



PHILIPPINES

EU COUNTRY ROADMAP FOR

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

2014 - 2017

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1 STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

1.1 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The 1987 Constitution of the Philippines, approved in the aftermath of the 1986 People Power Revolution, recognises citizens' participation and empowerment, including the important role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). For example, Article II Section 23 of the Constitution states that "*The state shall encourage non-governmental, community-based, or sector organisations that promote the welfare of the nation*". Article XIII Section 16 indicates that "*the right of the people and their organisations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. The State shall, by law, facilitate the establishment of adequate consultation mechanisms*".

A number of laws recognise and promote CSOs and their role in the development of the country. Among the most important is the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991. It provides for the participation of CSOs in local government planning, policy making and in the delivery of social services. Another important law for CSOs is the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act of 1997, which created the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). 14 sector representatives are members of this Commission with a level of representation equal to that of government agencies. They are elected by and accountable to assemblies of sector CSOs and their elected sector council. More recently, the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 mandated the inclusion of CSOs as part of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Council and be involved in all aspects of DRRM from planning to implementation at all levels of governance.

President Benigno S. Aquino III was elected in 2010 with strong support from CSOs and volunteer groups who were mobilised through the anticorruption and antipoverty focus of his campaign platform. His election marked further improvements in the openness of the government to CSO based on constructive engagement, both as watchdogs to help ensure that government policies and guidelines are followed and as support groups helping to implement government projects and deliver public services. The Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016 (PDP) also recognizes the role of civil society in the development process.

Despite the apparent openness of the Government, there are still a number of hindrances that CSOs face, such as the lack of transparency and proper access to relevant Government records and information. In the field of human rights, some CSOs claim to suffer harassment and violence (including killings) when they are perceived to be opposed to controversial policies and issues such as extraction of natural resources (logging and mining), and other lucrative contracts. Notwithstanding government claims of neutrality and impartiality, there is still the tendency for the government sometimes to select "friendly" or "allied" CSOs when it comes to dialogue and monitoring of public policies. More critical CSOs claim to encounter obstacles to take part in the participatory governance processes. The practice of selecting "friendly" CSOs appears widespread and is present at national and local level.

1.2 PARTICIPATION AND ROLES

In the past decade, some crucial reforms were successfully instituted with CSOs as the main drivers and stakeholders. These include the Reproductive Health Law, the Law on Violence Against Women and Children, the Magna Carta on Women, the Fisheries Code, the Urban Development and Housing Act, the Renewable Energy Act, the Juvenile Justice Law, the Overseas Absentee Voting Act, the Anti-Torture Act, the Philippine Cooperative Code, and the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons. These legislations were made possible by the synergies created between CSOs and various branches and agencies of the Government.

As for sources of funds, CSOs can receive public funding through the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Interior and Local Government and LGUs. In fact, the civil society plays a key role in implementing social public policies as a provider of social services at the local level. The LGUs fund these services in an increasing way. In some cases, CSOs have received funds from LGUs to enable them to engage in governance but it can affect their identity as a watchdog. In other cases, CSOs have abstained to participate in the governance process to avoid being linked with political personalities.

Philippine CSOs have also been able to tap corporate resources to support poverty alleviation initiatives. Unfortunately, they remain dependent on external funding and they have been affected by the decline of external funding or donor support for the country since the 1990s. Many CSOs too have been unable to take advantage of funding opportunities from the government due to their lack of knowledge about how government works (Public Finance Management, Auditing, decision making processes, administrative rules, etc.) or to their lack of technical knowledge in specific areas (education, health, infrastructure, etc.). They also have been unable to attract competent, educated, young graduates like they used to. They therefore need to strengthen their current skills in order to play a more active role in the development process and to contribute to an enhanced culture of good governance in the country.

Philippines civil society is diverse and includes several categories of organisations. Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are the most prominent. They provide a wide range of services to primary organisations, communities and individuals. They are a key partner of the Delegation and EU Member States (MS), regarding both dialogue and financial support, on development issues, governance, human rights, environment, peace building, etc.

NGOs often work in tandem with Peoples Organizations (PO), either on a bilateral basis or in the scope of the numerous networks / alliances. POs in the Philippines are organised based on their primary demands, which are most of the time associated with their need to break out of economic, social and political marginalisation. The more visible and active POs are thus sectorial groups such as trade unions / labour organisations, peasant organisations, transport groups, urban poor associations, and women's groups. Religious or faith-based organisations also had a profound impact on the Philippines' political and social history (e.g. EDSA People Power).

The interface between the media and civil society has been extremely important in the context of the political transition of the Philippines. This unwritten alliance between the two sectors has been sustained over time by the creation of media CSOs (known as media non-profit) or media development organisations. These media CSOs operate in a way that allows them to pursue credible stories without regard of lost profits. Their contribution to Philippine democracy cannot

be understated, especially in the wake of serious threats to press freedom and assaults to the lives of Filipino journalists.

With the increase in popularity and access to the internet, communication has been democratized. CSOs have taken advantage of the use of social media to broadcast their message to a much wider audience such as calls for the public to mobilize for social change, transparency, anti-corruption efforts.

Think tanks and Policy Research Institutes are either related to a target constituency and clear ideology, or part under the umbrella of one of the major universities. They play a role in generating ideas that are then translated into public opinion, public policy or public action, both at the national and the local level. Some CSO are quite innovative. Finally, numerous private foundations are active in the Philippines, working like proper NGOs in a number of cases, or with a more charity oriented approach, or at the cross roads between charity and development. They support the work of POs, NGOs, or media organisations.

