences of conflict and

political participation in their communities. In preparation for this research project, several meetings and training sessions for field supervisors and enumerators were held in Manila and Zamboanga City. Preparatory research meetings to clarify objectives and discuss research methodologies were held at Miriam College. The training of field supervisors and enumerators who were drawn from academic researchers and community leaders from Ateneo de Zamboanga, Noorus Salam; Mothers for Peace, Notre Dame in Jolo and WAGI, was organized in collaboration with the Social Awareness and Community Service Involvement (SACSI) Office of Ateneo de Zamboanga University last June 6 to 9, 2014. WAGI Executive Director and WPT Co-Convener Prof. Aurora de Dios and WAGI Senior Program Coordinator Josefa Francisco served as resource facilitators for this training.

Actual data gathering for the survey and focus group discussions was held between June to September 2014. Given the timing of this research, the impact of Mamasapano, Maguindanao clash between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), and the Philippine National Police- Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) which occurred in January, 2016 was not covered.



KEY FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

Survey Research

1. Socio-Economic Profile of Women in the Project Areas

- ▶ Most women from the six conflict-affected project areas have families living below the poverty line, as evidenced by the fact that 199 or 33.3% of respondents reported that their total family income falls between PhP1,000.00 to PhP3,000.00 pesos per month.

2. Women's Experiences of Conflict

- ▶ Family feud or *rido* has increasing incidences rates, with 156 women who reported this as the type of conflict they experience in their communities.
- ▶ Women identified psychological trauma as the most common effect of war on them and their families, with 355 responses. It was followed by the lack of other basic needs, particularly, food and water, with 284 responses.
- ▶ Many women are uncertain about what to expect when the Bangsamoro is established, such that 369 women are not sure whether it will improve the quality of their lives, 377 women were not sure if more jobs will be created, 374 women were unsure whether it will bring lasting peace in the region, and 352 women were not certain if the creation of the Bangsamoro will bring about more chaos in their communities.

3. Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Women's Involvement in Community Activities

- ▶ Women see the fulfillment of their reproductive work as the determinant of their participation in the community, such that it is only after they accomplish their tasks at home that they can take part in other community activities.

4. Women's Knowledge and Experiences of Armed Conflict

- ▶ Causes of armed Conflict

Women see (a) the abuse of power, (b) feuding families ('rido'), (c) poverty, (d) the use of prohibited drugs, (e) unsettled political issues, and (f) the planned establishment of the Bangsamoro as causes of armed-conflict in their communities.

5. Women's Personal Understanding of "Meaningful Participation"

- ▶ Respondents noted that "meaningful participation" entails: (a) asserting their voices, (b) taking part in educating the youth, (c) extending their motherhood role to their communities, (d) influencing other family members, (e) strengthening the capacities of other women, (f) being able to participate in decision-making activities, (g) assuming an elective position in the government, (h) being involved in peace-promoting activities, and (i) getting themselves involved in the national and/or local elections.

4. SECTORAL DIALOGUES

DIALOGUE WITH BUSINESS

The forum “Development Opportunities and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro” was held last September 23, 2014 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Makati City. The lead organizer was the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies and one of its co-organizers was the Women’s Peace Table, as a part of this 2-year women, peace, and security project.

Undersecretary Jose Lorena was the keynote speaker for the said event, representing Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles. Among the speakers during the forum were: Abhoud Syed Lingga of the Institute for Bangsamoro Studies, Sam Chittik of Facility for Advisory Support for Transition Capacities (FASTRAC), Dr. Fermin Adriano of The International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov), Dr. Ma. Lourdes D. Lim of the National Economic Development Authority

Region XI, Mr. Larry Santos of the Regional Board of Investments in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Ms. Irene Santiago of the Mindanao Commission on Women (MCW), and Mr. Benedikt Seeman of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. Miriam College-Women and Gender Institute (WAGI) executive director, Prof. Aurora Javate-de Dios, was the emcee and facilitator of the forum.

The event highlighted Bangsamoro’s huge potential for economic development, which is one of the important elements of sustaining lasting peace in the region. Representatives from the government, business organizations, the academe, media, and the diplomatic corps were present. Two key attendees in this forum were Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) ad hoc committee chair Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and Ambassador Delia Albert.



DIALOGUE WITH THE YOUTH AND ACADEME

The dialogue with the Youth and the Academe was held as part of the 3rd National Women's Summit last October 24 and 25, 2014. Key speakers for this event were Dr. Minombao Ramos-Mayo (WPT Core Group Member); Ms. Sitti Nurdayhanna Mohamad (Youth WPT Member); Ms. Hanna Tunisia Usman (Youth WPT Member); Ms. Raima Dimaampao (Youth WPT Member); and Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo (WPT Co-Convener).

This dialogue raised pressing concerns of the youth in Mindanao such as: the high rate of illiteracy; insufficient learning aids, materials, and facilities, such as books, buildings, chairs, and blackboards; the disruption of academic schedules due to heightened security risks; and the prevalence of "ghost teachers" in public elementary and secondary schools.

At the end of this event, participants stressed the importance of young people's awareness of their

rights. Young women, must make it a point to know and understand that there is no excuse to violence committed against them. Likewise, this dialogue called for the youth and members of the academe in Mindanao to be critical of the existing educational system so that they can lobby with legislators on policies to appropriately address the issues they face, particularly through the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and the Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP).

Through the support of USAID, a second consultation with the youth was conducted through the 3rd Young Women Leader's Conference where young women from various schools, colleges, and universities shared their views about peacebuilding. The event's theme was: "Bring Back the Peace: Support the BBL," which reflected young women's position on peacebuilding in the country.



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

The interfaith dialogue was the third among six dialogues of the WPT as a part of this two-year project on women, peace, and security, which was made possible through the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Over 100 students and guests from various embassies, academic institutions, religious organizations, peace and women's groups, and other non-government organizations attended the two events, which aimed at establishing foundations for unity and areas for convergence among individuals from different faiths so that the conclusion of peace in Mindanao and ultimately, in the Philippines, may be achieved. The dialogue generated a proposal to pursue and promote the MARY/AM movement centered on the Virgin Mary, who is a unifying figure between Christianity and the Muslim faith.



