

# CURRENT MINDANAO PEACEBUILDING CONTEXT

# Philippines





# Some Facts of Mindanao

- Land Area: 10,207,400 hectares
- Population (1990): 14,269,456
- Growth Rate (1990-2000): 2.46 percent
- No. of Province: 25
- Poverty Incidence: 46.5 percent (2000)
- Investment Growth (1998-99): - 33.7 %

# Current Context

1. Multi-ethnic and multi-faith population with an emerging shared identity

# The Lumads (Indigenous Peoples)

- 25 ethno-linguistic all over Mindanao
- 3-5 percent of Mindanao population
- 90 percent of households live below poverty threshold (at PhP180/day in 2000)
- Evaded colonialism
- Some Christianized, some maintain traditional faith
- Live through subsistence agriculture

# Bangsamoro People

- 13 ethno-linguistic groups
- 16 % of Mindanao population (1990)
- Islamized
- Resisted colonialism
- Mostly confined in 5 provinces
- Agriculture, trade, fishing, business

# Migrants (Settlers)

- 82-85 percent of Mindanao population
- At least 12 ethno-linguistic groups
- From Visayas and Luzon
- Migrated to Mindanao since 1913
- Christianized (at least 15 Christian religious denominations)



2. Geo-politically regionalized island with an increasing inter-regional economic intercourse but with a continuing Manila-centered political orientation

# Mindanao Regions

- Region 9 – Western Mindanao
- Region 10 - Northern Mindanao
- Region 11 – Southern Mindanao
- Region 12 – Central Mindanao
- Caraga Region – North-eastern Mindanao
- Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

# Some Concerns

- Only 1 Senator came from Mindanao
- The Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCO) is directly controlled by the Office of the President
- 2/3 of AFP deployed in Mindanao
- Most of untapped resources in Mindanao
- Major ODA focus in Mindanao: Peace

3. Widening socio-economic gap between the minority (mostly non-indigenous to Mindanao) who controlled vital resources and the poverty-stricken majority who are mostly indigenous to Mindanao

# Some Concerns

- 4 of the 5 Muslim dominated Provinces are in the top 10 poorest provinces in the Philippines
- All 5 Moro-dominated provinces are in the top 10 provinces with lowest functional literacy rate
- 7 of Provinces with Lumad population are in the top 10 poorest provinces in Mindanao

4. Emerging culture of violence and proliferation of combat and deadly handy weapons

# Some Concerns

- Estimated 333,000 (1998) loose firearms are in Mindanao
- Approx. 60 percent is in the Moro Provinces
- Armed groups recruit young people as young as 12 years old
- Communal violence among gangs of young people happen in many schools

5. Sustained peace efforts characterized by an absence of comprehensive government peace policy and a widespread and increasingly interdependent grassroots initiatives



# Some Concerns

- National Government engage in peace negotiation, most LGU's unaware of process and developments
- LGU simply deal peace issues as “peace and order” problems
- Government peace initiatives: largely “foreign aid driven”

# Non-State Initiatives

- Inter-religious / interfaith dialogues
- Civil Society lead Peace Advocacy and Education
- Community-based Conflict Resolution
- Increasing collaboration with LGU's and LGA's

# **SOME CHALLENGES**

1.

How could the various mechanisms imbedded in existing social institutions (e.g. families / clans, Sultanates, Kobogolalans, barangay, parishes, BEC's, Churches, LGU, etc.) in Mindanao be mobilized for conflict resolution and peacebuilding?

2.

How could government, civil society organizations and business sector work together for sustained peacebuilding?

3.

How could peacebuilding be a process of securing the rights and livelihoods of the marginalized sector?

4.

How could the culture of violence be changed?

5.

How to mobilize local resources  
for peacebuilding work?