1.3 CAPACITY

There is no consolidated or updated information on the number of CSOs active in the Philippines. One comprehensive but dated (2002) study estimated the number of both registered (60 %) and non-registered CSOs (40%) at between 249.000 and 497.000¹. The main strength of Philippine CSOs lies in their number, diversity, extensive networks, institutional experience and skills from many years of development work. They have successfully advocated for social reforms and laws, and have proven themselves to be credible alternative providers of services to the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

However, there have been reported cases of mismanagement or corruption of CSOs funds. CSOs are more aware than in the past about their own limitations and the need to improve their internal governance and functioning in order to play their role and to be perceived as a credible actor by both government and the general public. The recent political scandal, the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) scam or pork barrel scam has also substantially damaged the credibility of NGOs. The 2014 Philippine Trust Index gave a trust score of only 10.5%. While incorruptibility is seen as the most important trust driver for NGOs, only 22% believe that Philippine NGOs are not corrupt. Other important trust drivers are: being free from political interest, help those in real need, have competent leaders, provide livelihood, and communicate and listen to their stakeholders.

It is not legally mandatory for CSOs to register with the government. However, only registered organisations gain a legal status that permits them to enter into contracts and open a bank

¹ A Look at Philippine Civil Society Organizations and NGOs: characteristics, concerns and challenges, CODE-NGO, Oct 2013.

account. In addition to their registration, CSOs wishing to take on particular activities need secondary registrations or licenses or permits from the corresponding government agencies. Registered CSOs are required to submit annual reports, including audited financial statements. In 1998, six of the largest NGO coalitions in the country established the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC) to ensure professionalism, accountability, and transparency. Around 1000 organisations have received the PCNC certification.

Several leading organisations are actually big networks of organisations with hundreds of affiliate organisations around the country. Because of the diversity and large number of CSOs, they sometimes fail to cooperate and synergize on their work and advocacies across networks. This weakness is also reflected by the lack of coherence in the programmes and the competition between CSOs for funding. A huge number of NGOs work in an isolated way, information sharing amongst CSOs is also weak. Some CSOs are also divided along ideological lines. Most of the big CSOs or networks are concentrated in key cities and leaving behind small CSOs mostly composed of POs which are present in the poor municipalities which have difficulties to engage or participate in the local special bodies as provided for by the Local Government Code due to their limitations in submitting the registration requirements.

International NGOs, through implementation of EU funded development projects, contribute to the strengthening of the local networks, improving local accountability and coordination. An example in this area are the Spanish funded NGOs.

2 CURRENT EU ENGAGEMENT

2.1 STRUCTURED EU DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

The dialogue with CSO's in the Philippines is overall intense and constructive due to the number, the quality, and the diversity of civil society in the country. In practice, CSO are involved in most of the fields of activities of the EU. NGOs have been the main type of participants in the meetings, but trade unions, business associations, foundations, and media organisations have also attended, according to the agenda and the issues to be addressed.

This dialogue is challenging because of the geography of the country and the fact that a number of potential partners are based in remote islands and often hard to reach. The EU has tried to “decentralise” the consultation by organising meetings in some of the provinces (Cebu, Mindanao), but these attempts can only partially address this dispersion of stakeholders. Some of the usual partners of the EU Delegation are networks or platforms of organisations, which represent or gather together hundreds of organisations and grassroots movements. This approach helps covering a greater number of small organisations that are scattered around the country. Using internet in order to share information or to organise online consultations have been another approach used by the Delegation to overcome this obstacle.

The consultation with CSO has overall produced an intense and substantial exchange, and has proven to be very useful for the work of the EU in general and the attention given to CSO in particular. Thanks to this dialogue, the EU has been able to identify a broad consensus amongst all the stakeholders regarding the status of CSOs in the Philippines and the challenges that they are facing. A cross-learning forum among several NGOs implementing similarly-themed projects has also been organised by the EU to promote sharing of experiences and enhance linkages and networking. The EU believes that these organisations properly represent and reflect the views of CS in general, but is working on trying, in the limits of the existing constraints, to expand it to a broader number of organisations around the country. Dialogue should encompass both CSOs which have a constructive engagement with the government and those with a more critical collaboration.

Beyond the financial assistance, the dialogue has also provided a very valuable input to the high level missions from Europe (European Parliament, Commissioners) who could hold rich discussions with a variety of qualified members of CS. The same applies to the dialogue sustained by the Delegation and the EU Member States in the field of human rights for example.

Dialogue with CS is conducted in the framework of the EU's political dialogue, trade relations and development assistance.

2.2 POLICY DIALOGUE FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The EU Delegation is a member of the Philippine Development Forum Working Groups (PDF – WG) on decentralisation and local governance, health sector, justice sector and of the Sub-Working Group on Inter-Local Cooperation. Civil Society is represented at these working groups.

The bulk of the EU projects supporting civil society work in the field of local governance has focused on promoting; CS participation in the decision-making at the local level (definition of

development priorities, budget allocation), participation in the local development bodies, improving LGUs accountability and transparency through constructive engagement. A number of projects include a strong component of coastal resource management and of inter-local cooperation.

This approach, which is fully in line with the priorities of the current Philippine Development Plan, has according to all the stakeholders significantly contributed to increase the participation of CS to promote transparency and accountability. It has allowed a multiplication of positive pilot experiences around the country and has had a positive impact of the day-to-day lives of the target populations: greater budget allocation for social projects, greater transparency (and therefore potentially less corruption), better quality of services, better awareness of the CSOs and the population in general about the functioning of LGUs, better capacity of the LGUs to meet the latest requirements of the government regarding transparency and accountability, etc.

Mechanisms for participation of CS in governance are not enough. Participation should be extended to consultation, policy formulation and policy evaluation. There is a lack of incentives for the Local Government Units (LGUs) to engage with CS as well as a lack of standard auditing tools of LGUs-CSOs partnerships.

2.3 MAINSTREAMING CIVIL SOCIETY

Over the past few years, the dialogue with the CS has primarily been organised around the project cycle (programming, identification, formulation, implementation, evaluation) in the form of consultation meetings and information sessions:

Consultation has included :

Programming: organisation of two meetings for the preparation of the 2014-2020 Multi Annual Indicative Programme (MIP), one meeting with CSO active in the field of energy; two meetings regarding the programming of EIDHR and CSO/LA for the period 2014-2017.