DIALOGUE WITH THE MEDIA

The workshop entitled, "Writing Peace," was held last May 13 to 14, 2015 at Discovery Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. It was graced by GPH-Peace Panel Chair Miriam Coronel-Ferrer; National Commission on Muslim Filipinos Chair Yazmin Busran-Lao; Philippine Daily Inquirer Columnist Rina Jimenez-David; Ang Ladlad Party List Representative and TV5 Broadcaster Danton Remoto; Teach Peace, Build Peace Founder Bai Rohaniza Sumndad Usman; Young Moro Professionals Founder Bai Samira Ali Gutoc; among others. Forty (40) journalists from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao participated the said event.

The workshop was a collaboration between the Women's Peace Table (WPT) and Women's Feature Service (WFS). This event highlighted the unique perspectives and initiatives of women in building peace and their valuable contribution to all phases of conflict prevention and resolution. Attending journalists and broadcasters were expected to write their articles on peace in their respective newspapers while the broadcasters were to focus on peace issues in their radio stations.



5. CREATION OF WOMEN'S PEACE TABLES ACROSS SECTORS IN THE SIX PROJECT AREAS

In light of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and other succeeding resolutions on women, peace, and security, the Women's Peace Table (WPT) aims to consolidate women's voices into peace processes so that a just and lasting peace in Mindanao and ultimately, the Philippines, may be achieved.

The WPT has three specific aims: *to connect, mediate, and educate* women from various sectors to encourage their participation in peacebuilding, post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.

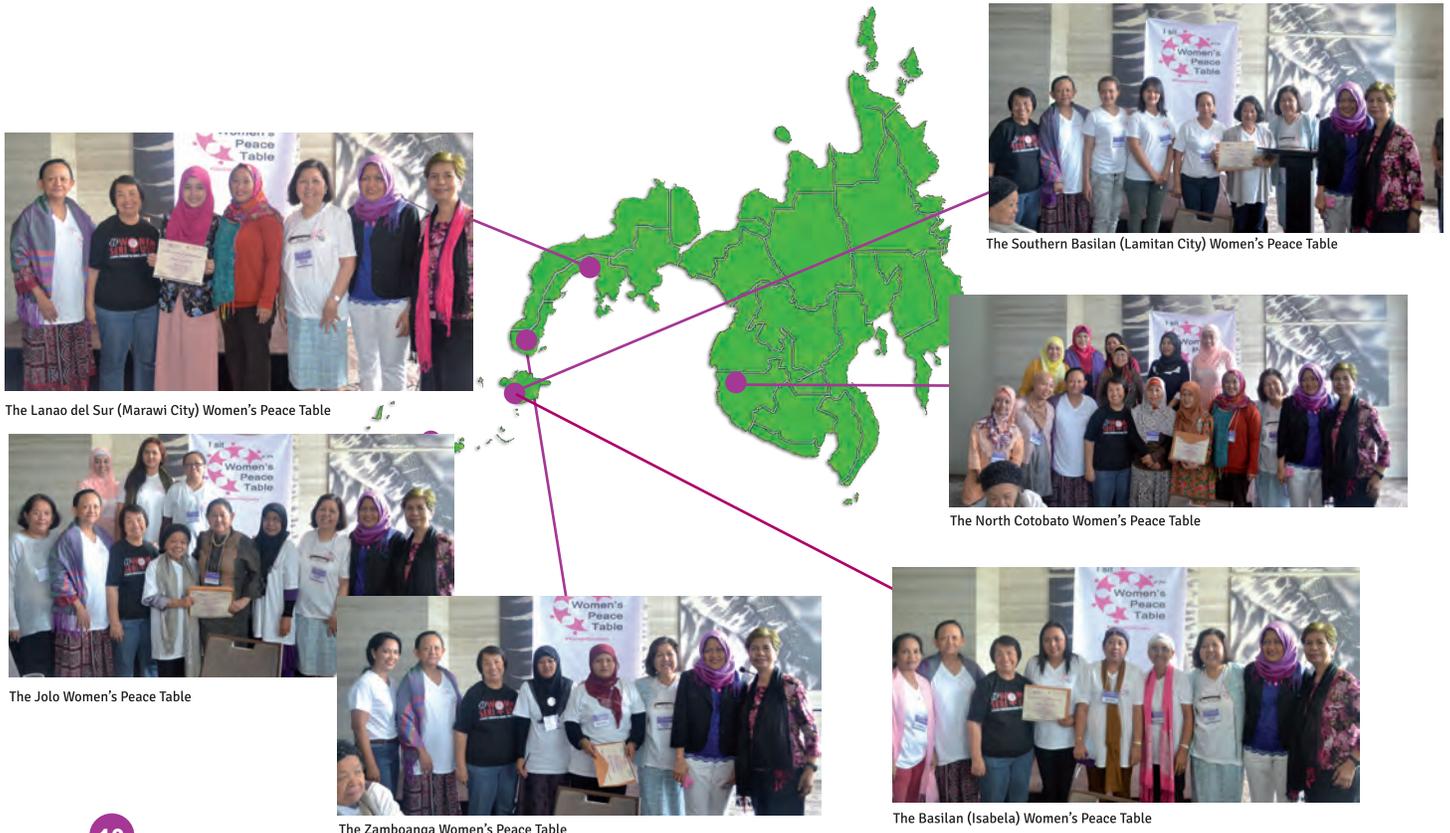
Connecting involves linking the formal peace tables with groups of women from grassroots communities and serve as a bridge across institutions and groups in society.

Mediating pertains to engaging in dialogue with both friends and allies of the peace process, as well as, those who disagree with the BBL, to facilitate the presentation and clear understanding of women's issues and concerns related to peace-building, post-conflict recovery and reconstruction.

Educating means building the capacities of women community and religious leaders in governance, political participation, livelihood, and other development-related activities to inform and engaged them on good governance and economic sustainability, which are both critical in restoring and sustaining peace.

