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PROJECT BRIEF

Building Climate Resiliency Through Urban Plans and Designs

Supporting the Philippine government in cultivating cities' technical know-how on climate-conscious urban planning and development

BACKGROUND

The Philippines is extremely vulnerable to climate change, with as much as 70% of its cities located along the coast. Settlements in these areas are exposed to hydro-meteorological hazards aggravated by climate change, like sea level rise, stronger typhoons, and storm surges. Regular flooding in cities undermines infrastructure, disrupts economic activity, and impedes the delivery of services. This increases the vulnerability of the urban poor as well as new migrants who tend to live in informal settlements located in environmentally fragile and dangerous areas, and who are without resources to bounce back when disaster strikes.

The Philippine Government estimates that nearly 60% of the country's population will be living in urban areas in the next 20 years. This necessitates spatial and development planning that effectively addresses underlying vulnerabilities specific to urban areas. The passage of the Climate Change Act (CCA) in 2009 and the development of the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) under the National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (NFSCC) have significantly advanced the agenda of climate resiliency in the Philippines. Collectively, these instruments aim to build the adaptive capacity of communities to climate change and envision healthy, safe, prosperous, and self-reliant communities and thriving and productive ecosystems.

The CCA Law and the NCCAP mandate local government units (LGUs) as frontliners in dealing with climate change impact, through the formulation and implementation of sub-national climate change action plans that are integrated into spatial and development plans. National government partners have been brought together to implement programmes that enable LGUs to fulfill this their mandate.



In this context, the Building Climate Resiliency Through Urban Plans and Designs project will support the Philippine government in improving policies, regulations, and capacities to adapt to climate change through the promotion of climate-responsive sustainable urban development plans and designs. In support of the NCCAP and the NFSCC, it will enhance national and subnational government representatives' institutional capacities to guide and manage urban growth towards suitable areas and design the same incorporating resilience principles and practices.

The project will supplement existing urban planning guidelines and develop knowledge through policy inputs, capacity development, and demonstrations. Demonstration of innovative approaches in five partner cities will showcase context-specific processes in building resilience while considering balanced economic and ecological sustainability.

EXPECTED OUTCOME AND OUTPUTS

Outcome: National and local government units' policies, regulations and capacities to adapt to climate change through the promotion and implementation of sustainable urban development plans and designs are strengthened, contributing to the achievement of the country's climate change targets and priorities as outlined in the NCCAP.

Outcome Indicator 1: By December 2019, two national government agencies and five local government units (LGUs) demonstrated enhanced technical capacities on urban adaptation contributing to the realization of the NCCAP.

Outcome Indicator 2: By December 2019, two national government agencies have improved enabling framework for urban adaptation planning and design



Mayors of the five partner cities sign a declaration of commitment to the project on 24 August 2017, Makati City.

to support local government actions on climate change and achieve the country's climate change and sustainable development goals and targets.

Output 1: Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) planners trained and acquired improved skills to promote and integrate urban adaptation planning and designs in the policies and regulations they issue to guide LGUs.

Output 2: Selected local governments and their representatives' capacities to develop resilient urban plans and designs are improved.

Output 3: Urban adaptation projects of selected cities are packaged and facilitated to access climate financing and other modalities of funding.

Output 4: A set of "supplemental guide and modules on urban adaptation planning and design" to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) Guidelines of HLURB and DILG, respectively, are produced to support LGUs in climate change and development planning.

WORK PACKAGES

Capacity building to assist national government agencies and institutions on climate-resilient urban plans and designs:

- Sharing of project deliverables and reports and provision of knowledge products on urban plans, designs and adaptation on existing knowledge platforms of UN-Habitat and government partners
- Capacity building of the five selected LGU teams on the preparation of climate resilient urban plans and designs.
- Packaging of urban adaptation strategy and prioritized projects for implementation and funding.
- Preparation and sharing of case studies on the five pilot LGUs highlighting their urban adaptation plan and design and key projects.
- Organize and conduct an "urban resilience" investment forum primarily showcasing the urban design and adaptation plans of the pilot LGUs.

Project Sites: The cities of Angeles, Cagayan de Oro, Legazpi, Ormoc, Tagum

Project Focus: Climate change adaptation in urban planning and design

Implementing Agency: UN-Habitat

Lead Government Agency Partner: Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB)

Project Duration: Three years (March 2017-February 2020)

Total Project Cost: EUR 2,055,000

PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE AND PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

The Project Management Office (PMO) is under UN-Habitat which is responsible for the overall implementation of the project. The PMO is supported by a government-led Project Steering Committee (PSC) to oversee and provide strategic policy guidance in the implementation of the project. The PSC also serves as a safeguard mechanism to ensure project coherence with the Government's development priorities on the issues of climate change and urban development.

COMPOSITION OF PSC MEMBER AGENCIES

- Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB, PSC Chair)
- Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- Climate Change Commission (CCC)
- Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC)
- National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)
- League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP)
- German Embassy
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat, PSC Secretariat)

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