



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

AUSTRALIA'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE PHILIPPINES

Francesca Lawe-Davies, Australian Embassy, Manila

AUSTRALIA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAM IN THE PHILIPPINES

- Background
- How we work
- Our investment priorities
- Opportunities for engagement

BACKGROUND: AUSTRALIA IN THE PHILIPPINES

- Longstanding, comprehensive partnership
 - Over 70 years of diplomatic relations
 - Longstanding development program; Second largest grant donor
 - Strong people-to-people links
 - Shared economic & security interests in world's fastest growing region
- Strong growth; enormous potential, but AMIC transitions fraught with risk
 - Domestic: rising inequality, regional disparity, instability
 - Global: climate change, automation and AI
- How can Australia help navigate these challenges?



HOW WE WORK

- **Alignment with Philippine Government priorities** – PDP; SDGs
 - Focus on Mindanao, especially Bangsamoro Autonomous Region
 - Focus on Australia’s comparative advantages
- Seek to **strengthen Philippine institutions**; leverage Philippine resources
 - Targeted technical assistance to improve policies and systems
 - Support reforms essential for continued inclusive growth
 - Focus on gender equality and social inclusion
- We **deliver through a range of partners**: multilateral, managing contractors and civil society organisations

AUSTRALIA'S INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- Our overarching goal is a *stable, prosperous and resilient Philippines*

➤ 3 pillars



1. Foundations for economic growth

- Infrastructure (PPPs);
- Economic reform (e.g. PFM; biz enabling environment)
- Improving women's economic participation
- Education (workforce development)
- Agricultural research partnerships to improve productivity
- Social protection

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

2. Stronger institutions for transparent, accountable governance

- Targeted policy reforms to unlock binding constraints
 - Bringing together government, private sector, civil society in coalitions for change
- Scholarships; alumni engagement

3. Improving conditions for peace & stability

- Bangsamoro political transition
- Community resilience and cohesion
- Promoting peace through education
- Humanitarian response – including Marawi response
- Climate and disaster resilience



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

- Commercial contracting, sub-contracting and job opportunities forecast on new, searchable DFAT portal: <http://ausconnect.dfat.gov.au>
- Whole Australian Government on Austender: www.tenders.gov.au : register
 - Eager to work with new partners, including private sector partners
 - Advisory services registers
- Business Partnerships Platform to accelerate private sector collaboration
- Long planning and implementation cycles: Philippines pipeline fairly full
- Not only for program/project delivery but broader collaboration, e.g.
 - joint education reform advocacy,
 - promoting gender quality in the workplace
 - collaboration on disaster resilience & response
 - tackling child online exploitation

Thank you