Though WPTs have already been established in the six conflict-affected project areas encompassing different sectors since 2012, the formal establishment of local WPTs was held as a culminating activity of the consultation with Muslim, Christian, and Indigenous women in Davao City last March 27-28, 2015. The most recent list of WPT members may be found in Appendix A.

Albeit WPTs have already been established in the six conflict-affected project areas encompassing different sectors since 2012, the formal establishment of local WPTs was held as a culminating activity of the consultation with Muslim, Christian, and Indigenous women in Davao City last March 27-28, 2015. The most recent list of WPT members may be found in Appendix A.



The Lanao del Sur (Marawi City) Women's Peace Table

The Southern Basilan (Lamitan City) Women's Peace Table

The North Cotabato Women's Peace Table

The Jolo Women's Peace Table

The Zamboanga Women's Peace Table

The Basilan (Isabela) Women's Peace Table

6. CONSULTATION WITH MUSLIM, CHRISTIAN, AND INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN MINDANAO

The conduct of consultations and the gathering of data from grassroots communities have been crucial in the implementation of this women, peace, and security project since its inception. In addition to the baseline research conducted at an earlier stage of its implementation, a consultation with Muslim, Christian, and indigenous women was held at Seda Abreeza Hotel, Davao City, Philippines last March 27-28, 2015. The consultation was conducted in the form of an all-women conference with the theme: "Uniting for Peace: Women Call for Humanitarian Ceasefire and the Resumption of Peace Talks." The said theme provided a framework for the said consultation, in response to the violent encounter between the PNP-SAF, the MILF, and the BIFF.

This gathering specifically aimed at : (a) unifying and asserting the voices and perspectives of women for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and for a lasting peace in Mindanao; (b) consolidating and expanding Women's Peace Tables in conflict-affected communities and different sectors— academe, youth, religious, business, media and others in support of the peace process and the Bangsamoro Basic Law; and (c) increasing awareness and strengthening capacities of women's peace tables to strategize and actively

participate in the peace process towards an enduring and lasting peace in Mindanao.

Around 150 women from grassroots communities, the media, the government, and civil society organizations gathered to call for the cessation of military offensives in Mindanao, advocate for the continuation of the peace process, and promote the resumption of deliberations on the BBL.

Among the key speakers who provided relevant insights for participants to reflect on were: Sen. Santanina Rasul; Rep. Sitti Djalila A. Turabin-Hataman of Anak Mindanao Party List; Atty. Anna Tarhata-Basman of the GPH Peace Panel; Chairperson Sitti Jehanne Mutin of the Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women; Ms. Samira Gutoc of the Young Moro Professionals Network; and Ms. Noraida Abdulah Karim of Community and Family Services International; and Councilor April Dayap represented Mayor Duterte.

The conference generated a number of recommendations the summary of which was summarized in a statement that was read by Ms. Irene Santiago, of the WPT.



7. LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

The legislative advocacy component of this women, peace, and security project was led by Dr. Socorro Reyes, one of the WPT Conveners. Since the commencement of this project, Dr. Reyes facilitated workshop sessions given to the WPT Core Group and its other members on advocating for gender provisions in the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL). In consultation with other WPT Conveners, she spearheaded the formulation of WPT's specific suggestions to legislators on its provisions to make the BBL gender-responsive. To push for the inclusion of these suggested provisions, members of the WPT, as well as, Secretariat staff attended Bangsamoro Basic Law Ad Hoc Committee public hearings conducted by Congress and Senate in Metro Manila and in the provinces .

To prepare the WPT Core group the challenging task of legislative lobbying and advocacy in the Senate and the House of Representatives, a study workshop was held last October 11, 2014. Two researches were presented during the workshop: The WPT Suggested Proposals to strengthen the existing gender provisions of the Draft Bangsamoro Law presented by Dr. Socorro Reyes. The other research study was presented by Atty. Francis Tom Temprosa on the possible interpretations of some of the provisions of the BBL and the constitutional issues that may be raised against the BBL citing previous Supreme Court decisions. After the presentations, an intensive discussion occurred where the group proceeded to identify important gender provisions that need to be pushed and the strategies to be employed in lobbying for these provisions.



WOMEN PEACE TABLE'S SUGGESTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING THE GENDER PROVISIONS IN THE BANGSAMORO BASIC LAW:

I. Article 4. General Principles and Policies

Section 2: Democratic Political System—The Bangsa Moro Government shall be parliamentary. Its political system is democratic, allowing its people to freely participate in the political processes within its territory. **Pursuant to the rights of women to meaningful political participation, women shall be represented in all decision-making bodies of the Bangsa Moro. (p. 5)**

Section 3: Electoral System—The Bangsa Moro shall adopt an electoral system suitable to a ministerial form of government, which shall allow democratic participation, encourage formation of genuinely principled political parties **with equitable representation of women, indigenous people and other marginalized groups, and ensure accountability. (p. 5)**

Section 6: Promotion of Rights—The Bangsa Moro shall adhere to the principle of enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong. **All its laws and policies, including customary laws shall conform with international human rights and humanitarian standards including gender equality. The Bangsa Moro government shall promote, protect and fulfill the basic human rights of all peoples as provided by national law and all international laws, covenants and treaties to which the Philippines is a signatory. (p. 6)**

II. Article 5. The Powers of Government

Section 2. Concurrent Powers

8. Civil Service .“This law shall govern the conduct of civil servants, the qualification for non-elective positions, adopt the merit system, **ensure gender balance (50-50) for women in third level positions in government** as provided for in the Magna Carta of Women.” (p.9)

13. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.”The BDRRMC shall formulate a gender-sensitive Bangsa Moro Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan..(p.10)

Section 3. Exclusive Powers

55. Establishment of appropriate mechanisms for consultation for women and marginalized sector: **The Bangsa Moro government shall ensure that women’s representation at all levels of development planning and program implementation shall be at least 40% as provided for by the Magna Carta of Women. (p.17)**

