

BANGSAMORO COMMUNITY POLICING PROJECT

OVERVIEW

In 2014, the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) submitted to Congress the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), which will establish a new political region with shared powers. The BBL makes specific reference to community policing “as an essential mechanism in maintaining peace and order.”

The Bangsamoro Community Policing Project will support the introduction of community policing in seven provinces (North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Basilan, Tawi-tawi and Sulu) of the conflict affected Bangsamoro region. Working with multi-stakeholders, the project will facilitate a change in the cultural relations between communities to prepare the Philippine National Police and the people in the Bangsamoro region for community policing.

The project will contribute to building a culture of community driven policing in the Bangsamoro and by so doing complement the peace building efforts and the transition process. It will prepare communities for the introduction of community policing by increasing their awareness on the topic and enhancing their meaningful participation as to how this can look like such that it will benefit them. The final output is a community policing strategy / blueprint and toolkit for use by relevant stakeholders and affected communities.



PROJECT REACH:

- 7** provinces
- 94** community facilitators
- 162** community policing champions
- 1,200** community members reached through face to face activities
- 30,000** community members reached through flyers, posters and print media
- 580** police officers reached through the college
- 15,000** people reached through digital and radio platforms

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The project will entail a bottom-up and top to bottom approach. The British Council will implement the project through collaborative and implemental partnerships with relevant civil society organisations operating in the Bangsamoro. The project will create the most and deepest impact through the following components:

AWARENESS RAISING

A baseline study will establish the current level of awareness of the communities on the ground. It will also build a cadre of community facilitators on community policing from civil society groups, academia, the Philippine National Police and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Moreover, awareness raising activities will be conducted on community policing amongst diverse stakeholders in the region, with particular focus on marginalised groups, and the policing authorities and organisations.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

It will also carry out community consultations in the covered areas to gather community inputs, perceptions and expectations on community policing. Through the consultations, champions for community policing at the community level and from key partner institutions will be identified.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

A Technical Working Group representing key organizations at the local and regional level will also be formed to help develop a community policing strategy or blueprint and a localized community policing toolkit for the communities and key institutions. The strategy will be formulated in consultation with the Peace Process Panel. To inform the stakeholders of the outputs of their participation, feedback sessions will also be conducted.

Alongside all the major components of the policing project, a communications plan will also be crafted to ensure uniformity of core messages being delivered and to help promote the project's main agenda of mainstreaming community-driven policing.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

Given the fragility of the peace process, the project will focus on what is realistic to achieve within a year. As opposed to previous attempts on community policing, the project's added value will be in its awareness raising and the community consultation activities.

In general, the project will help shape a contextualized community policing strategy for the Bangsamoro. Specifically, it will establish common understanding of community policing among key stakeholders; increase support and readiness for the adoption of community policing in Bangsamoro areas; and will help communities be more prepared to work in partnership with the Philippine National Police and vice-versa.

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Funded by:



GOV.UK

Key implementing partner:



Bantay Bayanihan network
of ARMM-based local organizations

Delivery partners:

