

SUPPORTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Asia Foundation is a longstanding partner working in Mindanao in support of peace. The Foundation cooperates with all stakeholders in search of peace, including the Philippine government (GPH), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and a range of civil society partners across Mindanao. The Foundation supports national and local initiatives that promote peace and understanding among the Philippine people, and we work to support Philippine institutions that can help transition to peace.



SUPPORT TO PEACE PROCESSES

NATIONAL LEVEL INITIATIVES

As a trusted neutral party that has been working in the country for more than 60 years, The Asia Foundation works to improve the implementation of the peace processes and increase their credibility among stakeholders and the greater public.

At the national level, the Foundation worked with the GPH and the MILF Peace Implementing Panels to craft a joint communications strategy to respond to promote the path to a new Bangsamoro, and address attitudes and biases about Moro Filipinos. The Foundation has also worked with the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office; mainstreaming the Bangsamoro narrative through the Bangsamoro Documentary Film Roadshow; strengthening Bangsamoro women's capacity for thinking and working politically and doing policy advocacy as a means of expanding women's participation and leadership in the peace process, particularly in support of UNSCR 1325. Through

its partnerships, the Foundation has collaborated to ensure that local movements are better able to elevate their peace advocacy to the national level.

MINDANAO-BASED INITIATIVES

Working with local organizations, the Foundation helps raise public awareness of the peace processes; supports convergence of all Moro groups; and broadens the constituency for peace among religious leaders, women, businesses, indigenous peoples, and youth. The Foundation has long worked to mitigate localized conflict that may affect the peace process, particularly the persistent clan conflicts known as *rido*. The Foundation has published extensive empirical work on *rido* and supports partner organizations to mediate between warring parties and arrange settlements. Complementary to this are efforts to improve voter education and strengthen security protocols, especially during elections, which are potential triggers for *rido*.



PHILIPPINES

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The Foundation has supported analysis on the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law. Our studies analyzed the challenges encountered and lessons learned in pushing for the legislation. The Foundation has also supported the MNLF Program Development Framework Planning Workshop, the outcome of which was a commitment of the MNLF Sema group to participate in the peace process and constructively engage the Government of the Philippines and the MILF. The Foundation has also supported MILF strategic planning, resulting in a detailed MILF Panel plan on moving forward with its engagement with the GPH. We also further strengthened the communication lines between the MILF panel and its stakeholders, and have conducted advocacy and outreach programs to Indigenous Peoples on a recurring basis.

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RESEARCH

To inform The Asia Foundation's design and implementation of programs, as well as to help explore critical issues for our partners and the general public, the Foundation conducts ongoing

research about the drivers for peace and for conflict in Mindanao. Working with scholars and field experts, the Foundation conducts interviews, focus groups and comprehensive studies that help to inform the field of conflict resolution and to identify better solutions to ongoing problems.

The Foundation recently conducted a study on the rise of violent extremism in Mindanao. The research was initiated to address the information gap about the context and drivers of violent extremism and to inform the design of relevant outreach activities aimed at countering extremist narratives.

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM

The Asia Foundation supports security sector policy reform, stronger civilian oversight of the military and improved civil-military engagement. Recently, the Foundation contributed to the development of National Security Plan, and enhancing the Marines' knowledge of the peace process and conflict analysis.

GENDER

The Asia Foundation is committed to understanding the gender dimensions of its programs. We build gender analysis into all activities, taking into consideration the varying roles of women and men, their level of participation, and the levels of power they have in their family and in their communities. Our programs have supported the expansion and strengthening of women's roles in peace process advocacy, through work with the Women Organization Movement in the Bangsamoro, film roadshows, and promoting female experts in various aspects of the Bangsamoro process.

In the Philippines, The Asia Foundation's programs are also funded by the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the UK's Department for International Development, the British Foreign Commonwealth Office, UNICEF, the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, and private organizations, companies, and individuals.

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.



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