

**Gerry Roxas Foundation**  
**Barangay Justice Service System (BJSS) Project and**  
**Mindanao Initiatives for Peace (MinPeace) Project**

**REPORT TO USAID**  
**FOR THE**  
**OEDG PORTFOLIO REVIEW**  
**(October 2007 to September 2008)**

**I. Barangay Justice Service System (BJSS) Project**

**A. Accomplishments:**

Indicator 01 - Number of people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance (men and women)

- The capability-building component of the BJSS had been fully implemented in FY07.
- 11,866 community volunteers, called Barangay Justice Advocates (BJA), were trained in conflict mitigation/resolution. Of the total BJAs trained and mobilized, 3,197 (27%) are females.

Indicator 02 - Number of USG-assisted facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict

Indicator	FY08	
	Target	Actual
Number of disputes endorsed to BJAs for assistance	2,334	1,610
Number of meetings BJAs facilitated to assist disputants to resolve conflict	4,668	3,218

- For the period Oct-Dec '07, BJAs from 389 villages reported 3,218 meetings conducted to assist village residents resolve their disputes. During these meetings, BJAs were tasked to facilitate resolution of about 1,610 cases, out of which 1,384 (86%) were successfully settled. These cases are mostly related to interpersonal relationship and crimes under the authority of the village-level mechanism of dispute resolution otherwise known as Katarungang Pambarangay—a State-mandated system under R.A. 7160 (Local Government Code of the Philippines).
- Compared to project targets, reported data follows the decreasing pattern of new disputes arising in the villages and the decreasing number of meetings required to facilitate dispute settlement by BJAs due to their

competencies acquired through the BJSS Training and their task of educating the community in peace processes.

- The number of events reported above is in addition to at least 8,300 meetings reported by BJAs under FY07, during which a total of 4,191 cases were resolved.

## **B. Results**

- Deployment of trained volunteer community mediators;
- Strengthening of the system of redress for conflicts in villages; and,
- Integration of project innovations into local governance structures, among others.

In the conduct of post-project implementation assessment activities, independent evaluators concluded that the BJSS Project has achieved its goal of promoting family and community peace through a reduction of violent conflicts and widened access to justice by the poor.

The major aspects where the project indicated high impact on villages it covered in comparison with similarly-situated villages include the following:

- High perception that reduction in violent conflicts and improved community peace and order are due to BJSS interventions
  - 33% of disputes resolved were assessed by BJAs as highly prone to escalation to violence; among the disputes resolved in FY08, there would have been about 530 cases which had escalated into violence.
  - IES 2006 finding: average 41% reduction of violent conflicts in BJSS areas compared to 21% reduction in Non-BJSS areas
- Higher level of awareness by residents on community dispute resolution system (and its services), individual rights, family responsibilities – indicating better conditions for the rule of law to thrive
  - BJAs' use of combined traditional and formal approaches in dispute resolution by make justice services readily available, less expensive and are not considered “imposed” system on Moro communities
  - there is approximately one BJA for every 24 households in the BJSS areas (PNP standard ratio is 1:500)
- Increased empowerment of women in dispute mitigation/resolution processes in villages wherein historically and traditionally, the men held significant roles.

## C. Issues and Challenges

**Sustainability:** While BJSS barangays prepared plans for sustaining local initiatives and gains, future actions may help in mainstreaming BJAs to the Philippine legal system. A convergence with the formal legal system may be explored. The DILG and LGUs may support continued training of BJAs on paralegal and the Philippine Justice System.

## D. Prospects for Progress in FY09

- Continued downward trend of new disputes occurring in the villages
- Reduction of violent conflicts due to pro-active intervention by BJAs
- Strengthened BJA Organizations continuing activities in the ground, such as mediation, case documentation and information campaigns for peace

## II. Mindanao Initiatives for Peace (MinPeace) Project

### A. Accomplishments:

Indicator 01 - Number of people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance (men and women)

The training component of MinPeace will be implemented, as per approved work plan, in the second quarter (January to March 2009). There will be 450 target participants to be trained in conflict mitigation/resolution. From the target number of people, at least 150 are females.

Indicator 02 - Number of USG-assisted facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict

Indicator	FY09 (Target)
Number of disputes endorsed to BJAs for assistance	1,200
Number of meetings BJAs facilitated to assist disputants to resolve conflict	2,400

### B. Results

- For FY08, the following events were conducted in relation to capacity building component of MinPeace.
  - Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for people to be trained on conflict mitigation and resolution
  - Drafting of Training Manual was drafted based on the TNA Map and Competency Matrix

- Parallel review of two reports by WB/GRF/BDA to identify gaps; major gap was absence of arbitration modules
- Round Table Discussion/Workshop on Arbitration Modules was conducted by resource persons from the MILF Negotiating Panel, Shaari'ah Court and the Bangsamoro Islamic Institute among WB, GRF and BDA specialists; consensus to include the Workshop Outputs on Arbitration Module in the first draft and conduct additional data gathering to strengthen module
- Consolidation of two reports addressing data gaps and completion of first consolidated draft.
- Draft reviewed by BDA and WB; comments provided; GRF addressed concerns and prepared second draft; second draft submitted to WB/BDA

### **C. Issues and Challenges and Proposed Solutions:**

- Current conflict between the GRP and MILF and how it will affect project implementation in the field-level: *Selection of project barangays should consider safety of project implementers and commitment of Local Chief Executives*
- Extension of the MinPeace project without additional costs: *Budgeted planned activities must be monitored very well. Budget releases must be in accordance to performance per quarterly task orders.*

### **D. Prospects for Progress in FY09**

- BDA and LRPs will have community peace-building as a core service of their organizations with institutional policies on conflict resolution and management systems
- BDA and LRPs have organized, trained and mobilized a core group of trainers and peace advocates recognized by LGUs and other sectors in the CAA to handle peace building and conflict management activities
- BDA and LRPs form an alliance/network and take on a primordial role in the advocacy and institutionalization of significant peace reform initiatives
- Top 3 challenges:
  - Sustained collaboration of the BDA with LGUs and other LRPs in the area in strengthening community mechanisms and structures for peace and justice service delivery within the CAA: Respect for agreements
  - Continued commitment of the BDA and LRP to Peace building in the context of sustained Peace and Development within the rule of law
  - Generation and mobilization of resources for advocacy and social marketing of the BJSS model for other CAAs in Mindanao