



Photo: UN Women

UN WOMEN'S WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES PEACE, PRESENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS



BACKGROUND

The Philippines Project Office (PPO) was set up in 2004 as part of the CEDAW Southeast Asia Programme, a regional programme funded by the Government of Canada covering seven countries in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines. The programme aimed to increase national capacities for implementing commitments under CEDAW, enhance gender-responsiveness of the judiciary, promote gender mainstreaming in national plans and budgets, and strengthen legislation for gender equality.

In 2009, following extensive advocacy, the Philippines adopted the Magna Carta of Women, a comprehensive, CEDAW-based Gender equality law, the Republic Act 9710. Through the CEDAW programme, which is now on its second phase of implementation, UN Women has played a key role in increasing understanding of CEDAW as normative framework for policy and programming on women's human rights. Through participation in the UNCT gender theme group, UN Women has also provided technical support for mainstreaming gender equality outcomes in the UNDAF and strengthening cooperation through joint advocacy and programmes, including through the UNiTE Campaign.

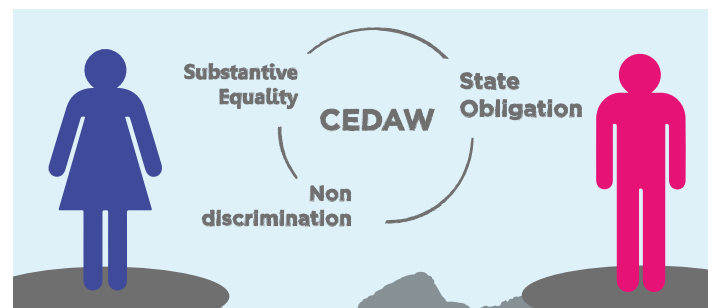
CURRENT PROGRAMME PRESENCE

In the past few years, UN Women has greatly expanded its programme presence in the Philippines, though without having a Country Office. Through the PPO, UN Women is implementing a number of projects focused on the promotion of women's human rights, governance and peace and security, as well as in the areas of migration and safe cities. Key projects undertaken by PPO include:



A Promoting and protecting migrant women's rights in the Philippines

UN Women PPO works with the House of Representatives (HOR) Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs, academia and civil society to review existing laws on migration and trafficking and develop legislative reform agenda and strategies to strengthen CEDAW-compliance. The programme is supported by the EU.



ABOVE The three principles of CEDAW. Graphics: UN Women

B Improving Women's Human Rights in Southeast Asia

UN Women PPO is working to enhance women's procedural and substantive access to justice through administration of justice reforms and strengthening the capacities of indigenous and Muslim women to advocate for women's human rights and access to justice in plural legal systems: Country activities are implemented as part of the regional programme CEDAW-SEAP II which runs from May 2011-June 2016 and is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada.

LEFT Jose Mateo Ramos Dela Cruz (right) from Philippine Normal University among 30 participants who attended UNiTE training of trainers in Bangkok (May 2015). Photo: UN Women/Pornvit Visitoran

C Supporting the implementation of the Bangsamoro peace agreement

UN Women PPO is working with a range of partners to strengthen women's participation and leadership in political processes in the transition process and in political institutions in the new Bangsamoro political entity. This project is from 2014-2016 and supported by the Peace Building Fund.

D Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice

UN Women aims to integrate gender considerations into the processes and outputs of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC), an independent body created under the Normalization Annex of the Comprehensive Agreement of the Bangsamoro, mandated to undertake study and recommend appropriate mechanisms for transitional justice and reconciliation in the Bangsamoro. The programme started in December 2014 and it will run for 36 months.

E UN Women's Safe Cities Global Programme

This UN Women's flagship programme has now started in Quezon City and Intramuros to address the under-recognized issue of sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in public spaces. Supported by the Government of Spain, the Safe Cities Metro Manila Programme (SCMM) will specifically address the lack of data and legal protection on sexual harassment of women and girls in public. SCMM builds on activities conducted in 2012 with UNICEF and UN Habitat as part of the global joint programme Safe and Sustainable Cities for All.

PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout these projects, UN Women PPO has supported efforts of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), the Department of Labor and Employment, the Supreme Court's Committee on Gender Responsiveness, the Senate and House Committees, and others to strengthen national and local capacities for strengthening norms and standards on women's human rights and mainstreaming gender in policies, plans and budgets. UN Women has also supported work to strengthen advocacy and capacities of especially marginalized and excluded groups of women including rural, indigenous and Muslim women, women migrant workers and domestic workers, women workers in the informal economy, women living with HIV AIDS, women in informal settlement communities, and women living in conflict-affected areas.

Partnerships have also been strengthened with the local government units such as the Office of the Mayor of Quezon City and Intramuros Administrator as part of UN Women's flagship Safe Cities Global Programme supporting cities efforts to prevent and respond to sexual harassment and violence in public spaces.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

In 2012, UN Women's facilitated the first Open Days on Women, Peace and Security in Mindanao, which brought together women from various parts of the country for a candid discussion on the UNSCR 1325 and its implications for women, as well as the developing National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Since 2013, UN Women has also actively supported Bangsamoro peace and development processes. For example, in 2014, UN Women supported initiatives to mainstream gender in the Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP) and increase women's voice in the planning process.

With support from the Japan National Committee for UN Women, and through the CEDAW SEAP programme, Bangsamoro women were supported to increase capacities to advocate for their rights guaranteed under CEDAW and the UNSCR 1325. Several women leaders who initiated such activities eventually served in various leadership capacities in peace panels of the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and/or served in key posts in local government bodies.

In late 2014 and in the wake of super typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda), UN Women also provided technical support to strengthen gender-responsiveness of PDNAs and DALAs. In addition, UN Women initiated consultations with stakeholders and especially women from disaster-affected areas to identify needs and gender-responsive strategies for disaster-risk reduction and CCA.



ABOVE A female member of the Philippine contingent of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) stands in line to receive medals of recognition for the contributions. Photo: UN Photo/Logan Abassi