

Highlights of the Meeting
Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting

“Peace and Reconciliation Initiatives for Empowerment in the Bangsamoro”
PRIME-Bangsamoro

11 May 2017, 9:21 AM to 10:31 AM
Room 526, Yuchengco Institute for Advanced Studies, Tower 2
RCBC Plaza, Makati City

Attendance:

1. Titon Mitra, Country Director, United Nations Development Programme (“UNDP”)
2. Matthew Kimberly, Deputy Head of Mission, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (“DFAT”)
3. Tim Smith, First Secretary – Political, DFAT
4. Shannen Enriquez, Program Officer for Peace and Stability, DFAT
5. Arvin Chua, Director for Donor Coordination and Partnership Unit, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (“OPAPP”)
6. Camilo Miguel Montesa, Team Leader, Resilience and Peace Building Unit (“RPBU”) UNDP
7. Chetan Kumar, Senior Advisor on Peacebuilding, United Nations/UNDP
8. Sheikh Mahmod Ahmad, Executive Director, Bangsamoro Leadership and Management Institute (“BLMI”)
9. Salic Ibrahim, Executive Director, Maranao People Development Center, Inc. (“MARADECA”)
10. Rosmain Abduraji, Executive Director, Tumikang Samasama, Inc. (“TSS”)
11. Matias Regis, Technical Staff, Al Qalam Institute of Islamic Identities and Dialogue (“Al Qalam”)
12. Mohammad Al-Amin Julkipli, Programme Analyst, UNDP
13. Winston Aylmer Camariñas, Mindanao Coordinator, UNDP
14. Allen Mariano, Programme Associate, UNDP
15. Karina Abaño, Project Associate, UNDP
16. Noriña Hatamosa, Programme Assistant, UNDP

Highlights of the Meeting:

1. Welcome Remarks and Context of the LPAC

UNDP Country Director Titon Mitra welcomed the participants to the LPAC meeting and requested everyone to briefly introduce themselves. After the round of the introduction, CD Mitra gave a brief overview of the LPAC process and the context of the “Peace and Reconciliation Initiatives for Empowerment in the Bangsamoro” or “PRIME Bangsamoro” (“the Project”). He noted that the LPAC is usually held after a project agreement has been signed. But that, the LPAC meeting on Project PRIME was delayed due to various reasons.

He welcomed the observations of the participants and said that during the LPAC meeting, the scope of the Project will be outlined for clarity on the components and to give an idea of the goals of the Project.

He also said that relevant activities for the Project have already been started even without the LPAC meeting and explained that UNDP's resources were used to ensure that the momentum of the work continues. He stated that there are two options to resolve this subject to the outcome of the LPAC, to wit: 1) Charge the started activities to other projects; or 2) Charge the started activities to Project PRIME by reflecting it in the bookkeeping. Option 2 was the recommended action.

Subsequently, UNDP-RPBU's Team Leader, Atty. Camilo Miguel Montesa, briefed the participants on the objectives of the LPAC meeting, as follows:

- a. Discussion on the project relevance, social impact, and general risk management;
- b. Confirmation of the results to be obtained through its outcomes and outputs and how it relates to the societal goal of the Philippines and the government's new Strategic Framework of the Philippines for Mindanao Peace and Development ("SFMPD");
- c. Formal acknowledgment of the LPAC on the modality for the Project under Direct Implementation ("DIM"); and
- d. Recommendation for the possible next steps.

2. **Presentation of the Project, "PRIME-Bangsamoro"**

Atty. Montesa presented a chart showing how the various Project Outputs contribute to the desired Outcomes that feed into the Government's Philippine Development Plan for Peacebuilding, and where the national mission is to achieve a cohesive, secure, and progressive nation. Meanwhile, under the peace sector, GPH aims to attain a just and lasting peace under the Philippine Development Plan. The Project is situated with the overall goal of the SFMPD which GPH will soon issue through an Executive Order which is to achieve "a peaceful, cohesive, secure, and inclusively developed Mindanao where communities are resilient and free from violence and deprivation of dignity, rights, injustice, access to basic services, and economic opportunities".

