

Governance, Peace, and Security: Foundations for Stability and Sustainable Development

A Strategic Narrative for Governance, Peace and Security in the Philippines

Building a Future of Peace, Security, and Sustainable Growth: Conflicts, violence, and the growing impacts of climate change threaten lives, weaken societies, and stall development. When governance systems are fragile, marked by corruption, inequality, and exclusion, social unrest and conflict often follow. But there's a better way forward. By championing transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making, societies can foster trust, strengthen legitimacy, and build social cohesion. Peacebuilding isn't just about ending conflict; it's about addressing the root causes: poverty, inequality, political grievances, and creating conditions for lasting stability. True security goes beyond military action. It's about protecting people, tackling vulnerabilities, and preparing for the challenges of tomorrow, especially those driven by a changing climate. In today's interconnected world, governance, peace, and security are the cornerstones of resilience, prosperity, and a better future for all. Let's build a world where no one is left behind.

Bridging Divides for a Stronger Society: Promoting good governance isn't just the government's job, it's a shared responsibility. Private sector leaders, civil society groups, and citizens all play a role in shaping a fairer, more accountable society. But here's the challenge: balancing diverse interests while focusing on what matters most—reducing poverty, expanding access to essential services, and ensuring that governance structures are inclusive, efficient, and designed to deliver real solutions for real people. It's a tall order, but it's the only way forward. Together, we can turn these challenges into opportunities for lasting impact.

GIZ in the Philippines – A strategic partner: For over 50 years, GIZ, wholly owned by the German government, has supported Philippine development through international expertise and local partnerships. GIZ works together with the Philippine Government, partnering closely with key agencies like the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Justice (DOJ). Since 2005, GIZ has been on the ground in Mindanao, working to bridge divides, build peace, and unlock the region's potential for inclusive development. The journey is far from over, but together, we're creating pathways for lasting change. The Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 lays the foundation for a more peaceful, secure, and just society. GIZ supports this vision—especially in Mindanao, where persistent inequalities, discrimination, and land disputes continue to fuel conflict and displacement.

GIZ's Global Impact: Building Peace, Restoring Trust: At GIZ, we help our partners tackle conflicts head-on by finding sustainable, lasting solutions. We empower communities and institutions to take ownership of non-violent paths to peace—and we work with young people to open doors to brighter futures. But we don't stop there. We support partners in confronting past injustices, rebuilding trust, and embedding the rule of law in every corner of public life. Because a just, peaceful, and inclusive future starts with action today.

Bridging Short-Term Action and Long-Term Solutions: GIZ's strength is turning immediate support into long-term impact. In the security sector, we help build capable, democratic institutions that are accountable and trusted. In the Philippines, GIZ is recognized as a trusted partner, working with government and communities to strengthen governance, foster peace, and ensure lasting security.

From law and justice reform to anti-corruption efforts and responsible public finance management, GIZ delivers practical strategies that drive real change. In fragile states, we help lay the foundations for a strong and accountable security sector—offering tailored support and building local capacity so that institutions can take the lead, manage processes, and deliver for their people. That’s how we help turn challenges into opportunities for a brighter, more secure future.



Project References

Stabilizing Communities, Reducing Causes of Forced Internal Displacement and Promotion of Peace in Conflict Regions in Mindanao/Civil Peace Service (CPS) (2018-2027) **Donor:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) **Country:** Philippines

CPS works with partners in Mindanao to support conflict-affected communities. It deploys local and international peace advisors to enhance dialogue, promote peace, and strengthen legal certainty. Key interventions include empowering local peacebuilders and promoting non-violent conflict resolution; and facilitating durable solutions for displacement through dialogue and learning.

Promotion of the Rule of Law in Mindanao, Davao Region (ROLMIN) (2022 – 2024) **Donor:** German Federal Foreign Office (AA) **Country:** Philippines **Lead Agency:** Department of Environment and Natural Resources

ROLMIN focused on promoting dispute resolution and conflict management related to land law in the Mount Apo area of the Davao Region. It supported stakeholders by facilitating resource use agreements (RUIs), improving access to justice and land titling, promoting gender-sensitive dispute resolution, strengthening public complaints bodies, and connecting civil rights agencies with relevant authorities and civil society.

Strengthening the Implementation of Regional and Local Peace and Development Agendas in Mindanao (SPADe) (2021 – 2025)

SPADe partners with the Philippine Government to promote peace, resilience, and inclusive growth in Mindanao. It supports climate-sensitive farming, develops conflict- and climate-aware investment

Donor: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Co-funded by: European Union (EU) Country: Philippines Lead Agency: Department of the Interior and Local Government, Mindanao Development Authority	programs, and strengthens collaboration among government agencies, local administrations, and civil society.
Support to the Philippine Coast Guard in Securing the Rules-based International Order in the Indo-Pacific (PCG) (2023-2025) Donor: Federal Foreign Office (AA) and financed by the Enhancement Initiative Country: Philippines Lead Agency: Philippine Department of Transportation	PCG helps improve the Philippine Coast Guard's technical and institutional capacity for UAV operations. Enhanced UAV capabilities enabled the PCG to better secure Philippine territorial waters and collect digital evidence of violations against national and international law—contributing to the protection of the rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific.
Responsible Land Governance in Mindanao (RLGM): (2018 – 2023) Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Country: Philippines Lead Agency: Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Land Management Bureau	RLGM helped improve public land management in Mindanao by promoting conflict-sensitive and climate-aware approaches, by providing technical support to local governments and relevant agencies, while strengthening national and civil society capacities to address land-related conflicts.
Youth for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence in Mindanao (YOUCAP) (2019-2022) Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) Country: Philippines Lead Agency: Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process	YOUCAP helped empower the youth in Mindanao for peacebuilding and non-violent conflict transformation. It focused on state actors, educational institutions, and civil society by integrating peace and conflict prevention approaches into local development plans, academic curricula, and knowledge-sharing platforms. It also helped local authorities align development plans with national strategies focused on youth development and peace, contributing to the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 and the country's Sustainable Development Goals.