



# Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 27-Jan-2023 | Report No: PIDC274204

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Project Name
P180320		Moderate	Bangsamoro Camps Transformation Project
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC	Philippines	27-Jan-2023	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	
Investment Project Financing	Community and Family Services International Inc.	Bangsamoro Development Agency, Community and Family Services International	

**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)****SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	4.00
Total Financing	4.00
Financing Gap	0.00

**DETAILS****Non-World Bank Group Financing**

Trust Funds	4.00
Miscellaneous 1	4.00

**B. Introduction and Context****Country Context**

The Philippines is a middle-income country, which has grown impressively in recent years. However, growth has been unequally distributed with pockets of sustained poverty remaining in particular areas affected by conflict and/or natural hazards. These ongoing threats have stifled development and poverty reduction and undermined social cohesion and resilience. The largest share of the Philippines' poor lives in Mindanao, the



southern-most island group, home to roughly 25 percent of the country's population but 39 percent of the poor. Most of the poor are concentrated in the conflict affected-areas of Mindanao in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM - previously known as the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, ARMM). BARMM lags significantly behind Mindanao at large and the rest of the Philippines in terms of basic social services, such as access to education, health, water and sanitation, and electricity. For instance, in education, BARMM areas registers 12 percentage points lower than the national literacy rate of 98 percent, and in health, only 683 of the 2,490 barangays (villages) have barangay health stations (BHS). The 2017 Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey revealed that 29 percent of residents of what is now BARMM obtained water from unimproved sources, the highest level in the country. The same survey reported that only 33.6 percent of women who gave birth in BARMM reported having been attended by a health professional. The 2020 Bangsamoro Development Plan noted that only 683 of the 2,490 barangays in the region had barangay health stations.

When the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) on 27 March 2014, it signaled the successful culmination of a peace process that began in 1997 and the opening of an opportunity for transformation of embattled Bangsamoro communities and the other actors who have been embroiled in war.

The Annex on Normalization of the CAB defines normalization as the “process whereby conflict affected communities can return to conditions where they can achieve their desired quality of life, which includes the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods and political participation within a peaceful deliberative society.” The Annex also mentions “ensuring human security” as an aim of normalization, moving towards a society that is “committed to basic human rights where individuals are free from fear of violence or crime and where long-held traditions and values continue to be honored.”

Normalization in the context of the Bangsamoro transition is founded on GPH-MILF partnership, working together to secure peace on the ground. The scope of Bangsamoro Normalization includes transitional security arrangements, socioeconomic programs, confidence-building measures, decommissioning of MILF forces, redeployment of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, policing, disbandment of private armies and other armed groups, and transitional justice and reconciliation.

‘Confidence-building’ comprises camps transformation, under the auspices of the Joint Task Force for Camps Transformation (JTFCT), as well as amnesty and pardon. Normalization efforts are advancing against a background of socio-economic disadvantage, which has been a driver of conflict as well as being exacerbated by it.



### Sectoral and Institutional Context

To channel international funding and coordinate key stakeholders in support of Normalization, the GPH and MILF agreed to

establish the Bangsamoro Normalization Trust Fund (BNTF). The BNTF, set up in 2021, is administered by the World Bank and overseen by a Steering Committee that includes the GPH, MILF and donors. The BNTF will provide support mainly in the form of investment grants implemented by eligible third parties (government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and others) in support of specific projects, programs and activities (PPAs) that are part of the Normalization program. The six acknowledged MILF camps will receive support under the BNTF. These are Camp Abubakar as-Siddique in Maguindanao, Camp Bushra Somiorang in Lanao del Sur, Camp Rajamuda in North Cotabato, Camp Badre in Maguindanao, Camp Bilal bin Rabbah Darul Shuhadah in Lanao del Norte and Camp Omar ibn al-Khattab in Maguindanao.