He also elaborated on the how the project outcomes and outputs are linked:

- a. Outcome 1: Transformation of the MILF and MNLF towards active engagement in political processes is sustained
 - i. Output 1.1: Enhanced capacities for collaborative leadership, strategic planning, conflict management and related fields strengthened or developed amongst MILF and MNLF leaders and combatants
- b. Outcome 2: Enabling environment for the establishment of the Bangsamoro political entity is strengthened and sustained
 - i. Output 2.1: Bangsamoro Transition Commission successfully assisted to implement intra- Moro dialogue efforts
 - ii. Output 2.2: Track-two efforts, especially in the context of converging the current peace agreements and drafts of the enabling legislation for Bangsamoro successfully assisted
 - iii. Output 2.3: Efforts to increase participation by women and youth in peacebuilding initiatives successfully implemented;; dialogue efforts supported by the BTC; and normalization initiatives led by the parties

- iv. Output 2.4: Systematic dialogue established between Congressional and Moro leaderships around linkages between the federalism process and the implementation of the CAB, including through the efforts of the Friends of Peace and other advocacy groups
- c. Outcome 3: Installation of a prevention mechanism against violent extremism in the form of a group of credible intermediaries, as well as an early-warning-and-response system.
 - i. Output 3.1: Comprehensive understanding of the drivers of radicalization and of the risks of violent extremism, and of approaches to mitigating them, achieved in partnership with women, youth groups, and faith-based leaderships
 - ii. Output 3.2: Credible intermediaries identified and equipped with the capacities to engage alienated groups and communities in dialogue, and accompanied in applying their capacities
 - iii. Output 3.3: Religious, traditional and youth leaders equipped with the capacity to facilitate alternative discourses on tolerance and inclusion using social media, and accompanied in applying these capacities
 - iv. Output 3.4: Civic and faith-based organizations assisted in generating sustainable platforms for inter-faith dialogue, including as a part of the process of intra- Moro dialogue mandated by the new “roadmap for peace”
 - v. Output 3.5: Early-warning-and-response system integrated into the joint GPH-MILF security architecture, and into the work of local government units in select areas of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, and applied thereafter to violence reduction
 - vi. Output 3.6: National and regional development agencies assisted to more effectively provide economic alternatives to violence to individuals and communities at risk of radicalization, including through the use of intermediaries indicated under output 2
 - vii. Output 3.7: Mechanism for sharing of information; joint analysis; and coordination of support among national stakeholders and development partners effectively established and sustained

3. Discussion Highlights

After the presentation, CD Mitra shared his observations that the Project seem to have too many outputs (12 in total) which may give the impression of being fractured and incoherent. He suggested that the ensuing discussion should be on re-focusing the outputs. He also added that when working on a very dynamic context where there will be disparity on the momentum of certain aspects of the peace process, there is a tactical benefit to having a wide range of points for engagement. He said that the strength of this Project, which also depends on the government, will be based on the range of flexibility allowed because it cannot be guaranteed that the momentum of each output will be the same. Thus, he suggested that a certain degree of flexibility should be adopted for the Project.

CD Mitra also stated that these kinds of projects run the risk of having little activities and have weak monitoring and evaluation (“M&E”) mechanisms built into it. He suggested to spend resources and effort in putting in appropriate baselines as it is critical to see how effective the Project is.

DFAT's Deputy Head of Mission Matthew Kimberly agreed with the points raised by CD Mitra specifically on the establishment of a strong M&E mechanism. He also stated that the M&E mechanism can also be used as a tool to do programming decisions as it will show which outputs are slow-moving, and which outputs need more resources. Since it could help in decision-making, he also stated that M&E mechanism should not just be done once a year. He asked if there are resources that would allow for this mechanism.

OPAPP Director Chua also agreed with the observations shared by CD Mitra. He was also glad that the Project Document ("ProDoc") is in line with government's SFMPD. He requested for additional details on the history of the Project as this was the first time he joined the LPAC meeting.

