



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

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Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 13-Sep-2021 | Report No: PIDC249538



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Project Name
P177191		Moderate	Philippines Conflict Monitoring Project
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC	Philippines	13-Sep-2021	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	
Investment Project Financing	International Alert	International Alert	

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

**SUMMARY**

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	0.84
<b>Total Financing</b>	0.84
<b>Financing Gap</b>	0.00

**DETAILS**

**Non-World Bank Group Financing**

Trust Funds	0.84
State and Peace Building Fund	0.84

**B. Introduction and Context**

Country Context

The Philippines comprises some 7,100 islands centered around 3 larger areas, Luzon the northern part of the archipelago where the capital Manila is located, the Visayas in the middle of the country and Mindanao in the South. The largest share of the poor live in Mindanao, home to roughly 25 percent of the country's population but 39 percent of the poor, and in particular in the conflict-areas of Mindanao in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM - previously known as the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, ARMM), where more than 50 percent of the population fall below the national poverty line. The



BARMM provinces see weak delivery of basic social services such as education, health, water and sanitation, and electricity when compared both to Mindanao and the Philippines overall.

The BARMM region has also hosted major conflicts between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and two Muslim separatist groups, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Both groups have signed a peace agreement with the GPH in 1996 and 2014 respectively. However, conflict in the region is still prevalent, takes place along several fault lines and is influenced by multiple drivers of conflict, including: (i) social injustice, alienation, and exclusion of Muslim and indigenous peoples; (ii) displacement of indigenous peoples from their ancestral domain; (iii) inter-ethnic conflicts; (iv) “rido” clan war and revenge killing; (v) land tenure and ownership disputes; (vi) competition for scarce natural and mineral resources; (vii) local election disputes; (viii) ineffective governance and lack of rule of law and service delivery; and (ix) widespread poverty and lack of job opportunities.

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To ensure lasting peace, the CAB includes the Normalization agenda as part of the transition process. This track includes delivering programs related to (i) decommissioning of combatants; (ii) socio-economic packages; (iii) Policing in the Bangsamoro; (iv) trust building measures and transformation of camps; (iv) transitional justice and reconciliation, (v) disbandment of private armed groups; (vi) redeployment of state security forces. However, the MILF noted the lag in the implementation of these components and calls the government to fast track such[1]. For example, the government and MILF aimed to decommission the combatants by 2022, however out of the 40,000 MILF combatants, only around 12,000 have been decommissioned as of the first quarter of 2021. The socio-economic packages promised by the government is yet to be fulfilled specifically the housing for the decommissioned combatants. The slow implementation of this component coupled with the failure to deliver the packages for decommissioning and camps transformation would lead to further erosion of the MILF combatant’s trust towards the peace process

The current COVID-19 pandemic has surfaced new tensions, fissures, and conflicts resulting from weaknesses of the state to respond in a timely and effective manner to reduce people’s vulnerabilities in the BARMM region. Both at the regional and national levels, the loss of income, food security and access to medical services due to COVID-19 has exacerbated tensions between the state and its constituencies, which has resulted in violent confrontations between state security and protesters. COVID-19 also affects women and girls differently and worsens existing gender inequalities. Women and girls might be at higher risk of domestic violence due to increased tension in the households.



### Sectoral and Institutional Context

The World Bank has provided support for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM – previously known as the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, ARMM) and the peace process for several years. A Joint Needs Assessment of the Conflict Areas in Mindanao in 2005 led to the establishment of the Mindanao Trust Fund (MTF). In terms of economy and development, the Bank has extended technical assistance support in the development of the Bangsamoro Development Plan (2015), this plan served as the blueprint for the region’s development once the new political entity was established. Recognizing that a strong understanding of the context on the ground is critical to inform planning and policies, the World Bank started supporting International Alert’s Conflict Alert monitoring system in 2013, until the recently closed World Bank supported Conflict Monitoring and Participatory Processes for BARMM project (P173706) implemented by IAP. Conflict Alert is a subnational conflict monitoring system that tracks the incidence, causes, and human costs of violent conflict in the Philippines. It aims to shape policymaking, development strategies, and peacebuilding approaches by providing relevant, robust, and reliable conflict data. Conflict Alert has a strong and proven track record for providing validated, anonymized data on conflict incidents and analysis on general conflict trends in BARMM.

The current COVID19 pandemic has surfaced new tensions, fissures, and conflicts resulting from weaknesses of the state to respond in a timely and effective manner to reduce people’s vulnerabilities in the BARMM region. Early reports from Conflict Alert’s Critical Events Monitoring System (CEMS) and Early Response Networks (ERN) across the Bangsamoro, Eastern and Southern Mindanao, and parts of Metro Manila point to instances of intimidation, tensions, and near confrontations among citizens and implementors of quarantine measures, including of measures that are not sensitized to other cultures and practices such as of Islam. Both at the regional and national levels, the loss of income, food security and access to medical services due to COVID 19has exacerbated tensions between the state and its constituencies, which has resulted in violent confrontations between state security and protesters. COVID19 also affects women and girls differently and worsens existing gender inequalities. Women and girls might be at higher risk of domestic violence due to increased tension in the households. All these incidents illustrate the point that the current pandemic and its effects must be examined in the light of conflict dynamics and divisions already at play in the region. Context specific nuance is critical in ensuring that existing differences do not exacerbate tensions and pressures brought about by the global health crisis.