III. Article 6. Intergovernmental Relations

Section 5. Council of Leaders

The Bangsamoro Council of Leaders shall consist of the Chief Minister, provincial governors, mayors of chartered cities and representatives from the non-Moro indigenous communities, women, settler communities and other sectors. The Bangsa Moro Council of Leaders shall be chaired by the Chief Minister. In pursuit of the Magna Carta of Women, 40% of the Bangsa Moro Council of Leaders shall be composed of women. (p. 22)

IV. The Bangsamoro Government

Bangsamoro Parliament

Article 7 - xxx

Section 5. Classification and Allocation of Seats

1. District Seats—Forty percent (40%) of the Members of Parliament shall be elected from single-member parliamentary districts apportioned for the area and in the manner provided for in the Appendix of this Basic Law. **In pursuit of the Magna Carta of Women, women’s equal and full participation in the elections shall be incorporated in the guidelines of the Commission on Elections. (p.24)**

2. Party Representatives—Fifty per cent (50%) of the Members of Parliament shall be representatives of political parties who win seats through a system of proportional representation based on the whole Bangsa Moro territory. Parties shall **ensure gender balance with women and men alternating in their** respective **closed party list** of approved candidates prior to the election. **As provided for by the Magna Carta of Women, the Commission on Elections shall provide incentives to political parties with a women’s agenda. (p. 2)**

3. Reserved Seats; Sectoral Representation—Sectoral representatives, constituting 10% of the Members of Parliament, including two (2) reserved seats each for non-Muslim indigenous communities and settler communities. **Women shall also have two (2) reserved seats. (p.25)**

Regional Political Parties

Article 7 - xxx

Section 7. Regional Political Parties - A free and open regional party system shall be allowed to evolve according to the free choice of the people. Towards this end, only regional political parties duly accredited by the Bangsamoro Electoral Office may participate in the parliamentary elections in the Bangsamoro. **Political parties shall ensure the representation and participation of women in their leadership and decision-making structures and processes.**

Section 9. The electoral system shall allow democratic participation, ensure accountability of public officers primarily to their constituents and encourage formation of genuinely principled and **gender-responsive** political parties. (p. 26)

Section 9, 2nd paragraph: There is hereby created a Bangsa Moro Electoral Office which shall be part of the Commission on Elections..The Bangsa Moro Parliament shall submit a list of three (3) recommendees to the President **including one woman** who shall choose from among them the Director-General who shall head the Office..The Bangsa Moro Electoral Office shall likewise implement the Bangsa Moro Electoral Code that shall...**ensure full and equal participation of women in elections and plebiscites.**

V. Article 9. Basic Rights

Section 10. Protection of Women and Children-. Women and children shall be protected from exploitation and **all forms of sexual and gender-based violence at all times especially in situations of armed conflict, disasters or other crisis situations. (p.39)**

Section 11. Participation of Women in Bangsa Moro Government. Aside from gender balance in the composition of Parliament, there shall also be gender balance in the Bangsa Moro cabinet and in the Shariah Justice System (p.39)

VI. Article 10. Bangsamoro Justice System

Section 1. Justice System in the Bangsamoro

...For rights and traditions of the indigenous peoples in the Bangsamoro **which shall be in accordance with international standards of human rights including gender equality.**

VII. Article 12. Fiscal Autonomy

Section 37. Composition (Intergovernmental Fiscal Policy Board) The Board shall be composed of the heads and/or representatives of the appropriate Ministries and Offices in the Bangsa Moro government. **It shall have sectoral representation from Women and IPs.(p.73)**

VIII. Article XIV. Rehabilitation and Development (pp. 86-87)

Section 1. The Bangsa Moro government, with funding support from the Central Government, shall intensify development efforts for the rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of the Bangsa Moro as part of the normalization process. **It shall promote and ensure gender-responsive approach in all aspects of security and peace-building, including the participation of women in decision-making.**

Section 2. The Central Government shall provide for a Special Development Fund to the Bangsamoro for rehabilitation and development purposes upon the ratification of the Bangsamoro Basic law. **There shall be established a Women's Peace Fund primarily managed by women, as a window to the Special Development Fund in support of gender as a cross-cutting concern.**

VIII. Article 16. Bangsa Moro Transition Authority (p. 93)

Section 6. Functions and Priorities-The BTA shall ensure the accomplishment of the following priorities during the Transition Period:

a. Ensure that transitional justice mechanisms shall administer equitable, inclusive and distributive justice regardless of class, creed, disability, gender and ethnicity.

c. Set up a Regional Commission on Women in the Bangsa Moro as a full-fledged Ministry with the mandate to mainstream gender in policies, regulations and programs and monitor the implementation of all laws relating to women.



8. WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY TRAINING

Gender and Conflict-Responsive Governance – Updates on the Implementation of NAP 1325

A two-day training on “Gender and Conflict-Responsive Governance” was held from November 14 to 15, 2015. The training was attended by women local government officials and community women leaders from Jolo, Basilan, Zamboanga, Cotabato and Lanao. The training was intended to develop capacities of elected women and potential women leaders to set a gender and conflict-responsive policy agenda and make substantive interventions based from evident needs and issues of their constituents. Specifically, the training provided them a working knowledge of international and national mandates on women, peace and security, including the Philippine National Action Plan on 1325 and their indicators. The participants also shared how they contribute to the implementation of NAP 1325.

One significant output of the training was the sharing of the participants about how the elections and campaigns were conducted in their communities.