Identification/Formulation: CSO's are always consulted and invited to stakeholders meetings for new projects such as the recently designed one's in the area of justice and energy.

Implementation: meetings with new grantees of EIDHR and CSO / LA regarding procedures and visibility. Information sharing in order to avoid overlapping and encourage synergies. CSO are also part of the steering committees of the EU bi-lateral programmes.

Evaluation: CSO are invited to meetings on programming including an evaluation of past Programming, Calls for Proposals, and bi-lateral projects. An ad hoc meeting was organised in 2013 in the scope of the final evaluation of the Strategic Projects' Facility II. Similar meetings have been organised with Indigenous Peoples Organisations, and with CSO in the scope of bilateral Health, Instrument for Stability, or Justice Projects.

As regards to a more policy oriented type of dialogue, meetings have been organised on the occasion of the visits of the EP (February 2013) or of Commissioners (Commissioner Heedegard, September 2013). An annual meeting is organised with Human Rights organisations in the scope of the dialogue on HR.

2.4 COORDINATION

The EU Development Counsellors meetings are called by the EU Delegation on a monthly basis. These monthly meetings provide a venue for the Delegation to keep the MS colleagues up-dated on the implementation of the EU Development policy in the Philippines. In this context, matters related to civil society and local authorities are discussed on a regular basis (new Communications, consultations meetings, launching of Calls for Proposals, list of newly selected projects, etc.). MS also inform on their respective policies and actions, and this information-sharing is very valuable for all participants.

The Delegation is also part of a Development Partner Consultation on civil society launched at the initiative of Australia two years ago. The objective of this process is to provide an informal space for discussion on civil society related matters. The Heads of AUSAID, UNDP, CIDA, WB, ADB, and USAID are part of this Group.

In addition, the EU is involved in the Small Grants Donor Groups (UNDP, AUSAID, EUD, SP, GER, UK, NZ, ADB, JICA, Asia Foundation). This Group has overall the same objectives as the Development Partner consultation on civil society, from a more practical and perhaps "junior" perspective.

The EU Delegation also coordinates with the ODA GAD Network, an informal grouping of donor organisations, international CSOs and governmental bodies. The Network shares information on gender equality issues and have done joint activities such as the Joint Country Gender Assessment.

Finally, the EUD is a member of the Kasama Initiative (SP, NL, Norway, UK, NZ, Australia, Canada, Belgium, EEUU and EUD) which aims to enhance donor coordination in the field of human rights supporting innovative human rights projects. This Group is quite active and even foresees, as a way of strengthening Human rights national CSO, joint financial support to human rights projects.

2.5 LESSONS LEARNT

CSOs constructive engagement promotes transparency and accountability of public servants and improves delivery of services. CSOs participation in local governance has improved their knowledge and skills. Nevertheless capacity building of CS is needed to allow them to fully take advantage of the legal possibilities provided and/or to demand further transparency and accountability.

There is a lack of incentives for the Local Government Units (LGUs) to engage with CS as well as a lack of standard auditing tools of LGUs – CSOs partnership. Access to information on public policies, programmes, and budgets and expenditure data needs to be improved. Access to funding from the government is limited and not always transparent.

CSO projects should also anticipate the possible shifts in the local political environment especially at the design stage to avoid disruptions during implementation stage. The local elections which intervene every 3 year can have a major impact on the CSO interventions.

Some CSO have been tainted by their involvement in political and corruption scandals over time. It is therefore needed to determine sound criteria for selection of partners from the civil society.

A number of good pilot projects at local level do not in itself trigger a change at the national level. For this to happen, a dynamic of replication has to be created and a critical mass has to be reached amongst the LGUs that promote a more efficient, accountable, and open approach to governance. Often projects include a component of replication. Unfortunately, replication is often perceived by grantees as an extension of their fund raising activities, and most projects have performed relatively poorly so far in this area. Working with national networks of NGOs potentially opens better perspectives from this point of view.

Sustainability in the projects is often quite weak. It should be acknowledged that a number of local actions have relatively high management costs and represent a relatively high investment per municipality (including studies, coordination meetings with a high number of participants, coordination from Manila in some cases).

Dependence on external funding, which has been declining, constitutes another challenge, both for sustainability as well as retaining qualified staff.

The CSO call for proposals has contributed to expand spaces for CSO participation. The EU policy on local ownership of projects by grantees and partners are usually appreciated.

3 PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1: Enable CSOs to be effective actors for domestic transparency and accountability

Ensure that the CSO actions are reinforcing the transparency and accountability thrust of the Government. This includes a greater involvement of citizens in general and CSOs in particular in the decision making (participatory planning, budgeting and expenditure monitoring, greater and more meaningful participation of CSOs in the local development bodies, etc) and the monitoring of their work. Emphasis will also be put on inter-local cooperation, on the protection of the rights of the marginalised and vulnerable populations for example the IPs, and on supporting the peace process in Mindanao and potentially in other provinces of the Philippines.

Transparency and accountability of the LGUs: Contributing to the compliance by LGUs of the mandate of full disclosure of its local budget and finances. Strengthening CS participation in local governance for increased accountability, transparency, performance and delivery of basic services of LGUs.

Monitoring of service delivery and performance: Contributing to the implementation of the Local Governance Watch Programme that was launched by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in June 2012; monitoring of the performance of the LGUs, in particular through mechanisms aimed at cross-checking the Local Governance Performance Management System (LGPMS) and / or other performance measurement instruments and recognition systems for best practices.

Participation in local governance: Increasing participatory local governance processes, participatory planning and budgeting practices; ensuring proper functioning of the local development councils and sectoral committees. Also included is enhancing the de jure and de facto enabling environment for CSOs at the local level so that they can effectively contribute to the development process.

