



## **Bondoc-LED Project**

# **Nurturing Peace, Human Security, and Decent Work through Local Economic Development**



# Bondoc-LED Project: Nurturing Peace, Human Security, and Decent Work through Local Economic Development

## Project Brief

### General Information

Project Title	:	Inter-agency Programme to Nurture Peace, Security, and Decent Work through Local Development in Conflict Areas
Project Sites	:	Municipalities of Unisan, Catanauan, Mulanay, and San Narciso, Bondoc Peninsula, Quezon Province, Philippines
Project Type	:	Local Economic Development & Peace-Building
Project Duration	:	3 Years, Starting March 2010
Target Beneficiaries	:	Farmers, Fisher folks, Women, Youth, Children, Micro and Small Entrepreneurs and 4 LGUs
Executing UN Agencies	:	International Labour Organization (ILO) & Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Institutional Partners	:	OPAPP, LGUs, Government Line Agencies, NGOs, Academe
Total Project Costs	:	USD2.49M
Source of Funds	:	Japan Government through UN Trust Fund for Human Security

### Background/Rationale

Bondoc Peninsula Quezon province is one of the poorest areas in the Philippines. With more than 1.63 million people<sup>1</sup>, the poverty incidence registered 47.7 per cent<sup>2</sup> in 2006. Moreover, around 80 per cent of Bondoc Peninsula households engage in subsistence farming, mostly coconut mono-cropping, and fishing, with incomes near or below the poverty threshold.

While the area is abundant with land and fishing resources, Bondoc towns remain to be conflict-prone areas and vulnerable to climate-induced hazards that further hamper linkages and access to socio-economic support networks. As a result, **livelihood and income generating assets** of the population are not maximized, resulting in inadequate access to capital support, outdated farm and fishing technologies, insufficient market information support, low levels of entrepreneurial skills, a weak enabling business environment, limited participatory processes, and the lack of community safety-net and social

Table 1: Poverty incidence

Region/ Province	Poverty Incidence Among Families (%)			Poverty Incidence Among Population (%)		
	2000	2003	2006	2000	2003	2006
Region IV-A	15.2	14.5	16.7	19.1	18.4	20.9
Cavite	10.2	8.6	7.8	13.0	12.5	11.2
Laguna	8.1	8.4	10.6	10.8	10.6	13.2
Batangas	20.7	24.5	25.6	25.8	30.4	30.7
Rizal	5.6	3.4	6.4	8.1	4.9	8.9
Quezon	32.9	32.8	38.4	39.3	39.8	47.7

Source: National Statistical Coordination Board (2006)

<sup>1</sup>National Statistics Office, Census of Population and Housing 2007. National poverty incidence in the Philippines is 32.9 per cent and 10.4 per cent in Manila.

<sup>2</sup>Source: National Statistical Coordination Board, 2006.



protection schemes. Thus, human security and local economic development remain to be a challenge in Bondoc Peninsula.

It is in this context that the **Inter-agency programme to nurture peace, security and decent work through local development in Bondoc Peninsula, Philippines** has been conceived. A joint undertaking between the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), in collaboration with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), local government units and local non-government organizations, the project takes off from the human security framework that puts a premium on human protection and empowerment.

## Project Details

Given socio-political and economic challenges in Bondoc Peninsula, the project's overall goal is to catalyze and contribute to the attainment of sustainable peace and development through multi-pronged, integrated intervention.

### Target groups and target areas

The project targets four municipalities in Bondoc Peninsula, **Mulanay, San Narciso, Unisan, and Catanauan**, as identified through site visits and consultations by an ILO-FAO-OPAPP mission in May 2007. The four municipalities demonstrate gains in local pro-peace initiatives and present receptiveness in nurturing peace and attaining sustainable development through multi-sector efforts and the local economic development (LED) process. The project will support local peace and development work with the cooperation of local government units (LGUs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, and church-based groups. The project will catalyze initiatives in selected sites and advocate for policies and programmes to replicate to other Bondoc municipalities and other similar areas.

Project beneficiaries will be the residents of target municipalities, as represented by their local organizations and NGOs and facilitated by local government. The beneficiaries comprise the most vulnerable sectors, tenant farmers, fisher folks, workers in the informal economy, women, children, and unemployed youth. Secondary beneficiaries will be officials and staff of LGUs and civil society organizations (CSOs), local private businesses, regional government, and ultimately the national government.

## Project Objectives

The project will realize two objectives:

**Objective 1:** Expanded livelihood assets and increased productivity of families and communities, especially vulnerable groups, in four municipalities.

**Objective 2:** Improved coordination and enhanced cooperation of LGUs, CSOs, the private sector and community organizations towards local socio-economic development and peace-building processes.

An asset and capacity-based approach to sustainable development will be employed in assisting target beneficiaries. The approach will weave together programmes on poverty alleviation, community dialogue and social empowerment towards achieving the project goal. Proposed action will deliver two specific objectives, as presented in the logical framework (*Appendix 1*) by fusing bottom-up and top-down modalities, considering the multi-faceted and interconnected issues of conflict and poverty in Bondoc Peninsula.

**Objective 1** is the core of the proposed project, facilitating *people and community-centred* initiatives where individuals and communities will be given the opportunity to act and improve their socio-economic security through livelihood asset expansion. The project will provide livelihood assistance using natural resources which are locally available. Skills training for non-agricultural livelihoods as well as support for sustainable enterprise development and market support will further complement project activities.

**Objective 2** seeks to build on the capacities of LGUs, CSOs, the private sector and communities to promote and strengthen normative, social, and economic aspects of human security. In implementing activities under this objective, social empowerment through improved community participation and multi-sector partnerships will be achieved, resulting in an enhanced normative framework for development cooperation. Project activities will deliver direct community intervention, expected to assist in particular women and children, affected not only by poverty and conflict but by shifting gender roles in families. By improving social networks, enhancing capacities of community social groups, and better linking intervention with human security, the project is expected to improve the lives of women and children in target communities as a result of expanded livelihood assets, expected to result in improved knowledge about and access to maternal and child care health services.

## Implementation and Partnership Strategies

The project privileges a participatory and integrative approach. The Local Economic Development (LED) framework is expected to encourage partnership arrangements among stakeholders in defined territories, integrating the social, political, economic, and institutional dimensions of development towards providing solutions locally, to maximize the comparative and competitive character of the territory. The territorial focus of the project will ensure that impact can redound directly to communities and palpable gains be measured accurately. This approach also reinforces national peace process efforts, where *building a constituency for peace amongst different stakeholders, coupled with improving investments for human development can place existing peace efforts on a sounder footing and contribute to a solution to the conflict*.<sup>3</sup>

Mapping of issues via social dialogue and consultation will be undertaken. Community ownership of the project will be assured through participation by the local stakeholders in strategizing, decision-making, and eventual replication of project methodology. Initial consultations have already been carried out with local groups and officers, who will be the project's local partners at the outset.

---

<sup>3</sup> Philippine Human Development Report 2005, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Reinforcing current peace efforts, pages 32-50.