

Civil Peace Service

Context

Mindanao, the second largest and southernmost island in the Philippines, is the poorest region in the country despite its abundant resources. The deliberate migration of Christian settlers from the north after independence in 1946 has led to the displacement and discrimination of the local Muslim and indigenous peoples (IP). Unequal access to resources and the marginalization of various population groups are among the root causes of numerous decades-long land, resource, and identity conflicts.

In 2014, the Philippine government and the Muslim separatists signed a peace agreement which laid the foundation for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). This was an important step towards peace in Mindanao, but severe ongoing challenges and conflicts persist. This includes the establishment of state structures in BARMM, the disarmament of former Muslim rebels and the dissolution of their camps, as well as the inclusive participation of the civil society in the BARMM peace process.

Resource-based conflicts caused by mining and plantations, clan conflicts over politics and power, the marginalization and discrimination of indigenous peoples, and sporadic clashes between the Philippine military and the Maoist rebel group of the New People's Army are prevalent in Caraga region and BARMM.

Mission

The civil peace service aims to transform conflicts non-violently, to prevent violence, to reduce forced displacement and to contribute to positive peace.

Since 2007 ForumZFD and GIZ CPS with the expertise of local and international peace advisors have implemented programs to enhance peace initiatives within Mindanao together with local partner organizations. These initiatives focus on capacitating local peace builders, strengthening native peace mechanisms and providing space and platforms for dialogue. The support of local media practitioners in practicing conflict sensitive journalism and media (CSJM) and the emphasis on forced internal displacement are two of the most recent program additions of GIZ CPS Philippines.

- Staff Duty Station
- Partner Organizations
- ➔ Remote Partnerships

Surigao City

NCIP Surigao del Norte;
Mamanwa IP Organization (IPO)

Iligan City

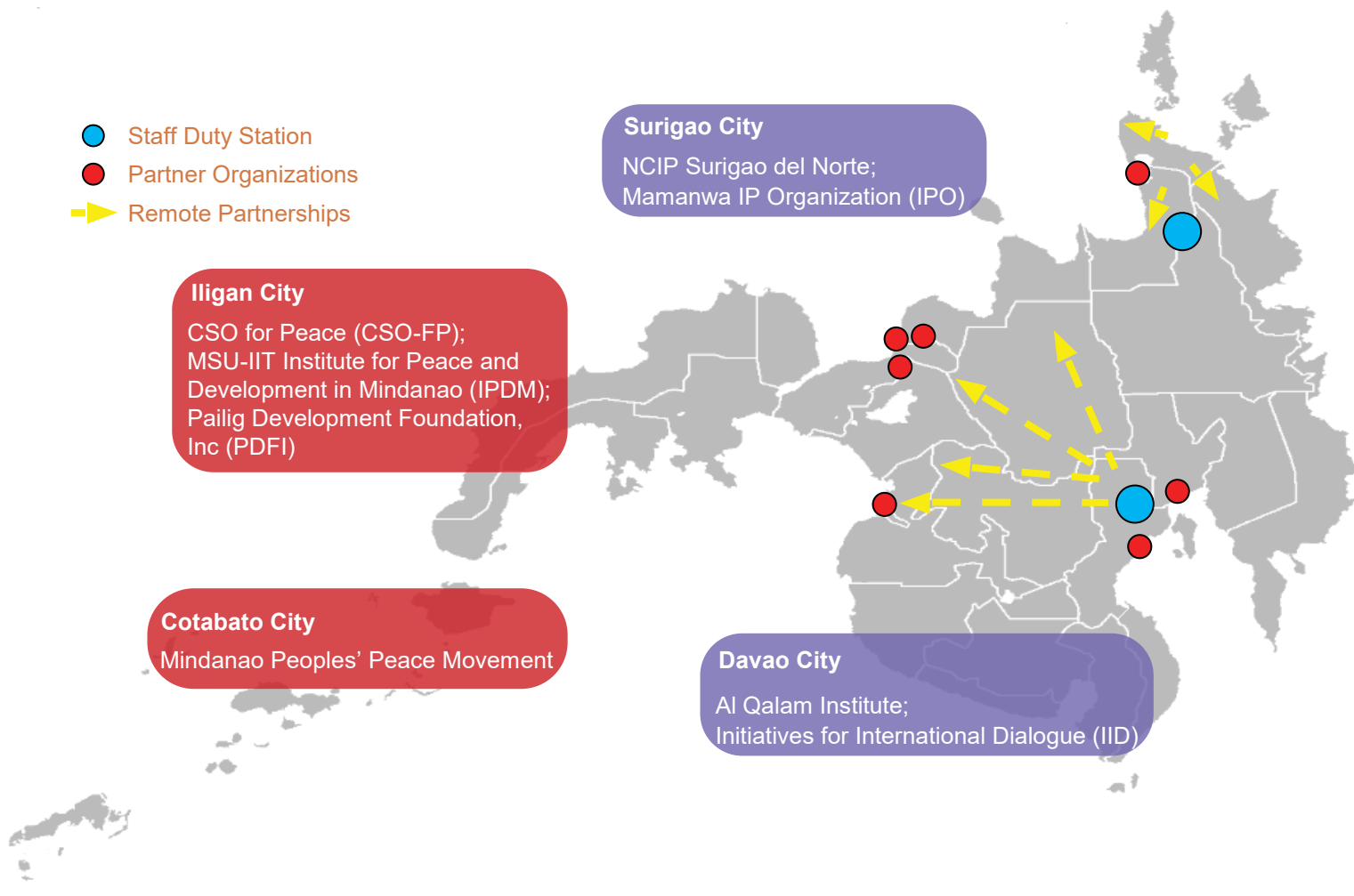
CSO for Peace (CSO-FP);
MSU-IIT Institute for Peace and
Development in Mindanao (IPDM);
Pailig Development Foundation,
Inc (PDFI)