Capacity Building: Strengthening of the capacity of regional and local civil society watch groups in advocating mechanisms and processes that contribute to strengthening of institutions and improve the quality of local governance, the delivery of basic services to fight corruption at the local level.

Fostering internal good governance: Fostering CSOs' transparency and accountability to their constituencies and partners with a view to enhance their own legitimacy and credibility in policy and accountability processes.

Indicators:

Improved participation of CSO in local development councils

Increased and improved participatory budgeting

Increased no of LGUs with IP representatives and more functional locally mandated structures

Enhanced and sustained mechanisms for CSOs/citizens monitoring (budget and expenditure tracking, procurement monitoring, projects monitoring)

PRIORITY 2: CSOs to contribute to social protection

Social protection is an important tool to combat poverty, promote human well-being, achieve inclusive growth, political stability and social cohesion. Social protection is at the heart of the EU social model. The goal of the EU development cooperation in supporting social protection is to improve equity and efficiency in provision of services while supporting inclusion and social cohesion. Evidence suggests that there is strong correlation between continuing high levels of chronic poverty and marginalization, indicating the need for stronger efforts to target marginalised groups in order to ensure equal access to education, health care, basic services and economic opportunities. CSOs, being important actors for advocacy for change could raise awareness about social protection to achieve inclusive growth and increase the extent to which Local Governments implement social protection interventions.

Advocating Policies for social protection: Strengthening of CS capacity to be able to spearhead and contribute to policy reforms aimed at providing a sustainable basic level of social protection (SP) for all. Advocating for a Social Protection System that is part of a comprehensive approach which goes beyond providing a safety net for the poorest of the poor, indigenous people and other marginalized sectors of the society (i.e. disabled people, children and other vulnerable groups, disaster victims etc.), getting them out of poverty and allowing them to benefit from growth but in addition also to allow them to productively take part in growth.

Monitoring of Social Protection service delivery and performance: monitoring the implementation of the Core Programs (Social Insurance, Social Safety Nets, Social Welfare and Labour Market Interventions) and Participatory Strategies ("Convergence" in the Delivery of Core Responses, Scaling up of Community Driven Development, Building Adaptive Capacities at All Levels of Implementation, Institutionalized M&E systems) of the national Social Protection Operational Framework (SDC Resolution nr 3, Series of 2012). Holding government agencies to account when they fail to implement legislation, policies and funding to which they have committed.

Capacity Building and information exchanges: Strengthening of the capacity of regional and local civil society by the national networks as well as sharing and transfer of lessons learnt and experiences by the local CSOs to the national level, and vice versa, for providing evidence to support effective advocacy and policy development. Included also is capacitating, organising and giving voice to workers and vulnerable groups in their call for social protection and decent work for all. Creating links to wider social and labour movements to support their calls for equity and change.

Engagement with Government and private sector: Supporting dialogue with relevant agencies and local government units, basic services providers (such as public and private hospitals, schools, etc.) to bring to their attention the needs of the marginalized and how they can be included in the society. Support dialogue with the private sector and government on institutional relations between the public and private sector in the provision of social protection, focusing on the role each can play, encourage social safety net projects supported by the private sector (for

example provident funds, PPPs for social protection, target small enterprises in informal sector to improve job quality, promote association building, etc.)

Indicators:

Improved social protection for indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups

Strengthened voice of the right of the poor to receive social services such as education, maternal and child health, etc.

Improved community based DRRM plans to reduce vulnerability of the population against natural disasters

PRIORITY 3: Strengthened CSO's to advocate for job creation and decent work especially for the poor

Despite the fast economic growth, poverty alleviation has been slow as growth has been driven to a large extent by the business process outsourcing sector and remittances fuelling consumption but not providing enough jobs especially for the poor. Also, employment opportunities available to the poor are menial, unstable and sometimes not in compliance with existing labour laws. Child labour, dangerous working conditions and lack of proper labour representation and vocational education are other factors affecting the labour market. Job creation in poor rural areas lags behind urban centres despite the good strategies to promote agri-based industries and tourism for employment which have the job creating potential outside the national capital region. The success of the peace process in Mindanao will also depend on the ability of the proposed Bangsamoro autonomous political entity (Bangsamoro) to encourage job creation, reduce the high unemployment and provide peaceful livelihood for former combatants.

CSOs can play an important role at the national and local level in raising awareness of the importance and the creation of an enabling environment for investments. These investments directly create jobs for the poor, thereby improving the lives of the employed and their families. Pertinent thereto, CSOs shall also advocate for better protection of the poor from labour abuse and promote decent work opportunities in the entire Philippines.

CSO's active in Capacity Building: Building capacity of regional and local business, trade and labour-based CSOs to effectively advocate policy reforms to support job creation through entrepreneurship, cooperatives, cottage industries, SMEs and the like, to engage in business and livelihood for job creation including vocational and skills training.

Advocating policies to facilitate a business environment conducive for entrepreneurship, decent work policies and SMEs to create jobs: Strengthening of CS as a strong and united advocate for policy reforms at the national and local level to resolve difficulties of doing business and encourage entrepreneurship and decentralized job-creation.

Advocating policies for the protection of labour: Strengthening of CS as a strong and united advocate for policy reforms at the national and local level to protect security of tenure of unskilled, semi-skilled, under-employed, service workers, blue-collar workers and the like.

Initiatives: Promoting entrepreneurship and extending access to business support services, credit and markets to marginalized groups. Included also is supporting small businesses, trade unions and employers' organisations to promote inclusive growth.

Engagement with Government and the private sector: Supporting dialogue with relevant agencies (i.e., Bureau of Internal Revenue, Securities and Exchange Commission, Department of Trade and Industry, DOLE, etc.), local government units and the private sector to support policies that will promote a healthy business environment.