Sharing of Participants' Experiences During Electoral Campaign



Below are the excerpts of the participants' sharing:

- ▶ In Lanao, candidates have already put up their campaign materials even if campaign season have not started; and 2-3 days before elections, campaigners go house-to-house to bribe voters.
- ▶ In Basilan, one candidate gave away motor cycles. Also, standard tarpaulin sizes weren't followed. In addition, two days, or the night before the elections, envelopes with money were given ranging from PhP1,000.00 – PhP3,000.00. Moreover, one participant has been a registered voter for two years, but in truth, she has never been able to vote. There are cases when people in the past, use her name to vote. She lives in the Barrio. There were armed men in election polls where their right to vote was taken away. Last year, there had been armed conflict due to the elections. The ballot boxes were taken to the principal's office where the voting continued even though the voting itself was closed to people. After that results were announced. They weren't able to vote but there were results. They thought PCOS machines would be more effective but that did not happen.
- ▶ In Bungao, the smallest they would give out to voters was PhP3,000.00 while the highest was at PhP5,000.00. Money was given to the leaders and the leaders would distribute. On the day of the election if you agreed not to vote yourself you were given an additional PhP3,000.00. If you wanted to run as a candidate you must be rich, regardless if you're a woman or a man.
- ▶ Another experience from a participant was calling this participant to a fake seminar. Someone would come and give them money and be identified per precinct. During her first time she earned PhP15,000.00 and that was different from what you could earn as a voter.
- ▶ In Lanao Del Norte there are no vote-buying or armed conflict during elections. However, ballot boxes are being taken.
- ▶ Another participant observed that women in their community voted last because of multiple burdens. They do household chores first before going to precincts and by then, they were already too tired to vote. She recommended that women should vote first before doing their responsibilities. Also she recommended that tallied votes should be sex disaggregated to know who voted more.
- ▶ According to participant in their community, they had pre-election activities to determine the issues and problems and possible solutions. There was a peace covenant-signing to all candidates. They also brought posters that discouraged people to cheat. When it came to vote-buying, PhP10,000.00 was the smallest and the highest was at PhP50,000.00.
- ▶ A councilor from Jolo is running in 2016. Presently, she is the only woman councilor out of 8 councilors that were elected in their province. She encouraged her co-councilors to do their jobs and make ordinances and not make unnecessary programs, such as organizing basketballs.
- ▶ Another participant also suggested that maybe they could help each other out in pushing for their agendas. Help out their sisters who will run next elections.
- ▶ Another participant from Tawi-Tawi ran for councilor in 1998 to address the waste management issue in their province.
- ▶ Another participant became a councilor and fixed the waste management issue in their province. She made an anti-littering law called, "Tapat ko. Linis Ko (I clean my own front yard)." She wanted participation to be more empowering. The government shouldn't be the only ones doing something, but the citizens, as well.



9. CONSULTATION ON THE ROLL OUT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

In response to the need for information on the implementation of the NAP, a consultation with women community and religious leaders from conflict-affected areas within Mindanao and from other parts of the country was held during the 4th National Women's Summit at Miriam College, Quezon City on November 16-17, 2015. Part of the Summit was a presentation on the Philippine Government's accomplishment in terms of achieving peace in Mindanao by Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). In the afternoon of the summit were simultaneous sessions which include a session on "Strategies for an Inclusive and Democratic Peace and Governance Processes". The session reviewed government and NGO initiatives and efforts on the implementation of the Philippine NAP-WPS and gathered community women leaders' thought on the

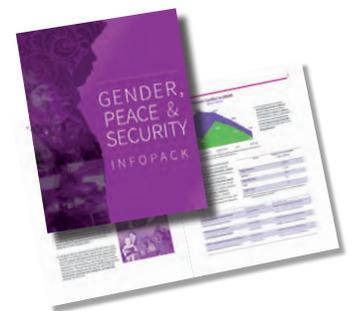
implementation of NAP in their respective areas, as well as the issues, opportunities, and challenges they face in relation to conflict-resolution and peace building.

The National Women's Summit was attended by almost 400 organizations and individuals – from government agencies, NGOs, the academe, media, politicians, and grassroots leaders from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

The conduct of the training and the roll-out consultation have strengthened the commitment of these women leaders to advocate, not just for peace in Mindanao, but also in looking at the strategic link between gender and conflict-responsive governance. They were able to see beyond policy advocacy for the BBL, but for gender responsive legislations in general. Such is particularly important given the pending 2016 elections that can either result in a status quo in the area or a more lasting change.

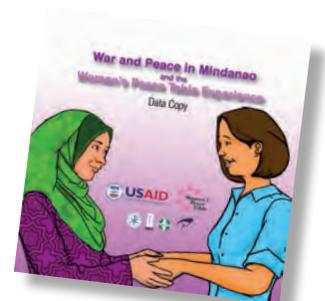
10. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY INFOPACK

The project was also able to produce a gender, peace and security info pack that provides a brief and introductory material containing basic facts and figures on the socio-economic conditions in the conflict areas and its implications on the lives of women in the areas of health and reproductive health; security and safety issues; gender-based violence and political participation. To give more insights on the situation of women, the info pack included the life stories of women whose lives have been affected by the continuing conflict in Mindanao. Through their experiences, we are given a glimpse of the difficulties and travails experienced by women on the ground. The stories reveal that women's courage, wisdom, resiliency and hope are what helps families and communities survive and thrive even in the midst of war and conflict.



11. VIDEO DOCUMENTATION OF THE WPT EXPERIENCE

The video documentation presents the story of war and peace in Mindanao and the Women's Peace Table (WPT) experience in the promotion of lasting peace and justice, not only in Mindanao, but in the entire country, as well. It narrates the stories of women who experienced war and conflict, women's engagement in the peace process, the renewal of peace talks between the Philippine Government and the MILF, the lobbying for the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), and the continuing campaign for peace.



CHALLENGES AND WAYS FORWARD

Challenges

1. Military encounters with terrorist groups or rival Muslim factions, as well as, natural disasters affected the pace of project implementation and the safety of project implementers

The launch of this women, peace, and security activity was supposed to be conducted last November 2013, following the submission and acceptance by Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) of work plan and detailed budget. However, due to Typhoon Haiyan, the launch was postponed until all involved parties were available. Security threats in some of the project areas also delayed the conduct of focus group discussions until August (Isabela City, Lamitan, and Zamboanga) and early September (Jolo) 2014. Although focus group discussions in the six project areas were scheduled from August 9-10, 2014, four of them had to be rescheduled to the end of August and early September because of ongoing military operations. However, data gathering resumed immediately upon the advice of our project partner, the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID), when the security conditions in the said areas have stabilized.

