



# Strengthening the Implementation of Regional and Local Peace and Development Agendas in Mindanao (SPADe)

## The Challenge

Peace and development have eluded Mindanao, the southernmost island region of the Philippines, for decades. While it is known as the food basket of the Philippines due to its fertile lands and rich natural resources, seven of the ten poorest Philippine provinces are located in the region. To this day, violent conflicts between ideology-based armed groups and the Philippine government, as well as land and environmental conflicts, have shaped the political, social, and economic landscape.

To address these challenges, the government of the Philippines adopted the *Mindanao Peace and Development Framework Plan* for 2017-2022, which is complemented by the regional *Caraga Roadmap to Peace* and the *Peacebuilding and Development Framework and Agenda for Northern Mindanao*. These frameworks laid out an integrated approach to strengthening cooperation between local government, civil society, and the private sector to address the root causes of conflict in Mindanao.

<b>Project name</b>	Strengthening the Implementation of Regional and Local Peace and Development Agendas in Mindanao (SPADe)
<b>Project Country</b>	Philippines
<b>Co-funded by</b>	European Union (EU); German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Lead Executing Agencies</b>	Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA)
<b>Budget</b>	Total: EUR 18 mio. (EUR 15 mio. from the EU, EUR 3 mio. from the BMZ)
<b>Duration</b>	January 2021 – June 2025

Given the broad thematic and regional scope of the peace and development agendas, state and non-state actors require greater capacities and instruments to coordinate the agendas' inclusive implementation. Also, investments in agricultural development are not oriented sufficiently to the needs of conflict prevention and climate change adaptation to realize a tangible peace dividend.

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## The Objective

In response to the situation, the Philippine Government with support from the European Union and the German Government, has set the goal to contribute to a peaceful, cohesive, secure and inclusively developed Mindanao. To this end, the capacities of state and non-state actors to support the implementation of peace and development agendas will be strengthened and the development of agricultural value chains will be promoted.

The project's target group is the residence of selected areas from all six regions (Northern Mindanao, Caraga Region, Davao Region, Zamboanga Peninsula, SOCCSKSARGEN and BARMM) of Mindanao. A special focus is placed on vulnerable and marginalized groups such as poor farmers and fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, internally displaced people, women, and youth.

## Our Approach

SPADe – as part of Mindanao Peace and Development programme (MinPAD RISE) of the European Union – is committed to harmonizing the peacebuilding and socioeconomic development goals of the peace and development agendas. This strategic approach includes the promotion of agricultural value chains and private sector investment, capacity building of cooperatives, improvement of governance, support of equitable access to natural resources, and empowerment of vulnerable groups. In close partnership with the *Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)* and the *Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA)*, SPADe has defined five working fields:

- **Improving** the services of agricultural cooperatives to their members enabling them to produce in a more ecologically sustainable way and to increase their income;
- **Developing** conflict-sensitive and climate-smart agricultural value chains to create job opportunities and an improved economic outlook

for indigenous communities and other marginalized groups;

- **Expanding** interregional access to knowledge about approaches to peacebuilding as well as conflict-sensitive and climate-smart investments to improve cooperation for peace and development throughout Mindanao;
- **Strengthening** the capacities of state and non-state actors and improving interagency coordination to support the implementation of local and regional peace agendas; and
- **Promoting** inclusive and conflict-sensitive decision-making mechanisms to strengthen the participation of vulnerable groups.

## Expected Impacts

In line with the Philippines' commitment to the 2030 Agenda, the project is expected to contribute to the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

**SDG 1:** Reduction of poverty and resilience to disaster and crisis by raising the income of smallholder farmers and fishers through their integration in agricultural value chains, especially in marginalized communities;

**SDG 5:** Promotion of gender equality and reduction of gender-based discrimination and violence by building capacities of government and non-government actors in gender- and conflict-sensitive planning, participation, monitoring, and dialogue mechanisms; and

**SDG 16:** Reduction of violence and the implementation of non-discriminatory laws and policy with the inclusive implementation of the regional and local peace and development agendas contributing to social cohesion and empowerment of marginalized groups.

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