Indicators:

Stronger CSO voice in demanding decent work agenda in the Philippines

Higher quality job creating activities of CSO's especially in the area of the ARMM (or its successor Bangsamoro political entity) and increased attention at the national level in addressing the needs of the poor

Increased attention to creating an enabling environment for job creation

PRIORITY 4: Strengthened CSO's promoting access to sustainable energy services for the poor

Access to energy is considered by many a fundamental human right. The lack of access to modern energy services constrains the ability of the population of developing countries to benefit from opportunities for economic development and increased living standards. (*UNDP World Energy Assessment 2004 Update, Part III.*) Electricity allows disadvantaged families opportunities to improve their economic status through income-generating activities, children to improve their education, and for everyone to have access to better healthcare.

Household connection level in the Philippines stands at 79.85% which translates to some 4.31 million homes which remain unelectrified. To address this, President Aquino has declared his commitment to provide access to 90% of households by 2017 – and the Department of Energy has prepared a roadmap to meet such targets. There is a limit to what the Government can do in the exercise of its public function in providing electricity to every household in the country. The CSOs, through its grassroots network, can play a crucial role to fill this gap and work towards delivering the much needed electrification services to the poorest of the poor - by way of promotion and installation of energy sources which are sustainable, cost-effective and beneficial to communities. The CSOs have the know-how to develop programmes attaining the objectives of inclusive growth and livelihood development for the productive use of energy provided, taking into account regional, gender and cultural sensitivities of that area.

The delivery of electricity services to the poorest far flung regions in the Philippines, particularly in Visayas and Mindanao, can be more effective with the participation of CSOs. CSOs have a wide range of roles they can engage in the energy sector: they can be sources of academic knowledge and information, a powerful advocate in pushing for energy sector reforms that will benefit the poorest and marginalized, increase in utilization of sustainable energy sources and energy efficiency techniques.

More importantly, CSOs can adopt a more proactive position in engaging in actual energy service delivery through traditional or innovative means – such as in the dissemination of solar lanterns, construction of mini-grids in unviable areas, offer agri-processing services and irrigation using renewable energy technologies and the like. Against this backdrop, targeted CSOs may be electric cooperatives and their member consumers, registered foundations and non-stock non-profit organizations of energy companies, academic institutions, and other CSOs engaged in activities relating to the advocacy and/or delivery of energy services to the poor.

Indicators:

Improved technical and financial capacity of CSOs in providing the poor access to sustainable energy through advocacy and promotion of innovative services such as solar lanterns, home systems and solar pumps, etc.

Increase in the number of poor and marginalized people with access to energy services in Visayas and Mindanao facilitated through CSO's.

Increased awareness about the right of access of the poor to energy and the importance of energy for poverty alleviation.

PRIORITY 5: CSOs to participate in and exercise oversight on the justice system as well as for their human rights protection work

Good governance anchored on human rights and democracy is vital for inclusive and sustainable development as underlined in the Agenda for Change which calls for a more prominent inclusion of its different dimensions in EU partnerships that developing countries. In particular, the rule of law, with an adequate justice system which enforces it, is a key pre-condition for economic and social development through a two-pronged function. Firstly, it is a driver for economic development by promoting business and investment that leads to economic growth and job creation. Secondly, an effective rule of law and an accessible justice system are fundamental to the empowerment of people, particularly the marginalized. They enable every citizen to participate in the development process not only for the realization of basic civil and political rights, but also for the fulfilment of social, economic and cultural rights.

A crucial element for the success of the justice system reform that is strongly emphasised in the PDP is the need to strengthen oversight bodies and to expand citizens' participation in governance.

Capacity Building: Building capacity of regional and local CSOs to effectively monitor judicial and quasi-judicial bodies in the performance of their duties to deliver justice in a swift and impartial manner Including promotion of traditional systems of justice

Monitoring of judicial and quasi-judicial bodies: Monitoring the performance of local trial courts and local administrative agencies exercising quasi-judicial powers in delivering swift, fair and impartial services. Scope of the monitoring should be sector-wide - covering different stakeholders, and multi-dimensional – focussing on different fields (civil, criminal, commercial, administrative, juvenile) against parameters such as accessibility, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability, integrity, etc. Involves gathering of reliable data and information (studies, surveys, investigations, etc.) and constructive engagement with the justice system stakeholders for information sharing.

Advocating reforms in the justice sector: Effectively contributing to justice reform by way of assessment of the performance of the decision-making bodies. Involves publication of public reports, academic writing, legal journals, as well as cohesive dialogue and partnerships with the officials of decision-making bodies.

Support to human rights and human rights defenders in situations where they are most at risk to situations where fundamental freedoms are most endangered.

Support to activities where the European Union has an added value or specific thematic commitment, consistent with the priorities set out in the EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy. Actions will, inter alia, support human dignity (in particular the fight against the death penalty and against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment); economic, social and cultural rights; the fight against impunity; the fight against discrimination in all its forms; women's rights and gender equality. Attention will also be given to emerging issues in the field of human rights.

Indicators:

Partnerships built between CSOs and with the Commission on Human Rights

Reports published to monitor progress on justice sector reform and specific human rights issues

PRIORITY 6: CSOs to contribute to peace building and its monitoring

Beyond its political support to the peace process in Mindanao, the EU has used the Instrument for Stability to support the international monitoring team and peace facilitation which was most appreciated by stakeholders in the peace process. The EU is committed to continue supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Bangsamoro.

The EU will promote a political dialogue with CSOs, including women-led CSOs, as civil society is an essential part of the proper functioning of the state and a vibrant civil society will be essential to the development of the Bangsamoro.

The CSO landscape has been changing in Mindanao with a mushrooming of CSO's and CSO networks. The dividing line between the role of government and the CS is not always clear.

The EU supports peaceful pro-democracy actors in third countries with a view to enhancing participatory and representative democracy, transparency and accountability. This will support the capacity of civil society organisations to monitor in the proposed Bangsamoro Territory the plebiscite on the Bangsamoro Basic Law in the first semester of 2015 and the Local Elections planned to be held in June 2016; and Support civic and voter education in the Bangsamoro Territory for both the plebiscite on the Bangsamoro Basic Law in the first semester of 2015 and the Local Bangsamoro Elections planned to be held in June 2016.