2. Mamasapano and Its Impact on the Peace Process and the Project

The tragic events on Mamasapano that led to the killing of 44 PNP-SAF soldiers and the 18 MILF soldiers, including civilians last January 25, 2015, was a major setback in the peace process that caused the suspension of the legislative deliberations on the BBL. No one could have predicted the depth and scale of negative public opinion after the incident. Media coverage of the event portrayed the MILF as traitors (for hiding terrorist like Marwan) and aggressors, who should not be trusted in the peace process. President Aquino was roundly condemned for the debacle and the Government's leaders in the peace panel –Prof. Miriam Coronel Ferrer and OPAAP Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles were similarly condemned and heaped with very sexist remarks and insults. It was the lowest point in the peace process that definitely derailed and negatively affected the pace of the BBL's

legislative proceedings and put a damper on what would have been strong public support for the BBL.

The WPT joined other organizations, which later formed itself into an alliance of Mindanao and Metro Manila- based peace organizations called, ALL OUT PEACE, in analyzing the situation as strategizing our next collective activities for greater impact.

3. Tracking development and delays in the publication of the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL)

In spite of the fact that the current government administration is very supportive of the peace process with the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) and its annexes, getting information about the draft BBL in preparation for legislative advocacy efforts that are in line with this activity has been challenging for the team.

However, with the formal passing of the draft to Congress and with legislative advocacy consultants closely monitoring the status of the Bangsamoro Basic Law both in Congress and the Senate, the project team is updated on current developments on the said draft law.

One lesson that we learned is the need for close collaboration by WPT conveners with various peace networks supporting the passage of the BBL. This prompted the WPT to join the Friends of Bangsa Moro (FOB) later to be called, ALL OUT PEACE- so that seemingly disparate positions may be consolidated, with the aim of strengthening civil society support for the passage of the BBL.

4. Challenges in Forming Women's Peace Tables

The WPT works with organized groups that already have their identities. In order for these groups to adopt the WPT agenda, they have to be convinced that it is to their interest to join the WPT network. The secretariat is now in the process of finalizing the criteria for membership; the Principles of Unity and the activities that will require the participation of individuals and organizations to the WPT.

Ways Forward

1. Conduct of succeeding dialogues and consultations with strategic sectors and joint actions with coalitions in support of the BBL.

In September and October 2014 and in March and May 2015, dialogues and consultations with business, media, the youth, and the academe were conducted. The project team aims to continue these dialogues, particularly with legislators and civil society organizations (CSOs) with the goal of informing its advocacy campaigns about political, social, and economic issues of women from these sectors that have to be addressed by the BBL.

Through these dialogues and consultations, the WPT was able to gather information to assess the training needs of women and develop training modules designed to directly address current issues they are faced with which have impact on their meaningful political participation in their local communities. Sectoral dialogues in partnership with other organizations, which are supportive of the Bangsamoro will also be conducted.

2. Formalizing and institutionalizing partnership with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) in implementing the government's National Action Plan on 1325 through the conduct of training and capacity-building activities to promote the participation of women or the integration of gender perspectives in government policies and mechanisms.

This project aims to address women's issues in conflict-affected areas that have been raised during dialogues and consultations over the long term. It is particularly focused on helping in the normalization and post-conflict phase of peace-building. To achieve this and to help the government institutionalize the localization of the National Action Plan for WPS (most specifically the UNSCR 1325), the Women's Peace Table has been collaborating with the lead government agencies in-charge of mainstreaming gender, peace and security issues in the government -- OPAPP and PCW.

At least three preliminary meetings have already been held to flesh out the concrete ways WPT can assist the government in institutionalizing NAP 1325 at the local level. From these meetings, two strategies that have been agreed upon by WPT and OPAPP:

- a. Provision of training on developing the capacity of conflict-affected communities led by women on Gender, Conflict and Development, including access and utilization of the GAD budget. As a training institution, Women and Gender Institute or the last 16 years, WAGI has the competence and the track record to sustain the capacity building program for Bangsa Moro women leaders, as well as, the local government officers;
- b. A proposal to develop of a sustainable economic enterprise that will be named, "Great Moro Women Project," which is patterned after the Philippine Commission on Women's "Great Women Project." The focus of such a program will be on reviving and supporting dying industries of the Bangsamoro women, such as weaving, brassware making, among others by providing and upgrading skills on product design, development, and marketing; entrepreneurship, and financial management in a convergent way; and
- c. Formal establishment of Women's Peace Tables in local communities beyond the six project areas;

In line with project objectives 1 and 3, this activity will support and prioritize the formal establishment of Women's Peace Tables in communities belonging to the six project areas. The Women's Peace Table also aims to expand its network by opening it to individuals, women's organizations, and other civil society groups that support its advocacy to build women's capacities and increase their political, economic, and social involvement in their to facilitate sustainable development in their communities.

The Women's Peace Table aims to formalize the inclusion of individuals and groups in its network through the registration of members, which will be evidenced by a certificate of membership to be issued and certified by its conveners.

THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTERS



Miriam College-Women and Gender Institute (WAGI)-Secretariat

The Women and Gender Institute (WAGI) is Miriam College's center for research, training and advocacy on women's rights, gender equality and non-sexist learning in support of the leadership of young women and students. It offers a cross-disciplinary perspective on women's empowerment that is interlinked with democracy, human rights, social justice and value formation. WAGI forges links with other sectors, organizations and institutions at the national, regional and international levels. WAGI has six thematic programs, namely: Young Women Leadership Program; International Women's Human Rights and Governance; Gender Fair Education; Gender, Development, and Economic Globalization; Migration Research and Training; and Gender, Peace, and Security.

Beginnings

Maryknoll College (now Miriam College) was one of the pioneers in introducing women's studies in the Philippines. As early as the 1970s, the course, "Women and Society" was introduced in the curricula. In 1987, it established the Women's Resource Research Center (WRRRC) to respond to the "integrative needs of women towards social transformation." In the early 1980s, the school, along with leading institutions in Metro Manila, organized the Metro Manila Women's Studies Consortium, the predecessor of the Women's Studies Association of the Philippines (WSAP). The Women and Gender Institute (WAGI) was established in 1999 under the leadership of the former president of Miriam College, Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan.