Mr. Tim Smith noted that some of the proposed activities are already being done by other peacebuilding partners. As an example, he cited that there have been numerous researches undertaken for output 3.1, specifically on the drivers of Preventing Violent Extremism ("PVE"). When it comes to developing the baseline, monitoring, and formulation of the M&E strategy, he suggested that there should be a strong coordination or some informal mechanisms between the Mindanao Working Group and the other peacebuilding partners. This is to enable monitoring of the progress of the Project and its improvement points. He shared that DFAT has met with OPAPP to talk about their annual program and a possible bilateral program which may have some overlap with this Project. He said that DFAT would prefer that the programs of its various partners are complementing each other.

Atty. Montesa said that output 3.7 now becomes important because a lot of work is being done already. He also said that there is already a scheduled meeting between UNDP and OPAPP on how to set up the information-sharing mechanism on the sub-set of PVE under the Mindanao Working Group as there are many organizations doing work on PVE.

Mr. Kumar also shared with the participants that UNDP has already talked informally with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD). They will meet again on 18 May 2017 with other organizations working on PVE to see if there are common baselines.

In order to avoid having a general discussion only and to provide overall guidance from the Project Advisory Board on a more frequent basis, CD Mitra asked for suggestions on the frequency of holding the Project Advisory Board meetings. He also reiterated Mr. Kimberly's question on whether there were sufficient resources for M&E and asked how the baselines could be established and reported to the Board.

Mr. Mariano responded that there is a small funding for developing the M&E framework, and M&E plan. Atty. Montesa also confirmed that there is some allocation for the M&E, but that funding allocation should be flexible given its importance.

CD Mitra suggested that the M&E be discussed in detail and for the team to have concrete plans in establishing the baselines. He also said to check again if there is additional available funding for it.

Dir. Chua asked for clarification if the establishment of the baselines is limited to this Project. CD Mitra responded that the government is looking at creating baselines to cover several other issues. He stated that the general outlook is to align the Project's baselines with the government's system.

Mr. Smith said that the M&E should not just be a log frame that is done annually by the Project. He also said that there should be sufficient amount of resource for the M&E for it to be a useful engagement and to keep it dynamic.

Dir. Chua pointed out that the government has just started its comprehensive baseline process. It plans to engage with multi-partner and working group in pursuing this, and it hopes to have progress within the next few months.

CD Mitra thanked Dir. Chua for the updates. He reiterated that the M&E plan should be aligned with the government's baseline process and for the project to re-allocate resources if needed, subject to DFAT's approval, to ensure that the baselines are strong.

CD Mitra also reiterated his earlier question on the frequency to hold Project Advisory Board meetings. Atty. Montesa responded that it should be done quarterly. All of the participants affirmed the response of Atty. Montesa.

Updates on the activities for each output were presented by Atty. Montesa. For output 1.1, UNDP has already started 2-3 workshops with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front ("MILF"), and United Bangsamoro Justice Party ("UBJP"). The focus on the workshops had been with the MILF because UNDP was still trying to schedule with the two wings (Yusoph Jikiri and Nur Missuari) of the Moro National Liberation Front ("MNLF"). Schedules have already proposed to the two wings of the MNLF.

For output 2.1, the Bangsamoro Transition Commission ("BTC") is about to finish their consultations with the different sectors. UNDP is already negotiating with Chairman Ghadzali Jaafar regarding the design and implementation of the dialogue program called "All Bangsamoro Congress" which is proposed to be held in July 2017.

For output 2.3, the women's peace tables are being done with Mothers of Peace, led by Ms. Irene Santiago. Meanwhile, activities for the youth are still being planned. The usual partners for the youth sector are Kadtabanga Foundation for Peace and Development Advocates and the United Youth for Peace and Development, Inc.

For output 2.4, only preliminary meetings have been conducted since it is too early to talk about how to shepherd the approval of the Bangsamoro Basic Law ("BBL") with the BTC.

Atty. Montesa stated that output 2 basically assumes that the BTC, Bangsamoro Congress, and BBL have already been approved. He also said that one of the risks is that if federalism is pursued by the current administration, the whole of output 2 will be different. The reaction of the Congress and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to the BBL shall be known as soon as the BTC will submit it to Congress by July 2017.