Indicators:

Improved participation of CS, including women-led CSOs, in the building up of the new Bangsamoro

Increased involvement of CS in conflict prevention and provision of social cohesion

Augmented capacity of CS in participating in the democratic development of the Bangsamoro

Increased capacity of CSOs in protection, monitoring, advocacy and facilitation

4 ACTIONS

Action tables

Priority 1
CSOs to be effective actors for domestic transparency and accountability
Indicator(s)
<p>Improved participation of CSO in local development councils</p> <p>Increased and improved participatory planning and budgeting</p> <p>Increased no of LGUs with IP representatives and more functional locally mandated structures</p> <p>Enhanced and sustained mechanisms for CSOs/citizens monitoring (budget and expenditure tracking, procurement monitoring, projects monitoring)</p>
Actions:
A. Analysis: Studies, mappings and research
<p>DILG has undertaken mapping of the CSO, ADB conducted a study on involvement of CSO in procurement, AusAID supported a strategic assessment and mapping of CSOs in the Philippines</p> <p>For specific activities that will be supported further studies and consultation rounds with CSO might be needed.</p>
A. Policy dialogue, consultation and facilitation
<p>Coordination takes place through the PDF working group on Decentralization, small-grants donors group, steering committees of the bilateral programmes.</p> <p>Support will be provided to the Government to institutionalize tools to facilitate the participation of CSO in accountability and transparency.</p> <p>CSO need to be strengthened with regard to technical knowledge to take full advantage of the space provided by government. National CSO networks can provide capacity building to their local members in this respect. It should also allow for a wider geographical presence.</p> <p>Responsible : EUD, Spain, UK</p>
B. Funding: Operational support including mainstreaming

EU:

The CSO Calls for Proposals will focus on CS participation in local governance for increased accountability, transparency, and performance of the LGUs. Contribute to consolidation of CS networks on local governance and build capacity of regional and local CSO in this area. Sub-granting to regional and local CSO's or networks of them is highly encouraged.

Through the bilateral programme, DCI-ASIE 2011/022-691 Support to Local Government Units for more effective and accountable PFM, direct support is foreseen for Grass Root Participatory Budgeting (GPBP). The "bottom-up" approach will further strengthen civil society participation in the planning process. The introduction of the GPBP allows for the integration of the community level needs. A platform where LGUs can upload their progress reports will be enhanced to facilitate the monitoring of GPBP projects both by oversight agencies and CSOs. The handbook on CSO participation in the Local Budget Process which was developed under the programme will be rolled out.

Complementarily, the EU's current support to CODE NGO through a grant under the CSO/LA facility aims to improve citizen's participation in the monitoring of LGU performance and development planning to reduce poverty in key areas.

Responsible : EUD, Spain, Germany and UK

Priority 2**CSOs to contribute to social protection****Indicator(s)**

Improved social protection for indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups

Strengthened voice of the right of the poor to receive social services such as education, maternal and child health, etc.

Improved community based DRRM plans to reduce vulnerability of the population against natural disasters

Actions:**A. Analysis: Studies, mappings and research**

to be determined

A. Policy dialogue, consultation and facilitation

CSO are important actors for advocacy for change and raise awareness about the needs of the poor such as indigenous people, rural and urban poor and people with disabilities. Policy dialogue on social protection will include social rights, IPs, rights of vulnerable groups,

economic empowerment, persons with disabilities, women and gender equality, etc.

CSO are also important as service delivery mechanism for some vulnerable groups. Attention to be paid to achieving the MDGs which have unsatisfactory progress such as extreme poverty, maternal health and HIV/AIDS. Policy dialogue, consultation and facilitation will result to stronger linkage between actions targeted at the informal economy and marginalized groups and formal government-led processes at local, regional or national levels. In addition to that, CSO play an essential role in strengthening DRRM capacities and advocating for vulnerable groups rights before, during and after a disaster happens.

Also important is the dialogue with and support to the "Medicines Transparency Alliance" (MeTa), a civil society network that has been advocating for increasing transparency and accountability in the healthcare marketplace.

B. Funding: Operational support including mainstreaming

EU:

The Health Sector Policy Support Programme III, contributes to the Health Sector Reform Agenda and the implementation of the Universal Health Care Strategy. As part of the programmes focus on strengthening local health systems, the programme will amongst others strengthen mechanisms on when and how communities and civil society can participate in health system decision making mechanisms, for instance participation in Local Health Boards as well as improve the capacity to communicate effectively.

Under the bilateral project "Addressing Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health and Nutrition Needs of Indigenous Peoples in Mindanao" a grant was signed with PAMULAAN Center for Indigenous Peoples Education, Inc. in order to create learning mechanisms and opportunities for indigenous leaders that will improve the indigenous people's capacity in planning, implementing, managing and sustaining health related activities (*maternal, neo-natal and child health and nutrition strategy*) and other basic services that contribute to the total development of the IP's in the 5 ancestral domain areas in Mindanao. A Joint Memorandum Circular among the Departments of Health (DOH), Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) was signed to improve delivery of basic health services to indigenous peoples all over the country.

Under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the social and economic rights of vulnerable groups such as children and persons with disabilities are currently being supported. Four on-going projects by Philippine and international CSOs address the issues of children affected by worst forms of child labour, domestic abuse and sex trafficking in Mindanao, Negros Island and Cebu. Key project features include advocacy, emergency support, access to education, and tie up with local government units. Another project by Handicap International focus on supporting the economic uplifting and increased political participation of persons with disabilities in Rizal province.

