



British Embassy
Manila

Human Rights and Democracy (HRD) Fund Strategy and Guidance for the Philippines FY2015-16

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Introduction

The Human Rights and Democracy Programme (HRDP) is the FCO's dedicated fund supporting human rights and democracy work overseas. The Programme aims to make a difference to people's lives, and to help build the capacity of governments and civil society to promote and protect human rights. With over 70 projects in over 40 countries, the HRDP is a strategic Programme and we assess every bid we receive very carefully for impact and whether it fits with the HRDP strategy and our local human rights strategy for that country.

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law are at the heart of HMG's foreign policy. The HRDP targets areas that are both important to us and where we consider we can make the greatest impact in delivering the FCO's overarching purpose to "pursue an active and activist foreign policy, working with other countries and strengthening the rules-based international system in support of our values. These key areas include: ***Global Torture Prevention, Abolition of the Death Penalty, Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Religion and Belief, Women's Rights, Business and Human Rights, Democratic Process and Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative.***

**For more information on the HRDP key areas you may visit the website and download the global strategy:*

<https://www.gov.uk/human-rights-and-democracy-programme>

Human Rights and Democracy Fund in the Philippines

The UK has had the privileged opportunity to witness firsthand and substantially participate in the GPH-MILF peace process through our role in the International Contact Group (ICG). Up until 2016, when elections for the Bangsamoro government will take place, the UK has committed to focus its support on the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). The signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) is a step closer to the establishment of devolved government in Muslim Mindanao by 2016. The transition period ahead of then provides a unique window of opportunity to influence and embed strong values of human rights, democracy and good governance within Bangsamoro.

Recognising the challenges ahead of the implementation of the CAB, the HRD fund in the Philippines for 2015-2016 shall prioritise two thematic areas: **Democratic Processes** and **Women's Rights**. In 2014-15, British Embassy Manila has worked with project partners on women's rights in the Bangsamoro.

High Level Objective: *To support the establishment of credible system of Bangsamoro devolved government (with full democratic participation, accountability of public officers primarily to their constituents, and genuinely principled political parties) led by moderate politicians that promote and protect the human rights of all the population for whom they serve.*

HRD Programme Objectives and Indicators 2015/16

Democratic Process in the Bangsamoro

The framework agreement states that **Bangsamoro shall have an electoral system suitable to a ministerial form of government, which allows democratic participation, accountability of public officers primarily to their constituents and the formation of genuinely principled political parties.** The electoral system will be designed by the Transition Commission and contained in the Bangsamoro Basic Law to be implemented through legislation enacted by the Bangsamoro Government and correlated with national laws.

The establishment of a devolved administration with a ministerial form of government, elected from a functioning party system and underpinned by a competent bureaucracy is a significant challenge. In Muslim Mindanao, where institutions and local governance is weaker given the current conditions of peace and stability, the politics and economic challenges are far more reaching and complex. **If the Bangsamoro is to succeed, it must address the issue of accountability and transparency, inclusive, efficient, effective and responsive governance** and, a democratic deficit that has previously plagued Muslim Mindanao and contributed to the conflict.

Women's Rights

Building on the progressive provisions contained with the FAB and its annexes, **the period ahead of the establishment of the Bangsamoro provides a unique window of opportunity to support particular objectives on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and UNSCR 1325.** This can be done by strengthening the meaningful participation of women in both the transitional mechanisms and in the governance structures of the Bangsamoro.

While fighting in conflict affected areas of Muslim Mindanao has remained an almost exclusively male role, women have been focused on child care, the economic survival of their families, and civil society work in humanitarian protection, reproductive health, and human rights. In many cases, women have been agents of maintaining and restoring a semblance of normalcy. As we move towards a fragile, post- agreement scenario, the risk of renewed violence, radicalization and clan feuding will remain significant. **Women can play a key role in conflict prevention and resolution and in strengthening the voice of moderate Islam in the region.**

Programme and Project Partners

Partners can include government, business and NGOs, but working with governments and official bodies is more likely to result in high impact, transformational outcomes which outlive the duration of the project.

The British Embassy Manila does not advance funds but can reimburse the partner on a monthly basis.

We are looking for practical interventions that will lead to a real and timely difference to decision-making and implementation changes. Proposals focusing purely on research, analysis, seminars or workshops will not be relevant unless they lead to specific and measurable action. Projects can be at regional or state level within a country, provided that replicability is built into the proposal and sufficient impact is likely.

We will accept bids on the key areas of focus stated in the HRDP Global Strategy. However, **we will prioritise** proposals focusing on the **Democratic Process in the Bangsamoro and Women's Rights** .

Projects which focus on **creating champions** for important issues and policies, enabling departments to **make better use of resources or to generate / attract additional resources** and sustain the action agenda and initiative which **increase transparency, promote accountability, important knowledge and information** or are vehicles for important **advocacy** will be particularly attractive.

Potential partners should also be able to map out **why they are the best, most appropriate and effective partner for the work** they envisage, including **access to decision makers, a wide and senior network of contacts and a fully evolved theory of change and implementation plan**.

Proposals must make clear that they are adding value to, and not duplicating other donor activities. Project purpose must be specific, measurable, ambitious but achievable, realistic and time bound (S.M.A.R.T). **A SMART project purpose is essential for us to approve a bid at concept stage.** The project purpose must be supported with clear outputs and measurable milestones, and project activities must be directly linked to the specific outputs. Budget proposal must show reasonable activity costs and demonstrate value for money practice.

Writing a proposal that meets our standards at the concept stage can be a complex process but we will be happy to help you. Please discuss your concepts with us in advance so we can provide proper guidance and feedback; **bids that have been crafted with our guidance and feedback are more likely to be invited to the full proposal stage.**

Please submit all concept bids to: Clarisse.Fogg@fco.gov.uk and Zabra.Siwa@fco.gov.uk

Indicative Timetable

Project Timeline FY 2015-2016	
Dates	Activity
19 November 2014	Communication of priorities and briefing of project partners
12 December 2014	Deadline for concept notes
17 December 2014	Manila Programme Team to make a decision on the concepts that are to be made into full bids
5 January 2015	Deadline for full bids
5-9 January 2015	Manila Programme Board meets to assess bids
12-16 January 2015	Revision of full bids
16 January 2015	Deadline for revised full bids; bids sent to HRDP in London
19 January – 16 March 2015	Bids assessed by London Programme Boards
13 March 2015	Decision made on bids
31 March 2015	Final contracts signed and submitted to HRDP
1 April 2015	Project begins
15 March 2016	Project ends

Previous and Ongoing Project Work

2014-2015

1. Operationalizing the women's agenda in Bangsamoro

2013-2014

1. Strengthening the party system for the ministerial form of governance in Bangsamoro
2. Entrenching women's participation in the Basic Law of Muslim Mindanao

2012-2013

1. Enhancing the capacity of health professionals in medical investigation
2. Implementing the Magna Carta of Women – Empowering women on the group