Mr. Smith opined that the risk log of the ProDoc should be updated based on what Atty. Montesa mentioned about the risk on federalism. He also said that the risk log should be presented during the next Project Advisory Board meeting as it will also be the basis for the M&E.

Mr. Kumar added that there have also been Insider Mediator's workshops for representatives of Moro groups done for output 2.2 since August 2016; however, there have been changes with the

dynamics with the Misuari wing of MNLF. He reiterated that the risk log should be updated accordingly.

Mr. Smith asked how flexible the Project will be in case the Congress rejects the BBL, and what would be the next steps for MILF and MNLF. Atty. Montesa replied that this will fall under output 1.1. A scenario planning should be done by the MILF, MNLF, and the BTC. Dir. Chua added that on the part of the government, it acknowledges that whether or not the BBL is passed, there are elements in the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro ("CAB") that can proceed with or without the BBL. Mr. Ahmad shared that BLMI can work on the scenario planning with the MILF and the MNLF. Mr. Kumar reminded the participants that the United Nations would like to pursue the Project with the current goal to have the BBL passed.

For output 3.1, Atty. Montesa reported that UNDP, together with Al Qalam, has held a meeting with practitioners for PVE. Mr. Regis elaborated that in March 2017, Al Qalam convened a meeting with different organizations and experts on PVE from different sectors to level off on their understanding of PVE and its status, and to understand its current mechanisms. He added that there were a lot of learnings during the meeting such as recognizing some peace efforts that these organizations have been doing are actually considered as PVE. He added that PVE efforts will vary depending on the different demographics and situations. Currently, a network is reportedly being formed comprised of various organizations, CSOs, youth, women, development partners, etc. to streamline PVE efforts, to categorize what these efforts are and its effects, as well as to create a wider scope of geography and demographics. Al Qalam helps these organizations by providing them concepts and framework; by acting as secretariat, and as a focal point for all organizations.

Some activities for output 3.2, and 3.3. are being planned with partners such as MARADECA, and TSS. For output 3.4, TSS intends to engage with the Sulu Ulama' Council for Peace and Development ("Ulama'"), this coming Ramadan to support the Ulama' in reaching out to the youth and other and to inform them of the real meaning of *Jihad* as it has always been misunderstood by many. The activity also aims to enable the youth to transform into peace advocates.

For output 3.5, UNDP has been talking to BIAF Chief Sammy Al Mansour to design the detection of the early signs of PVE. For output 3.6, activities will be done in 2018 depending on the funding mechanism. Meanwhile, activities for output 3.7 are being carried out.

4. Implementation Modality

The implementation modality for the Project was formally approved by the LPAC to be through Direct Implementation (DIM). This means that UNDP will implement the Project as: 1) it has the technical, political, and administrative capabilities to implement the Project; 2) it is a neutral party to and trusted partner by the MILF and MNLF, and; 3) it can mobilize the inputs to achieve the objectives of the Project.

Mr. Kimberly reminded that the risk log should be updated and used to test whether or not actual changes must be made to output 2 as it may be affected by the current status of the peace process.

5. Closing Remarks

CD Mitra mentioned that the Project is multi-faceted but relevant and said that close coordination with government is important. He reiterated the agreement that the Project Advisory Board shall have a quarterly meeting. Thus the next meeting was scheduled to be held in August 2017.

It was agreed that, for the Project Advisory Board meeting in August 2017, the following will be tackled:

- a. Detailed M&E strategy, its baselines which must correlate with the government's baselines, and additional decision on the funding to be made;
- b. Update the risk log to be reflective of the current situation of the peace process;
- c. Updates on the key activities articulated during the meeting, such as the support to the Bangsamoro Congress, progress on the peace tables for the youth and women, the scenario planning of MILF, and MNLF
- d. A table of UNDP's PVE strategies and how this is complemented by the Project.

CD Mitra then proceeded to adjourn the LPAC meeting by thanking all of the participants.

Prepared by:



Karina Abaño
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17 May 2017

Endorsed by:



Camilo Miguel Montesa
Team Leader, RPBU

Noted By:



Titon Mitra
Country Director