In the field of increasing resilience of communities to face natural disasters, CSOs in partnership with European NGOs are being supported. The activities implemented intend to

increase the community based approach in prevention, preparedness and response Local Plans
 CSO – Call for proposal: Enhancing the capacity of CS through national networks to promote common agenda in favour of policy reforms and implementation in the fields of a) rule of law, b) social protection including service provision for indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups, c) economic empowerment, employment and job creation. Lessons from the local level should be brought to national level and shared through network and used for advocacy.

Responsible : EUD, Germany , Spain and UK

Priority 3

Strengthened CSOs to advocate for job creation and decent work especially for the poor

Indicator(s)

Stronger CSO voice in demanding decent work agenda in the Philippines
 Higher quality job creating activities of CSO's especially in the area of the ARMM (or the successor Bangsamoro political entity) and increased attention at the national level in the discussions addressing the needs of the poor.
 Increased attention to creating an enabling environment for job creation

Actions:

A. Analysis: Studies, mappings and research

to be determined

A. Policy dialogue, consultation and facilitation

CSOs will be consulted within the framework of the Mindanao Trust Fund for Reconstruction and Development and directly before launching any call for proposal or major initiative.

EU strives to meet with CSOs to discuss major trade topics that impact our relationship and / or people (fisheries, jobs, health care). CSOs groups that are considered are civil society groups; industry associations; trade unions; government, academe, think tanks, etc.

B. Funding: Operational support including mainstreaming

EU:

CSO – Call for proposal under the CSO/LA Thematic Programme.

Global call for proposals, e.g. "Empowerment for better livelihoods, including skills development and vocational training for marginalized and vulnerable persons and people dependent on the informal economy".

Specific call possible under bilateral MIP.

Trade Related Technical Assistance Programme supports the government to facilitate integration in international and regional trading and investment systems. The project includes components on improved trade policy, competition, national quality infrastructure, SPS conformity and trade facilitation which should lead as well to improve the economy and job creation. EUD promotes the inclusion of relevant CSO in government consultation processes.

Responsible : EUD. Collaboration mechanisms with MS are being explored.

Priority 4

Strengthened CSO's promoting access to sustainable energy services for the poor

Indicator(s)

Improved technical and financial capacity of CSOs in providing the poor access to sustainable energy through advocacy and promotion of innovative services such as solar lanterns, home systems and solar pumps, etc.

Increase in the number of poor and marginalized people with access to energy services in Visayas and Mindanao facilitated through CSO's.

Increased awareness about the right of access of the poor to energy and the importance of energy for poverty alleviation.

Actions:

A. Analysis: Studies, mappings and research

Investment feasibility studies, natural resource mapping, baseline assessment, business models for energy services for the poor developed etc.

A. Policy dialogue, consultation and facilitation

The EU will support the Philippines policy of connecting more poor people to the electricity grid and generating more renewable energy. Civil society will be regularly consulted as part of the new main EU energy programme.

B. Funding: Operational support including mainstreaming

EU:

The EU bi-lateral programme "Access to sustainable energy" will contribute to the priority by :

- Training of electricity cooperatives on systems loss reductions, better management and investment plans in order to improve power sector management and regulation.
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building trainings to CSOs and the academe to formulate programmes which promote energy efficient practices and the use of renewable energy technologies.
- Support innovative pilot investments for disaster resilience.
- Establish partnerships with civil society and the private sector for the promotion of innovative RE-powered technologies.
- Awareness raising of the benefits of using renewable energy and energy efficiency through the conduct of information, education campaigns.

CSO – Call for Proposal: For provision of sustainable energy services for the rural poor through rural electrification. The focus shall be the local impact of the action and on utilizing renewable sources of energy.

Responsible : EUD, Germany, France.

Priority 5

CSOs to participate in and exercise oversight on the justice system as well as in human rights protection work

Indicator(s)

Partnerships built between CSOs and with the Commission on Human Rights
 Reports published to monitor progress on justice sector reform and specific human rights issues

Actions:

A. Analysis: Studies, mappings and research

Mapping of CSOs involved in the oversight of the justice systems, needs assessment and feasibility study, baseline surveys

Human rights reports and assessments by CSOs including Universal Periodic Reviews

Government response to the assessment of CSOs in the Universal Periodic Review

A. Policy dialogue, consultation and facilitation

Coordination on this priority is conducted and will continue through the PDF working group on the Rule of Law in which CSOs participate, ongoing and future programme's implementing structures. These include i.e. programme steering committees, bi- and multi-lateral discussions with government (DOJ, CHR) and CSOs (notably through the regular dialogue meetings with the human rights defenders (HRDs) and their legal advocates both at national and local level, as well as through the annual human right (HR) event in support of the priorities of the EU HR country strategy for the Philippines). Key advocacy priorities are transparency and accountability requiring further participation of CSOs in governance structures, enhanced availability and access to government information, as well as funding for independent monitoring and public reporting.

B. Funding: Operational support including mainstreaming

EU:

Ongoing and future bilateral Justice/Human Rights programmes do/will:

- Promote CSOs constructive dialogue with government authorities
- Create and support the operationalization of a Human Rights Observatory nation-wide (including the future Bangsamoro) through a partnership between the National and Regional Commissions on Human Rights (whose institutional capacity will be further strengthened) and CSOs together with Spain (through a joint program EU – AECID).
- Support CSOs' provision of legal education and assistance to victims of human rights (including legal assistance, witness protection, livelihood, etc.) together with Spain (through a joint program EU – AECID).

CSO – Call for proposal: Civil society oversight over the justice sector: support will be provided to CSOs for the independent monitoring and evaluation of the justice system's performance in delivering swift, fair and impartial services and in devising and implementing reforms. It should result in the publication of periodic public reports and the formulation of recommendations. For the sake of comprehensiveness and impact, applicants in a consortium comprising a variety of members from the NGO community, academe and media.

Enhancing the capacity of CS through national networks to promote common agenda in favour of policy reforms in the rule of law. Lessons from the local level should be brought to national level and shared through network and used for advocacy.

