

Through NZAID, all New Zealanders are making a difference in the lives of some of the poorest people in the Pacific, Asia, Latin America and Africa.

JANUARY 2009

| Making a difference in the Philippines

NEW ZEALAND'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

NZAID snapshot

- NZAID is the Government's international aid and development agency.
- In 2008/09 New Zealand will spend \$471.3 million on overseas development assistance
- NZAID will spend close to \$52.1 million in Asia in 2008/09.
- NZAID's assistance to the Philippines in 2008/09 will total \$4 million.

The facts

- The Republic of the Philippines is made up of 7,000 islands which lie north of Indonesia and south of Taiwan.
- There are three main island groups – Luzon in the north, the Visayas in the centre, and Mindanao in the south.
- The population is over 90 million.
- There are over 100 different ethnic languages and dialects.

The issues

- Around 33 percent of the population live in poverty, mostly in rural areas and in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.
- The Philippines is prone to natural disasters such as typhoons, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis.
- Armed conflict is a big challenge facing the Philippines and has a big impact on human rights issues.

- The population growth rate of 2.36 is one of the world's highest, almost twice the global rate.
- Population pressures affect environmental sustainability.
- Unequal land and income distribution.
- Low quality of social services.



NZAID priorities

Strategy review and development

A key priority for NZAID during 2009 will be to review the expiring country strategy and complete the development of a new strategy, to shape NZAID's engagement in the Philippines over at least the next five years.

In developing a new strategy, NZAID will work closely with the Government of the Philippines, NGOs and civil society, and we expect the Philippines National Economic Development Authority to be represented on the team developing an updated strategy.

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New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency

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Environmental Management

NZAID and the Philippine Department of Environment began implementing the Camiguin Coastal Resources Management Programme in mid-2007. This programme looks at managing coastal resources in a sustainable manner while stimulating economic activity. Camiguin is located in Mindanao and is one of the Philippines' poorest provinces.



Indigenous people

NZAID supports a United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) led initiative to improve basic education, health and nutrition of the mainly indigenous people of Mountain Province in northern Luzon.

Another initiative led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), also supported by NZAID, helps indigenous communities that have secured ancestral land rights to set up and implement sustainable development and protection plans to look after their ancestral land.

Governance

NZAID supports the strengthening of the capabilities of local government unit (LGU) staff in programme and project development and management under the Local Government Unit Management Training Programme (LGUMTP) in the Caraga region of Mindanao.

Caraga is the country's poorest region. Project planning staff from 28 Caraga LGUs have already benefited from this unique training programme

which was developed using internationally recognised competency standards in project management.

Support to build capabilities of local training institutions so they can provide sound technical and management training to LGUs is also provided under the LGUMTP.

NZAID funding was recently approved for UNDP sponsored research and policy work on institutions, politics and human development in the Philippines.

Conflict resolution and peace building

Due to the legacy of conflict in the region, the people of Mindanao are among the most disadvantaged people in the Philippines.

In 2004, NZAID began contributing to a World Bank-managed Multi-donor Trust Fund for reconstruction and development of conflict-affected parts of Mindanao.

Substantial support continues to be provided to a UNDP coordinated "Action for Conflict Transformation" (ACT) for Peace Programme.

ACT is the successor phase of the Philippine-UN Multi-Donor Programme (MDP) for Peace and Development in Mindanao of which NZAID was a consistent supporter.

Aside from building on MDP successes, ACT also aims to prevent the emergence of potential conflicts. Some of the NZAID funding is targeted to the "at risk" Caraga region.

Building up the skill base

NZAID awards New Zealand Development Scholarships to Filipino students for postgraduate courses in New Zealand.

In June 2007, a tracer study was completed to help ascertain the impact of New Zealand's and the Philippines' investment in postgraduate education. The results are helping to chart the future direction of NZAID's Philippine human resource development programme.

Support is also given to senior Philippine Government officials to allow them to attend the Commonwealth Advanced Seminar.

Small Grant Programme

NZAID has entered into a cost-sharing arrangement with the Philippine UNDP-Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme or UNDP GEF SGP.

This programme contributes to the country strategy thematic objectives of improving natural resource management and facilitating indigenous peoples' development.

It also aligns fully with the core focus upon sustainable rural livelihoods in NZAID's broader Asia strategy.

Emergency Assistance

In the wake of a series of strong typhoons that hit the country in late 2006, New Zealand provided assistance for affected communities through the Philippine National Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. NZAID funds are being used not only for disaster relief operations but also to help strengthen capacities of local institutions involved in this type of work.

New Zealand Government

For more information visit www.nzaid.govt.nz/programmes/c-philippines.html