The MILF “camps” are not traditional military camps but are rather long existing and permanent rural communities with a population group consisting of active and ex-combatants, internally displaced people, women and children. These six camps are located in four provinces namely, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte and transgress several barangays, municipalities and in some cases provinces. These are poverty- and conflict-stricken areas, with 2 camps located within the Lanao del Sur, a province with 73% poverty incidence. Of the six major acknowledged camps of the MILF, four share hilly and mountainous terrains, while Camp Rajamudah and Camp Omar are located in the plains and within the periphery of the Liguasan Marshland. It is estimated that between 20 to 50,000 people reside in each of these camps. The camps population is composed of three groups including the Moro majority. The other groups are settlers (mostly Christians) and, in two of the camps, indigenous people. Transportation networks to and from these camps traverse the main national, provincial and municipal roads that are mostly paved. However, going to the innermost center of the camps entails using non-conventional road networks that are categorized as dirt-rough roads, with the exception of Camp Abubakar that has concrete roads from the main highway to the camp’s center. Average travel time from the camps to their economic and government center is between 2-3 hours. The majority of the communities in the camps have limited access to government-provided social services including education and, particularly problematic during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health facilities. Besides the remoteness, service provision is also hampered by the security situation.

The JTFCT in 2020 conducted a needs assessment and community-level planning dialogues that informed the development of the Camps Transformation Plan (CTP). The CTP sets out the integrated program of social and physical infrastructure development and the generation of economic opportunities for decommissioned MILF combatants and communities that will be required to transform the six previously acknowledged MILF camps.

Within the communities that host these six MILF camps, the CTP needs assessment revealed extensive socio-economic and human security needs among MILF communities. Monthly average household income in the camps ranged from Php 4,000 –



6,000, less than half of the 2018 BARMM average household income of PhP 13,416. Access to safe and potable water is limited.

While the majority of those living in the camps are engaged in agriculture, access to farming technique, machinery and infrastructure, such as solar dryers and post-harvest facilities, is limited. Healthcare coverage is poor, with many communities still a considerable distance from Rural Health Units (RHUs) and not enough community-based health facilities. The CTP also identifies a need for multipurpose venues that can support activities that promote social cohesion and community engagement, including consultations, meetings, sports and cultural events.. A need has also been identified for women's centers, where women can have a private and secure space for educational and livelihood support activities, as well as other support services, activities, meetings and events.

The proposed project, the Bangsamoro Camps Transformation Project, will build on previous engagements. The World Bank established the Mindanao Trust Fund (MTF) in 2005. The MTF has financed the Reconstruction and Development Project Phase I, II and III (RDP/1, 2 and 3). From 2016, the Program included intensive work in six acknowledged camps of the MILF. The last phase, RDP/3, closed in March 2021. The RDPs focused on small infrastructure and basic literacy and skills training and was implemented using a participatory process at the community level.

#### Relationship to CPF

This project is in line with the 2020 - 2023 World Bank Philippines CPF. Specifically, this is linked to the CPF focus area: Promoting Peace and Building Resilience, to address the country's core vulnerabilities of conflict alongside natural disasters and climate change. Incorporating cross-cutting themes of strengthening governance, with a focus on implementation capacity including at the sub-national level. This project will directly contribute to the following CPF objectives: a) Increased availability of basic services in conflict affected areas; (b) Support the normalization process in the Bangsamoro region; and (c) Increased resilience to natural disasters and climate change.

This project is also linked to the CPF focus area (ii) Competitiveness and Economic Opportunity for Job Creation through the socio-economic infrastructure and technical skills training provided by this project.

### **C. Project Development Objective(s)**

#### Proposed Development Objective(s)

The proposed project development objectives is to improve access to socio-economic services and infrastructure.

This project is fully aligned with the main objective of the BNTF, which is to assist in the development of these camps, with the



aim of transforming these areas into peaceful and productive communities.

