

Inter-agency Programme to Nurture Peace, Security, and Decent Work through Local Development in Conflict Areas of the Philippines (Bondoc Peninsula)



International
Labour
Organization

The Challenge



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In 2007, the National Statistics Office (NSO) of the Philippines reported that more than 750,000 out of 1.6 million people in Quezon Province are living below or near the poverty line. In Bondoc Peninsula, in particular, poverty incidence of the population was registered at 47.7 per cent in 2006.

Adding to the brunt of its population is the armed conflict that has thriving in the area for several decades. The poverty incidence in Bondoc Peninsula spells the need for assistance that would nurture peace, human security, and decent work. Labour could only be the sole asset of this population to support their families and survive the daily costs of living, which could also lead the path towards decent and productive work.

Faced with social and economic challenges within their areas, they are often forced to accept whatever

work is accessible and available. Increasing their livelihood assets and productivity at the community and local government levels can help in the local economic development and peace-building processes.

The Response

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) work together on a programme that aims to empower the people of Bondoc Peninsula who live amidst armed conflict and poverty: the Inter-agency Programme to Nurture Peace, Security, and Decent Work through Local Development in Conflict Areas of the Philippines (Bondoc Peninsula). It covers four municipalities: Mulanay, San Narciso, Unisan, and Catanuan in Quezon Province.

The Programme hopes to address extreme poverty in the grassroots that is considered the main cause of armed conflict and human insecurity in the Bondoc Peninsula area. In a span of three years, the Programme seeks to promote human and economic security by enabling key stakeholders manage their own path of local economic development.

The Programme works at the institutional and policy level as it supports the national peace agenda of the Philippines in resolving armed conflicts. It complements the peace country's process efforts through development projects. The Programme puts stakeholder dialogue as its centerpiece in implementing local economic development that aim to harness agricultural productivity, skills training, enterprise development, market support, community-based disaster risks, management, and maternal and child care. The ultimate goal is to improve human security in Bondoc Peninsula by addressing poverty and inequality.

Key Statistics

- Bondoc Peninsula, Quezon province is composed of 12 municipalities with 386,783 people.
- Poverty incidence by population registered at 47.7 per cent in 2006.
- Self-sufficiency level on food (rice) is 42 per cent.
- In 2007, NSO revealed that over 750,000 out of 1.6 million people are living below or near the poverty line in Quezon Province.

Objectives

- Expand livelihood assets and increase productivity of communities through enhanced decent work and livelihood opportunities for the vulnerable groups in the Bondoc Peninsula.
- Improve coordination and enhance cooperation of local government units and civil society organizations, the private sector, and community organizations towards local socio-economic development and peace-building.

Achievements

- Implemented various projects that address different dimension of human security such as hunger and food security, physical safety, health and socio-economic, and socio-cultural issues in conflict areas of Bondoc Peninsula.
- Engaged broader stakeholders in identifying needs and opportunities, defining priorities, formulating plans and implementing projects as an effective process to enhance capacities and maximize ownership of the project. Thus, paving way for sharing of resources towards the attainment of the goals; mobilize cooperation among government agencies, non-government organizations, people's organizations, academe, local business groups, and UN agencies.
- Integrated issues on peace building in the project work plan and enhanced institutional coordination of project partners.
- Completed the participatory Value Chain Analysis and now for development covering three major commodities namely, coconut, arrowroot, and corn based on the Rapid Economic Appraisal and several consultations with local stakeholders and on the potential impact to the poor and vulnerable households and natural abundance of the crops in the area.
- On-going technical assistance in the preparation of Quezon Province Comprehensive Agricultural and Fisheries Development Plan. This technical assistance contributes to the coherence and sustainability of agriculture and fisheries intervention in the Bondoc Peninsula area vis-a-vis the long-term development plan of the whole Quezon Province.
- Municipal-based hazard maps completed and vulnerability mapping and disaster preparedness plans reproduced and distributed to enhance awareness and advocacy for disaster preparedness in all local government units concern.
- Constructed four birthing facilities; skills gap among local health workers addressed in collaboration with the United Nations Populations Funds (UNFPA) and World Health Organization (WHO) and improved maternal and child health services through significant shift to facility-based services in four municipalities of Bondoc Peninsula.
- Currently building capacity of viable enterprises, developing financial literacy on savings, debt management and budgeting and linking them with MFIs through technical assistance.

Relevant ILO Conventions and Recommendations

- Job Creation in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Recommendations, 1998 (No. 189)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)
- Promotions of Cooperatives Recommendations, 2002



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Components

Donor: UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) and the Government of Japan

Acronym: Bondoc-LED

Start Date: March 2010

End Date: February 2013

Budget: US\$2.49 million (combined ILO and FAO allocation)

Partners: Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Government Line Agencies, Local Government Units (LGUs), Local Non-Government Organizations, Academe, and Community Organizations

Project Sites: Four Municipal LGUs in Bondoc Peninsula, Quezon Province (Mulanay, San Narciso, Catanauan, and Unisan)



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