

## Philippines Programme Information

Conciliation Resources first engaged in supporting peacebuilding in Mindanao in 1999, when it published an *Accord* issue on the GPH-MNLF peace process, documenting lessons through local voices. It has since then monitored developments on the Mindanao and the NDF conflicts, expanding and strengthening collaborative relations with a range of actors. Conciliation Resources established a full Philippines programme in 2010 to respond to the growing demands for Conciliation Resources' support, notably the participation in the International Contact Group on the Mindanao peace process.

The organisation's **long-term goal** in the Philippines is: 'A peaceful settlement of armed conflicts in the Philippines, with meaningful participation of women.'

The Philippines programme has four interlinked pillars of work:

- **Supporting** agreement implementation between the Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, as members of the International Contact Group.
- **Promoting Public Participation** in the Mindanao Peace Process, with a focus on community security and transitional justice, rights based approach for good governance and responding to transitional justice.
- **Empowering women and indigenous groups** as agents of change in the Mindanao peace process.
- Promote **innovative approaches** to the GPH-NDF peace process.

Project Overview:

Conciliation Resources (CR) and its co-applicants, United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD) and Teduray Lambangian Women's Organisation Inc. (TLWOI) propose to implement an action aimed at empowering communities in the Bangsamoro to resolve local conflicts and improve local governance in collaboration with government authorities. Funded by the European Union, the project, Public Empowerment and Community Engagement for Good Governance (PEaCE for Good Governance) builds on the results of a previous EU-funded action (2013-2016), "Promoting Public Participation in the Peace Process" (ref. 2013/CDI-NSAPVD/313-555), which included the pilot-testing of Community Security Working Groups in two locations in Central Mindanao. This proposed action will consolidate the results of the pilot-test, and replicate the experience in additional ten new locations, working alongside communities, local and regional government and civil society organisations.

**Overall objective:** A strong and vibrant civil society that promotes peaceful communities and responsive local governance in Mindanao, contributing to achievement of national development goals in the Philippines.

**Specific objective:** enhanced local governance in Mindanao through increased and more efficient and sustained civil society engagement with Local Government Units (LGUs)

The estimated results are:

1. Increased capacities for community organisations to engage with local authorities.
2. Local governance policies, programmes and processes are responsive to, and inclusive of, community needs.
3. Learning from project implementation informs replication of similar initiatives in the Bangsamoro by local authorities

The **activities** of the action therefore aim to:

- Increase the capacities of communities as well as local government bodies to identify, articulate and take responsibility and action to address issues of concern that cut across conflict divides. These issues typically relate to human security and development needs.
- Create inclusive spaces for dialogue and joint action between communities; between communities and local authorities; and between local, regional and national levels.
- Involve local, regional and national government bodies in the implementation of the project; document the learning of this experience; and reflect on the learning comparing it with other similar national and international initiatives. This will contribute to institutionalising and replicating the experience beyond the 12 target communities.