



Evaluation Summary



International
Labour
Office

Evaluation Unit

Indigenous People Development Programme (IPDP): Support to poverty reduction, promotion of human rights and protection of the environment – Midterm Evaluation

Quick Facts

Country: *Philippines*

Mid-Term: *Jan 2012*

Mode of Evaluation: *Independent*

**ILO Office Administratively backstopping the
Project:** *CO- Manila*

ILO Technical Backstopping Office: *NORMES*

Evaluation Manager: *P. Pringsulaka*

Evaluation Consultant: *Lope B. Santos*

Project End: *2013*

Project Code: *. PHI/09/01/SPA*

Donor & Project Budget: *Spain (US\$ 1,940,500)*

Keywords: *Indigenous people, human rights,
environmental protection*

Background & Context

Background. The **Caraga Indigenous People Development Programme (IPDP)** is an ongoing collaborative undertaking of the Government of Spain and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Support for the project comes from the Government of Spain through the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation (AECID). The project was designed in 2008 and the implementation through ILO started in June 2009. The duration of the project was set for 4.5 years and designed to be completed until end of December 2013. However, the project duration was reduced to 2.5 years or only up to

December 2011. The AECID has provided a payment of \$1,940,500 to support the first two and half years of the project. In December 2011, a no-cost extension has been approved by the Government of Spain allowing project activities to be implemented up to end of March 2012.

The overall development objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples in the context of self-reliance to protect their fundamental rights, preserve the environment and reduce poverty in their midst within the framework of the development and protection of their ancestral domains in partnership with the government, non-government organizations and other service providers. The project is being implemented in the eight ancestral domains in the four CARAGA provinces, namely: Agusan Del Norte, Agusan Del Sur, Surigao Del Norte and Surigao Del sur.

Evaluation Methodology. The evaluation applied the participatory rapid appraisal methodology which covered, desk review of project documents, field visit/observations, key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs) with implementing partners, IP Organizations (IPOs), Self Help Group (SHGs) and convergence partners. The evaluation team also conducted a multi-

stakeholder workshop as debriefing and validation of initial findings.

Findings. IPDP shows its relevance to the IP development in the project sites, effective in achieving immediate objectives, efficient in utilizing resources of the project and partners, can sustain the gains and benefits given the community structures established by the IPOs, and sensitive in protecting the IP culture, traditions and institutions. The project has achieved its development targets set for two and a half years in capacitating the indigenous peoples to have: (i) structurally stable community organizations that are equipped with organizational management skills and have sufficient capacity to serve as community development facilitator; (ii) an improved knowledge and understanding of their human and other fundamental rights and the capacity to assert and protect these rights; (iii) improved traditional livelihoods that could result in higher income and employment opportunities anchored on the sustainable development and protection of the available resources within their ancestral domain; (iv) effective community-driven environmental protection and rehabilitation mechanisms in place; and (v) effective mechanisms for mainstreaming gender equality issues in the development process within their ancestral domain.

Conclusions. The IPDP has substantially achieved its overall development objective which is *“to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples in the context of self-reliance to protect their fundamental rights, preserve the environment and reduce poverty in their midst within the framework of the development and protection of their ancestral domains in partnership with the government, non-government organizations and other service providers”*. The IPOs and SHGs guided by organizational policies and guidelines are already in place and have the basic capacity to implement their respective CAPs/ADSDPPs for the protection and preservation of ancestral domain and generate livelihood and employment via enterprise

development. The Convergence Plans (CPs) formalized in a localized Memorandum of Understanding is a big step to mainstream IP agenda in the development programs and services of various stakeholders (IPOs, LGUs, NGAs, CSOs, and the private sector). Some of the priority services and projects identified in the CAPs/ADSDPPs are already integrated in the plans of LGUs and NGA line agencies.

While the project has already facilitated remarkable achievement at the midterm of implementation, continuation of the project interventions will further strengthen the IPOs and enhance the implementation of their CAPs/ADSDPP. Early termination of the project at the mid-term will be a big challenge for the IPOs and partners to carry out the activities and services earlier defined to be supported by IPDP such as grants for SHGs and construction of CPCCs.

Recommendations. Given the information that IPDP will be closed on March 2012, the following short term recommendations are hereby forwarded for consideration of ILO: (i) Prioritize for funding the high impact activities in the remaining three months (January to March 2012) of the project such as the construction of Center for Peace and Capacity building Centers (CPCCs) and granting of livelihood funds for the SHGs; and (ii) Facilitate conduct of convergence partners meetings or workshops in various project sites to prepare the IPOs and partners for the continuation of the implementation of priority activities defined in the CAPs/ADSDPPs despite the early termination of IPDP.

In the longer term, the following are hereby recommended to sustain the gains and benefits of IPDP and for future projects in the IP sector: (i) for NCIP to expedite the release and award of CADTs in the project sites so that the IPOs can officially take full jurisdiction and management over the ancestral domain; (ii) for IPOs to institutionalize their respective organizational and administrative policies and guidelines and complete the preparation of ADSDPPs taking off from the current CAPs; (iii) for SHGs to strengthen their enterprise

development initiatives taking off from their profitability and business plans; (iv) for convergence partners (LGUs, NGAs, CSOs, private sector and donor agencies) to support the implementation of CAPs/ADSDPPs to create greater impact in the development of IPs; (v) for NCIP to facilitate dialogue with DENR, DOE, LGUs, NCIP, DAR and other agencies to thresh out issues and conflicts related to land tenure instruments to ascertain IP rights over the ancestral domain in accordance with IPRA; (vi) for NCIP and DILG to jointly implement IP representation to the local bodies in accordance with the NCIP Administrative Order No. 01 Series of 2009 and (DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2010-2019); (vii) for ILO to continue supporting the IPDP intervention via developing new projects for the same project sites and/or similar initiatives in other IP communities taking off from the lessons of IPDP; and (viii) for all development partners to adopt CPDP approach in developing new projects and putting IPOs in the forefront of project implementation as it is proven effective in empowering the indigenous peoples.

Main Findings & Conclusions

Strategies for Phase out and sustainability.

The primary phase out strategy is to strengthen the capacity of IP organizations, complete and ascertain ADSDPPs, and strengthen convergence to sustain the results and benefits derived from IPDP. Likewise, linkages and partnership with the LGUs, concerned offices of National Government Agencies (NGAs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) shall be established so that projects and services identified in the ADSDPPs/CAPs will be considered in the respective regular programs to ensure sustainability.