#### Key Results

Intermediate outcomes and results may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- i. Number of beneficiaries receiving agricultural skills training
- ii. Direct beneficiaries in the identified communities, disaggregated by gender, reporting improved access to socio-economic infrastructure
- iii. Number of cooperatives established and receiving capacity building

## **D. Preliminary Description**

### Activities/Components

The project will support:

- a) **Community planning:** Whereas the RDP/2 and 3 participatory approach was focused mainly on identifying infrastructure priorities for funding under the projects, the BCTP should take a slightly broader and better integrated spatial view of planning. An agile landscape/area-based planning exercise will be facilitated in the target communities to map natural resources, livelihood opportunities, existing infrastructure, social services and climate risks. This planning process will inform the identification of priorities for livelihoods support and infrastructure investments under the project, and will support the mainstreaming of climate risk. This planning will also provide an entry point for the communities to seek to influence barangay and municipal development planning.
- b) **Basic livelihood support:** As a foundation for livelihood support and capacity building, community cooperatives will be established, or existing cooperatives will be supported. Basic literacy, skills and financial literacy training will be provided through the cooperatives, specifically focusing on increasing their agricultural productivity. Supporting cooperatives will align with MAFAR's livelihood support and ensure that communities can benefit also from Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) and MAFAR's service delivery. To provide technical training, the project will seek to establish relationships with regional universities and benefit from support from Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE).
- c) **Community infrastructure:** Aligned with community priorities and opportunities for enhanced basic livelihoods, support will be provided for prioritized supporting and relevant infrastructure. This could include also select agricultural machinery.

To ensure that interventions address local priorities and to strengthen community ownership and cohesion, the project will include a strong Community Driven Development (CDD) approach, to enable communities to participate in the prioritization of interventions at the local level.



## Environmental and Social Standards Relevance

### E. Relevant Standards

ESS Standards		Relevance
ESS 1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
ESS 10	Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
ESS 2	Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
ESS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Relevant
ESS 4	Community Health and Safety	Relevant
ESS 5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Relevant
ESS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Relevant
ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Relevant
ESS 8	Cultural Heritage	Relevant
ESS 9	Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

## Legal Operational Policies

Safeguard Policies	Triggered	Explanation (Optional)
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No	

### Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The infrastructures to be constructed are small civil works, limited in scale and scope, and modest in nature, and are selected based on the results of the Environmental and Social Screening criteria in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The risks and impacts are expected to be temporary and reversible which will include ensuring that no infrastructure project will be funded if it will cause pollution, and damage protected areas, and forests leading to the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services as well as non-replicable cultural property. A risk assessment matrix is being prepared to coincide with the Environment and Social Assessment (ESA) in the ESMF. Risk management and mitigation measures to address the potential environmental and social impacts will be included in the sub-projects ESMF. The



project will implement a participatory process that would involve continuous dialogue and seeking consent at the pre-entry stage to ensure the acceptability of the project for the targeted beneficiaries including the IPs and vulnerable groups. Noting the multiple land issues in BARMM, the project will categorize as part of the negative list of those activities that will entail involuntary land acquisition and resettlement (displacement). As no involuntary resettlement/displacement will be foreseen, the project will not require a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). Voluntary land donations in RDP 2 and 3 projects showed a positive impact on the communities and, most importantly, the owner who also benefited from the project/s. This project shall follow the same strategy and practice. However, land criteria, processes, and documentation related to the voluntary donation of lands shall be reflected in the ESMP and Project Operations Manual (POM). For projects that will use private lands, protocols for voluntary donations will be required in accordance with the protocols for voluntary land donation (VLD) as part of the ESMF. As part of promoting the use of the peace lens, the implementing agency together with local leaders and the donor shall ensure that donated lands have undergone the due diligence process, including ensuring that the donated land is conflict-free and is a neutral place for all community members to access. In cases where socio-economic infrastructures will pass through sites considered conservation areas and cultural properties of the local communities, the project will find an alternative area so that these sites can be preserved and remain intact.

## CONTACT POINT

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## The World Bank

Bangsamoro Camps Transformation Project

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