The next European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, EIDHR Call for proposals will support similar actions by CSOs, in particular in the following areas of child protection (in

context of armed conflict) and HRD protection (to address impunity).

Networks and consortia will be encouraged to apply that address the needs of HRD concerning labour rights, indigenous people, the media, etc. Legal aid, advocacy and protection to be included. Support will also be provided for building the capacities of CSOs to effectively perform its role as human rights monitor and advocate. Coordination with relevant authorities will be encouraged.

The KaSaMa initiative launches an annual call for proposals for CSOs nationwide supported by the EU and several MS.

Spanish funding through Spanish NGO's in partnership with Philippine NGOs: Good governance and DRRM sectors (Bicol and Mindanao Regions), as well as humanitarian assistance nationwide.

Responsible: EUD, Spain

Priority 6

CSOs to contribute to the peace building and its monitoring

Indicator(s)

Improved participation of CSO in the building up of the new Bangsamoro

Increased involvement of CSO in conflict prevention and provision of social cohesion

Augmented capacity of CSO in participating in the democratic development of the Bangsamoro

Increased capacity of CSOs in protection, monitoring, advocacy and facilitation

Actions:

A. Analysis: Studies, mappings and research

For specific activities that will be supported further studies and consultation rounds with CSO might be needed.

A. Policy dialogue, consultation and facilitation

The EU Del will promote a political dialogue with CSOs as civil society is an essential part of the proper functioning of the state and a vibrant civil society will be essential to the development of the new Bangsamoro.

A regular dialogue would be beneficial for both: the EU would get relevant information and a sense on the developments at grass root level and could provide support in strengthening comprehensive and objective dialogue between government (both local and national) and the

people.

Additionally, EU will facilitate roundtables and consultations to support the civil society in fostering mediation, interfaith dialogue, conflict resolution, human rights and promoting better democratization process.

EU will also facilitate civil society's active participation in the plebiscite and legislative elections in Bangsamoro, and where applicable, actions will take into account the recommendations of EU EOM.

Responsible: EUD, Spain, Germany. Collaboration mechanisms with MS are being explored.

B. Funding: Operational support including mainstreaming

The funding will be provided through:

EU:

EIDHR Calls for Proposals

Peace building Partnership programmes under the 2015 AAP of the Instrument contributing to Peace and Stability(call for proposals)

Spanish funding through Spanish NGO's in partnership with Philippine NGOs: Good governance and DRRM sectors (Bicol and Mindanao Regions), as well as humanitarian assistance nationwide.

Spain bilateral program with the Commission of Human Rights – CHR includes the support to grassroots CSOs nationwide (promotion and protection of Human Rights)

German funding: civil peace service, programme Conflict-sensitive resource and asset management in North Eastern Mindanao

Responsible : EUD, Spain, Germany

5 DASHBOARD

Country: Philippines		
Process		
Area	Indicator	Achievement
Involvement of Member States in Roadmap elaboration	Member States present in the country are actively involved in the elaboration of the Roadmap	Two consultations with EU MS. Inputs from several Deputy Heads of Mission and Development Counsellors received and incorporated
Consultation with local civil society	The Roadmap has been prepared on the basis of consultations with a broad range of local CSOs respecting principles of access to information, sufficient advance notice, and clear provisions for feedback and follow-up.	NSA-LA, EIDHR consultation. Consultation with EU international NGOs including foundations and European Chamber of Commerce. Consultation with local CSO.
Joint actions	Member States present in the country are actively involved in the implementation of the Roadmap priorities	To be determined
Outcome		
Priority	Indicator	Achievement
Enable CSOs to be effective actors for domestic transparency and accountability	<p>Improved participation of CSO in local development councils</p> <p>Increased and improved participatory budgeting</p> <p>Increased transparency of financial data</p> <p>Increased no of LGUs with IP representatives and more functional locally mandated structures</p> <p>Enhanced and sustained mechanisms for CSOs/citizens</p>	

	<p>monitoring (budget and expenditure tracking, procurement monitoring, projects monitoring)</p>	
<p>CSOs to contribute to social protection</p>	<p>Improved social protection for indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups</p> <p>Strengthened voice of the right of the poor to receive social services such as education, maternal and child health, etc.</p> <p>Improved community based DRRM plans to reduce vulnerability of the population against natural disasters</p>	
<p>Strengthened CSO's to advocate for job creation and decent work especially for the poor</p>	<p>Stronger CSO voice in demanding decent work agenda in the Philippines</p> <p>Higher quality job creating activities of CSO's especially in the area of the ARMM</p> <p>Increased attention at the national level in the discussions addressing the needs of the poor, with attention to those outside of the national capital region</p> <p>Increased attention to creating an enabling environment for job creation</p>	
<p>Strengthened CSO's promoting access to sustainable energy services for the poor</p>	<p>Improved technical and financial capacity of CSOs in providing the poor access to sustainable energy through advocacy and promotion of</p>	

	<p>innovative services such as solar lanterns, home systems and solar pumps, etc.</p> <p>Increase in the number of poor and marginalized people with access to energy services in Visayas and Mindanao facilitated through CSO's.</p> <p>Increased awareness about the right of access of the poor to energy and the importance of energy for poverty alleviation.</p>	
<p>CSOs to participate in and exercise oversight on the justice system as well as in human rights protection work</p>	<p>Partnerships built between CSOs and with the Commission on Human Rights</p> <p>Reports published to monitor progress on justice sector reform and specific human rights issues</p>	
<p>CSOs to contribute to the peace building and its monitoring</p>	<p>Improved participation of CSO in the building up of the new Bangsamoro</p> <p>Increased involvement of CSO in conflict prevention and provision of social cohesion</p> <p>Augmented capacity of CSO in participating in the democratic development of the Bangsamoro</p> <p>Increased capacity of CSOs in protection, monitoring, advocacy and facilitation</p>	