



Australia-Philippines Development Cooperation Program

Total Official Development Assistance estimate 2009-10:
A\$123 million (approx Php4.6 billion)

The Australian Government Aid Program is committed to working in partnership with developing countries, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development.

As regional neighbours, Australia and the Philippines share a common objective of maintaining economic growth and stability in South East Asia.

A key area where the Australia-Philippines partnership remains strong is in development cooperation, which spans more than 50 years starting with the Colombo Plan - an initiative launched by Commonwealth countries to help strengthen the economies of South and South East Asia.

Australia's aid program in the Philippines is centred on three focus areas: **economic growth, basic education, and national stability and human security.**

Australian assistance to the Philippines in 2009-10 will focus on:

Basic Education, through support for programs under the Philippine Government's Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda to assist the Philippines to achieve its Millennium Development Goal target for universal primary education, including: school based management; rationalisation of teacher deployments to ensure coverage of remote schools; dissemination of teaching and learning materials; school classroom construction; and improving access to quality education for Filipino girls and boys with disabilities, Muslim and indigenous children and children in disadvantaged and conflict-affected areas, including in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

National Stability and Human Security, through support for peace building programs focussed at the community level, provision of economic opportunities through small scale infrastructure development and microfinance, and improved delivery of health services. Increased funding will be provided to support efforts to reduce the high maternal mortality rate in the Philippines, improve disaster preparedness and response capability, and strengthen the social protection system through the Philippine Government's Conditional Cash Transfer program.

Economic Growth, through programs that focus on increasing the quality and level of government expenditure on social services and infrastructure, supporting improvements to national level budgeting and public financial management, and improving public sector management of road infrastructure at the provincial level.

The Australian Government Aid Program is administered largely by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and also by other agencies such as the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Australian Defence Force and the Australian Federal Police.

Aid investments totalling almost Php30 billion (approx A\$770 million) since 1998 are a clear indication of Australia's commitment to assist the Philippines to address its development challenges.

The Philippines aid program has grown significantly over the years to become one of Australia's largest globally. Australia is now one the Philippines' three largest bilateral grant aid donors including Japan and the United States.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

Economic Growth

Provincial Road Management Facility (PRMF)
A\$100 million (Php3.8 billion), 2008-2013

Assists the Philippine Government rehabilitate and maintain more than 1000km of provincial roads in up to 10 provinces in Mindanao and the Visayas.

Partnership for Economic Governance Reforms (PEGR)
A\$30 million (Php1.14 billion), 2005-2010 (www.pegrdf.org.ph)

Supports government agencies and other stakeholders undertaking budget management reforms and private sector development focused on improving the investment climate, particularly for transport infrastructure.

Philippines-Australia Human Resource Development Facility (PAHRDF)

A\$60 million (Php2.3 billion), 2004-2009 (www.pahrdf.org.ph)
Delivers long-term (in Australia) training and education award, as well as targeted short courses to support administrative reforms and building better government institutions at both the national and regional levels. About 80 Filipino scholars are awarded Australian Development Scholarships annually.

Philippines-Australia Land Administration and Management Project Phase 2 (LAMP2)

A\$34 million (Php1.3 billion), 2005-2010 (www.phil-lamp.org)
Aims to increase land tenure security and improve land administration services in the Philippines. Co-financed by World Bank and implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Land Registration Administration and Department of Finance.

Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP)
A\$30 million (Php1 billion), 2005-2010 (www.pacap.org.ph)

Provides direct assistance to poor communities in the Philippines to empower them to pursue economic growth and achieve better standards of living. PACAP started in 1986 and has benefited millions of Filipinos nationwide.

**Philippines-Australia Local Sustainability (PALS)
A\$31.4 million (Php1.2 billion), 1999-2009**

Strengthens community and local government unit partnership in resource planning and management, and provides resources for sustainable community livelihoods. Undertaken in partnership with the local government of Misamis Occidental.

Basic Education

Support to Philippine Basic Education Reforms (SPHERE) Trust Fund

A\$41 million (Php1.6 billion), 2007-2011

Supports the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda, which aims to improve the quality of schools and teachers, increase community involvement and support for schools, improve the effectiveness of the Department of Education (DepEd) to support schools and teachers, and improve educational outcomes for Filipino children. Administered by the World Bank and implemented by the DepEd.

Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM)

A\$53.4 million (Php 2 billion), 2002-2009 (www.beam.org.ph)

Contributes to improving the quality of teaching and learning in basic education and to implement strategies that will provide opportunities to access quality basic education in three regions in Mindanao - Regions XI, XII and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, particularly disadvantaged children from Muslim and indigenous communities.

Strengthening Basic Education in the Visayas (STRIVE)

A\$19.2 million (Php730 million), 2005-2010

Develops, supports and strengthens education management and learning support systems in the Visayas for improved access to quality basic education, within the national Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda.

National Stability and Human Security

Government of the Philippines-UN Multi-Donor Program/ACT for Peace (www.actforpeace.ph)

A\$34.4 million (Php1.3 billion), 1997-2010

Assists in rebuilding conflict affected communities in Mindanao through livelihood development, peace building and capacity building. Implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council, local governments and NGOs.

Mindanao Trust Fund-Reconstruction and Development Program (MTF-RDP)

A\$700,000 (Php26.6 million)

Managed by the World Bank, the MTF is a pool of resources from several international partners in a single program to support the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) - Philippine Government peace negotiations. MTF-RDP aims to promote effective governance processes and assist economic and social recovery in the Bangsamoro areas of Mindanao.

Supporting Peace in Mindanao (SPIM)

A\$4 million (Php140 million)

SPIM is an overarching program for a range of peace initiatives in Mindanao. Supports the important role of women, youth, media and interfaith groups in peace-building and conflict prevention in Mindanao. It includes support to Mindanao Commission on Women, National Interfaith Dialogue, and Conflict-Resolving Media Course for journalists.

Support to UNICEF's 6th Country Program for Children (CPC 6) - The Child Friendly Movement

A\$24.7 million (Php938.6 million), 2005-2009

Supports a range of activities such as education, maternal and children protection including universal immunisation, pre-natal care, and child growth monitoring. Also provides support to local government units in establishing legislated frameworks that give priority to children through adequate investment in basic services.

Roll Back Malaria

A\$7.4 million (Php281.2 million), 2004-2011

Aims to reduce malaria transmission, morbidity and mortality in high incidence provinces of Mindanao by 50 percent. Implemented in partnership with the World Health Organization and the Department of Health.

Advocating for a Stronger, More Responsive Population and Reproductive Health Policy and Program

A\$1.29 million (Php49 million), 2005-2008

Supports advocacy for reproductive health issues and population, reproductive health, and gender programs. Implementing partners include the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Population Commission, and various private organisations.

Institutionalising Adolescent Reproductive Health through Lifeskills-based Education.

A\$1.30 million (Php49.4 million), 2005-2009

Contributes to the improvement of reproductive health of Filipinos through education, schools and community based reproductive health services, and advocacy among the youth. Implemented in partnership with UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and DepEd.

Strengthening Capacity to Respond to Pandemics

A\$0.4 million (Php15.2 million), 2006 (Dept of Health)

A\$0.2 million (Php7.6 million), 2008 (Bureau of Animal Industry and Food and Agriculture Organisation)

Contributes to keeping the Philippines Avian Influenza (AI)-free and in strengthening the Philippines capacity to respond in the event of pandemics by providing personal protective equipment for health workers of referral hospitals (through the Department of Health), and improving veterinary services in field and laboratory surveillance on AI (through the Bureau of Animal Industry and Food and Agriculture Organisation).

Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness

A\$11.7 million (Php409.5 million), 2006-2011

Supports Philippine Government and other donor agencies, and local and international NGOs to provide emergency response to help address the impacts of conflicts, crises and disasters on vulnerable populations, and support disaster risk reduction capacity-building in the country, including identifying and addressing multi-hazards which are aggravated by climate change.

Direct Aid Program (DAP)

Supports projects which directly contribute to the welfare and income-generating capacity of poor or disadvantaged groups, or enhance the long-term productivity and sustainability of the physical environment. Maximum of PhP 275,000 per project, in partnership with various organisations.

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

Supports research initiatives in the Philippines which have made important progress in animal and plant health and productivity, postharvest grain handling and storage, fisheries, land management, forestry, and agricultural systems and economic management studies.

Australian Volunteers. Young Australian men and women volunteer and work abroad to apply their skills and expertise to assist development projects and help strengthen mutual understanding between Australia and its neighbours in the Asia-Pacific Region. **Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD)** work for 6 to 12 months in places and assignments identified by host organisations in developing countries to meet specific needs or skills. Other Australian volunteer groups operating in the Philippines are the **Australian Business Volunteers (ABV)**, and **Volunteering for International Development from Australia (VIDA)**.

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