### Relationship to CPF

This project is aligned with the World Bank’s Philippines Country Partnership Framework focus area (3): addressing core vulnerabilities by building peace and resilience; Specifically pillar 8, increased availability of services in conflict – affected areas including access to information to inform local decision-making,



development and peace-building efforts. In addition, it also supports the Country Gender Action Plan focus 3 to reduce gender-based vulnerabilities associated with conflict and disasters.

This project also complements one of the FCV Strategy's pillar of engagement by preventing violent conflict and interpersonal violence through strengthening the World Bank's capacity to identify and monitor multidimensional crisis risks.

By capturing the social impact of COVID-19 i.e. social tensions and violent conflicts, this project supports the World Bank's COVID-19 Crisis Response Approach Pillar 2: Protecting the Poor and Vulnerable under the Behavioral Change, support to minimize potential negative consequences of social distancing – deterioration of mental health, increase in intimate partner and intra-family violence. This project contributes to the State and Peacebuilding Fund's outcomes specifically building resilience to crises.

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

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective is to provide useful, timely, and reliable conflict data and analysis, briefing key stakeholders to inform their programming and actions.

Key Results

Key results include:

1. Ten-Year critical conflict data analysis for the BARMM generated.
2. Utilization of data and knowledge resources developed by CA to inform programs and actions.
3. Development of alternative methodologies in gathering data and analyzing GBV in the BARMM

### **D. Preliminary Description**

Activities/Components

The project consists of three components:

**Component 1: Conflict Alert (CA)** recipient executed – having operated for over 10 years, CA is an ongoing activity initiated by International Alert Philippines (IAP), with funding from the World Bank since 2013. CA is a subnational conflict monitoring system that tracks the incidence, causes, and human costs of violent conflict in the BARMM region, aiming to shape policymaking, development strategies, and peacebuilding approaches by providing relevant, robust, and reliable conflict data. The main sources of data are media reporting and incident reports from regional and provincial police offices in the BARMM. This is combined with information



coming from IAP's Critical Events Monitoring System (CEMS) generating real-time information from the ground.

The SPF will support the continuation of these best practices in the roll-out of the CA. Specifically (i) the integration and application of COVID-19 specific strategies in the CA design and activities, (ii) supporting dialogues and workshops between women and gender-focused stakeholders to share information on and tackle GBV related issues and recommendations, and (iii) bank roll activities to enhance CA's systems to effectively use gender-lens as part of its analysis focus.

**Component 2 – Analysis and Dissemination for Increased Demand and Usage of Available Data** - recipient executed:

This component relates to the dissemination of Conflict Alert data and analysis towards achieving two objectives: (a) to meet current needs for data and analysis and (b) generate more recognition and demand especially among key stakeholders at the regional and national level. Lessons learned from previous project phases show that this area of work needs to be segmented into specific and cross-cutting conflict themes to target and elicit demand from specific sectors such as the military, health professionals, social workers, and women. Activities under this component include (i) provision of information and conflict advice to local government and key agencies, (ii) strengthening research methods and data analyses for effective programming and policy drafting on conflict, peace and development, (iii) capacity building of partners from the academe to build a strong foundation for better data utilization and analysis with focus and emphasis on different thematic areas such as violent extremism, transitional justice and cross-border trade.

Guided by a strategic advocacy plan, activities under this component will also include the production and publication of the Conflict Alert 2021 report, informative videos, infographics, and other multimedia materials showcasing results of analytical and thematic reports to capture wider audience.

**Component 3: Project Management and Reporting** - recipient executed:

This component will support the project management, compliance to ESS covenants, financial and procurement standards as well as monitoring of project activities. Related activities under this component will therefore ensure effective implementation, monitoring and providing timely response to issues and gaps, and on-time reporting of results, and feedbacking with partners and World Bank. In order to do this, a Project Management Committee (PMC) will be established. The PMC is comprised of Alert's Senior Management Team with the leads from the three academic partners to take the lead in conducting periodic progress reviews against the strategies and direction agreed. Their tasks also include the management of grievance mechanisms throughout the project implementation. In addition, project support staff help ensures that activities are implemented with due regard for plans, expected outputs, and Bank policies and guidelines. The participation of the three academic partners will also ensure project ownership and transparency.



**Implementation Support and Learning Session – Bank executed:** To support the RE activities a complementary Bank executed (BE) activities will cover the following:

- a. Internal briefings of World Bank task teams who are working on or planning activities in the BARMM region to ensure that Bank activities are sufficiently conflict-sensitive and informed by the latest available data and analysis on conflict dynamics on the ground.
- b. Preparation of a briefing note on the methodology, lessons learned and recommendations coming out of the CA conflict monitoring system to ensure that the experience is well documented and easily available to other teams across the Bank who are working in similar environments on conflict monitoring.
- c. Internal Bank learning sessions/BBL aimed at sharing the methodology, lessons learned and recommendations of learnings of the CA conflict monitoring system to share the experiences with interested teams/colleagues.

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**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	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 4	Community Health and Safety	Relevant
ESS 5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 8	Cultural Heritage	Not Currently Relevant



ESS 9	Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant
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**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 project will not involve physical activities that may result in potential environmental risks and impacts. While the project will not generate adverse environmental impacts, the environmental risks are considered moderate due to limited potential of COVID 9 exposure of project staff during the judicious field-level database monitoring at the regional and provincial levels. The project will be required to put in place appropriate health and safety protocol to address potential occupational and community health and safety risks due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Although the project does not have any direct adverse social impacts, the social risks are considered moderate due to the contextual challenges associated with BARMM being in the early stages of post-conflict situation as well as the historical/complex nature of the conflicts that would be captured in the crisis monitoring report. Thus, overall risk and impact rating is moderate.

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