

Philippines Australia Local Sustainability Program Phase 1 and Phase 2 (PALS I and PALS II)



Client

AusAID

Location

Philippines

Sector

Community Development, Governance,
Public Sector Reform

Program Value

AU\$30.4 million

Start Date

May 1999

Completion Date

April 2010

Office Responsible

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Project Overview

- Strengthen participatory planning processes and local management of resources for the promotion of sustainable community livelihoods.
- Support partnerships and collaboration between Local Government Units (LGUs), Non-government Organisations (NGOs), People's Organisations and the private sector.
- Improve access to resources and services for vulnerable groups, including women and indigenous people.
- assess and prioritise development needs;
- strengthen planning processes based on broad stakeholder consultation and participation; and
- improve the management and implementation of development activities, which improves LGU service efficiency and individual livelihoods.

PALS provided funds for more than 1000 activities to improve sustainable livelihoods across six municipalities. These processes also improved access to resources and services for vulnerable groups, including women and indigenous people.

Approach and Cardno's Role

The Philippines Australia Local Sustainability Program (PALS) supported the development priorities of the Government of the Philippines (GoP).

Cardno Emerging Markets worked directly with the Provincial Government, municipalities, and communities of Misamis Occidental in the Southern Philippines to support partnerships and collaboration among LGUs, NGOs, People's Organisations and the private sector to:

The Program used the GoP's own Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System in order to improve the sustainability of monitoring and evaluation. The system was effectively applied to monitor projects from the provincial level down to the barangay level.

Building on the success of Phase 1, PALS Phase 2 continued to work with its partners in Misamis Occidental to improve participatory development planning and implementation.

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Key Results

Working with various levels of local government, the Program was able to improve government commitment and ownership to its obligations under the Local Government Code. Importantly, this improved the ability of LGUs to effectively plan and budget, and to integrate vertically through government systems. The use of the GOPs Monitoring and Evaluation system is further evidence of PALS commitment to GOP processes.

PALS' strong focus on community participation was most evident in the successes of initiatives funded through its Program Development Fund, which achieved a commendable reflow rate. This was achieved through the strong relationships between PALS and the Peoples Organisations and Barangays – sustainable livelihoods activities are a clear legacy of the PALS Program.

Lessons Learned

PALS' flexible program approach enabled it to adapt to the evolving needs of the program. Implemented over eleven years, this was vital to ensure that emerging needs were met, and that risks were identified and managed.

PALS recognised the value of a flexible capacity development approach, requiring adaption to the varied needs through the local government structures. Training and capacity development was delivered to a wide range of organisations and officials.

Programs such as PALS must recognise the drivers for change and must build on commitment and ownership.