Cotabato City

Mindanao Peoples' Peace Movement

Davao City

Al Qalam Institute;
Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)



Thematic Work of GIZ-CPS Philippines

1. Participation of marginalized groups such as women, youth, internal displaced persons, (non-Moro) IPs in the Peace Processes
2. Strengthening of local non-violent conflict mechanisms
3. Gender and conflict
4. Forced internal displacement and strengthening of social cohesion
5. Promotion of peace and conflict sensitive media work and journalism
6. Strengthening capacities and peace building efforts of government institutions



Intended Outcomes

1. Journalists, media workers and important content creators have an increasingly preventive and de-escalating effect on the resolution and management of conflicts in Mindanao by means of informed, differentiated and conflict sensitive reporting and communication. The media competence of young adults is strengthened and counteracts dis- and misinformation.
2. Civil society and state actors are committed to developing, strengthening and institutionalizing processes and mechanisms for equal and inclusive participation in the Bangsamoro peace process. Women, youth and non-Muslim indigenous communities and internally displaced persons are increasingly able to voice their interests and needs in policymaking and development processes. They meaningfully and truthfully deal with historical violence in BARMM.
3. Marginalized and conflict affected groups and communities in Caraga are inclusively and collaboratively taking measures to increase their security and increased respect for their rights and interests, including neutrality in conflicts, through state and non-state actors. The relevant state institutions increasingly advocate and coordinate with indigenous communities for non-violent conflict transformation and the protection of their rights as part of their mandate.
4. Internally displaced persons and host communities, as well as state and non-state actors in BARMM and Caraga, develop and implement sustainable and durable solutions to address the causes of displacement, mitigate its impact and strengthen the rights of displacement-affected individuals and groups.

How do these abstract outcomes translate into practical work?



Hands-on trainings in conflict sensitive media production led to the creation of communities of practice that are implementing CSJM media programs and training other fellows. A conflict-sensitive media work manual was developed and integrated into the curriculum of a local peace training institute for further dissemination.



The forced internal displacement component together with its partner organizations established locally anchored early warning early response mechanisms to prevent the outbreak of violence to prevent forced displacement. They further cooperate with government units to integrate local forced displacement measures into local government plans.



In Caraga region, CPS strengthens the indigenous peoples' organizations of the Mamanwa tribe and supports the writing and acknowledgement of their customary law book to better represent and advocate for their rights to self-determination.



In BARMM, the partner organization MPPM, together with CPS supports the non-Moro IPs in their struggle of participation and recognition of their rights according to the peace agreement.

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