Mindanao Commission on Women

MCW has played an active role in mobilizing, educating, and lobbying to ensure the inclusion of women's issues in discussions and policies related to peace. One of the main principles of MCW is giving value to women's voices and ensuring spaces for their meaningful participation. MCW has three primary areas of concern: peace and multi-culturalism, poverty reduction, and politics and governance (Mindanao Commission on Women Website, 2014).

MCW likewise co-organized the Open Days on Women, Peace and Security in September 2011 with UN Women, UNDP, and MC-WAGI on the implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325.

In 2011, MCW, together with MC-WAGI and Philippine Center on Islam and Democracy (PCID), also conceptualized, organized and launched the Women's Peace Table in 2011, a network of women leaders in various conflict-affected areas in Mindanao which seeks to mediate, connect, and educate women and the public so that they may be able to significantly contribute to post-peace agreement reconstruction and recovery.



Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID)

PCID started in 2002 through the initiatives of several Muslim political leaders and intellectuals who were concerned about the future of democracy in Muslim Mindanao, since the dominant discourse is that Islam and democracy are not compatible.

Ms. Amina Rasul, a former Cabinet member under Pres. Fidel Ramos; Atty. Nasser Marohomsalic, former Human Rights Commissioner; and the late Abraham Iribani, a former spokesperson of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and former Assistant Secretary for Local Government; spearheaded the launching of the Philippine Council of Islam and Democracy.

Since its founding, the PCID has become one of the most respected center of critical thinking and debate on Islam, democracy and the peace agreement. It has engaged the

public intellectuals business and policy makers in the benefits of promoting and supporting the peace agreement and the peace dividends that will result from a peace agreement.

PCID has made significant inroads in organizing organizations of Muslim Ulama who have supported the programs of PCID over the years. In addition, through its partnership with WAGI, PCID also conducted training and educating women religious or Aleemat which led to the formation of NOORUS SALAM, a network of Muslim women leaders from various sectors including women religious. Through its partnership with PCID, it has organized maternity health seminars; workshops on women's human rights and UN Resolution 1325. Apart from its national initiatives, PCID is a much sought after resource on international discussions on Islam and democracy and has helped in monitoring of elections in Muslim countries.

APPENDIX A

Women's Peace Table Members By Cluster/Division as of April 2015

	Last	First	WPT Cluster/ Division
1	Ambalong	Melchora	Central Mindanao WPT
2	Catuyan	Arlene	Central Mindanao WPT
3	Abobakar	Fatima	Central Mindanao WPT
4	Balambag	Rosie	Central Mindanao WPT
5	Matba	Sarah Jane	Central Mindanao WPT
6	Mocsin	Raisah	Cotabato WPT/Central Mindanao WPT
7	Abdullah karim	Noraida	Cotabato WPT/Central Mindanao WPT
8	Sula	Ysnairin	Cotabato WPT/Central Mindanao WPT
9	Midtimbang	Bailalaine	Cotabato WPT/Central Mindanao WPT
10	Candao	Shalimar	Cotabato WPT/Central Mindanao WPT
11	Candao	Baingan	Cotabato WPT/Central Mindanao WPT
12	Arab	Anisa	Cotabato WPT/Central Mindanao WPT
13	Daud	Mariam	Cotabato WPT/Central Mindanao WPT
14	Candao	Shalimar	Cotabato WPT/Central Mindanao WPT
15	Sango	Rosalinda	Davao WPT
16	Lidasan	Bailallie	Davao WPT
17	Escabarte	Sarah Jane	Davao WPT
18	Boquiquito	Mansueta	Davao WPT
19	Arcenas	Maria Lourdes	Davao WPT
20	Morada	Grace	Davao WPT
21	Villafuerte	Mary Joselle	Davao WPT
22	Ruivivar	Marina	Davao WPT
23	Elento	Inorisa	Davao WPT
24	Millondaga	Kenette Jean	Davao WPT
25	Ampog	Jeanette	Davao WPT
26	Umblero	Nelca Stephany	Davao WPT
27	Umblero	Corazon	Davao WPT
28	Calix	Ana Luisa	Davao WPT
29	Colina	Eden	Davao WPT
30	Padon	Sharmaine	Davao WPT
31	Tagle	Maria Belinda	Davao WPT
32	Ruivivar	Patricia Melizza	Davao WPT
33	Manligoy	Gemma	Davao WPT
34	Comez	Hja. Kalbiya	Isabela WPT
35	Orillanida	Carmen	Isabela WPT
36	Hamsan	Alma	Isabela WPT
37	Dans	Nida	Isabela WPT
38	Hontucan	Bernardita	Isabela WPT
39	Abdulla	Norma	Jolo WPT
40	Isahac	Charina	Jolo WPT
41	Isnirul	Muniyra Aning	Jolo WPT

	Last	First	WPT Cluster/ Division
42	Rasul	Fatima Irene	Jolo WPT
43	Rasul	Salma	Jolo WPT
44	Rasul	Santanina	Jolo WPT
45	Flores	Jessica	Lamitan WPT
46	Ahalajal	Amy	Lamitan WPT
47	Delos Reyes	Sheena	Lamitan WPT
48	Fernandez	Myrna	Lamitan WPT
49	Igao	Haironizah	Marawi WPT
50	Sulaiman	Asmairah	Marawi WPT
51	Batuan	Hapsa	Marawi WPT
52	Jali	Sharifa Sittie Zehada M.	Marawi WPT
53	Mamarinta	Yasmin	Marawi WPT
54	Mutin	Sittie Jehanne	Marawi WPT
55	Ramos-Mayo	Minombao	Marawi WPT
56	Ramber	Norain	National Capital Region WPT
57	Guialudin	Shainah	National Capital Region WPT
58	Diocolano	Anjilyn	National Capital Region WPT
59	Macalbas	Norkids	National Capital Region WPT
60	Macusang	Norhaiya	National Capital Region WPT
61	Santiago	Irene	WPT Convener's Group
62	De Dios	Aurora	WPT Convener's Group
63	Reyes	Socorro	WPT Convener's Group
64	Rasul	Amina	WPT Convener's Group
65	Moran-Floirendo	Margie	WPT Convener's Group
66	Gutoc-Tomawis	Samira	WPT Convener's Group
67	Espana	Boi-Era	WPT Convener's Group
68	Mananzan	Mary John	WPT Convener's Group
69	Leguro	Myla	WPT Convener's Group
70	Guiam	Rufa	WPT Convener's Group
71	Albert	Delia	WPT Convener's Group
72	Bueza	Mary Kathleen	WPT Secretariat
73	Jurisprudencia	Nikki Jean	WPT Secretariat
74	Fulo	Rina Angelica	WPT Secretariat
75	Dacayo	Jennifer Therese	WPT Secretariat
76	Vedana	Salves	WPT Secretariat
77	Reyes	Melanie	WPT Secretariat
78	Mutuc	Anna-Teresa	Youth WPT
79	Soria	Vermillon	Youth WPT
80	Colango	Ezel Jaya	Youth WPT
81	Hatton	Pearl Jane	Youth WPT
82	Alagon	Suzette	Youth WPT
83	Serrano	Monica Paula	Youth WPT

	Last	First	WPT Cluster/ Division
84	Flores	Erica Mariz	Youth WPT
85	De La Paz	Alexandria Mikaela	Youth WPT
86	Abello	Andrea Aimee	Youth WPT
87	Valeriano	Angela	Youth WPT
88	Alonzo	Alyssa Patrisse	Youth WPT
89	Pineda	Sofia Melanie	Youth WPT
90	Besana	Mariella	Youth WPT
91	Bico	Shiela Marie Aster	Youth WPT
92	Sudario	Vanessa mae	Youth WPT
93	Antonio	Audrey	Youth WPT
94	Ganacia	Jemica	Youth WPT
95	Martin	Mariella	Youth WPT
96	Guinid	Rayanna Jean Erika	Youth WPT
97	Nicoyco	Carla Remedios	Youth WPT
98	Versoza	Charlene	Youth WPT
99	Fernandez	Jillian Mae	Youth WPT
100	De Castro	Louissa Raye	Youth WPT
101	Macaraeg	Donna Nessa	Youth WPT
102	Javier	Cherrisse	Youth WPT
103	De Leon	Angeline Fria	Youth WPT
104	Acosta	Danella Nissi	Youth WPT
105	Brioso	Angielyn	Youth WPT
106	Santos	Czarinna Kyle	Youth WPT
107	Minerales	Kay Antonette	Youth WPT
108	Rabuya	Kathleen Mae	Youth WPT
109	Piencenaves	Inna Dominique	Youth WPT
110	Absalon	Dannica	Youth WPT
111	Saylo	Ma. Rosario Teresa	Youth WPT
112	Pureza	Brenda	Youth WPT
113	Bersano	Bernadette	Youth WPT
114	Macalabo	Juwairian	Youth WPT/ Marawi WPT
115	Usman	Hanna-Tunisia	Youth WPT/ Marawi WPT
116	Jailani	Katrina	Zamboanga WPT
117	Bacuak	Nursia	Zamboanga WPT
118	Taning	Rohaida	Zamboanga WPT
119	Echem	Rosalyn	Zamboanga WPT

APPENDIX B

RESTORE AND RECLAIM: Women Unite for Peace and Call to Action

March 28, 2015, Davao City

Convened by the Women's Peace Table

Women are powerful agents of peace just as we are victims of war.

The Women's Peace Table - an educating, mediating and connecting table created by women at the highest levels and in communities - gathered at Seda Abreeza Hotel, Davao City, Philippines on March 27-28, 2015 to come up with a plan of action on how to handle the crisis after Mamasapano.

Women's perspectives about stopping war and building peace are critical at this time when peace teeters at the edge of a very dangerous precipice fueled by anger and hate after the Mamasapano incident. We bring unique perspectives and valuable contributions to all phases of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding. And we are more than half of the population.

If women handled the crisis after Mamasapano, we would focus on two things: Restore and Reclaim.

RESTORE TRUST

PASS a Bangsamoro Basic Law that is faithful to the spirit and intent of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including provisions that ensure that women enjoy equal rights and opportunities as embodied in existing international treaties and national laws. We are urging our legislators, as a sign of good faith and to earn our trust, to take the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) seriously by reading it thoroughly and thoughtfully.

STOP the military operations in Central Mindanao that have displaced more than 120,000 people in 15 municipalities.

SUPPORT the families displaced by the military operations so they can return to their homes and livelihood.

CREATE a WOMEN'S PEACE FUND. Put money in the hands of women immediately so that families and communities can feel the peace dividend even before

the BBL and peace mechanisms are put in place. STOP THE DEMONIZING PROPAGANDA in media and other outlets against the Moros and their genuine struggle to exercise their right to self-determination.

DO JUSTICE to the victims of Mamasapano. The SAF 44 were victims but there were others too. Adhere to the rule of law for all at all times and all circumstances.

In times of war, it is trust that is depleted. Peacemaking is about the painstaking process of building trust among many groups and parties. We must rebuild trust among divided communities and peoples, and develop capacities for conflict resolution without resorting to violence.

RECLAIM

Reclaim the peace process as a people's process and therefore must include the voices of all Filipinos, including women and indigenous people. The peace process is in tatters. Those who want war are dominating the national discussion, drowning the voices of peace advocates and peacebuilders. The peace process must not be between two parties alone. It must involve more than just the negotiating panels. It must involve all of us.

The issue of peace in Mindanao is a national issue. It is not just a Mindanao issue. Just as peace negotiations are not only about ending war but building peace. We cannot leave the process to just the war actors, every citizen has a stake in it.

Women are claiming their seats at the various peace tables, from the grassroots to the highest levels. We are expanding the number of participants to the peace process and building a national peace constituency. We are forming Women's Peace Tables all over the country to create a national consensus for peace.

We intend to prove that those who call for an all-out war are in the minority in this country and they should not dominate the discussions and the decisions on peace and security that impact our lives and that of our families and communities.

Women are the largest untapped resource for national stability and security. Because women have life experiences that are different from men's, we are indispensable to building a just and sustainable peace.



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