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PHILIPPINES

EDUCATION

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE : ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOOD INCREASED



EQuALLS is improving basic education across Mindanao.

EDUCATION SNAPSHOT

- The EQuALLS Project provides expanded employment and skills training opportunities for out-of-school youth through two alliances with private sector partners.
- Joint USAID/Peace Corps collaboration under the EQuALLS project, “Tudló Mindanao,” improves instruction in English, science and math and trains Parent Teacher Community Associations (PTCAs) on project design and resource mobilization.
- EQuALLS project partner Brother’s Brother Foundation is providing approximately 1.8 million textbooks and learning aids to elementary school students and out of school youth. The U.S. military assists in local transport of the books.

OVERVIEW

Public education in the Philippines is at a crossroads. There are large-scale shortages of classrooms, teachers, desks and chairs, textbooks, audio-video materials. Over-crowding of classrooms is standard with class sizes averaging about 80 students per class. The education system is marked by inadequate teacher training programs and declining per capita expenditure per child by the government. For every school-aged child enrolled in school, there is another who has never attended or has dropped out. These problems are particularly acute in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, especially in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

To help address the challenges in Philippine education and to reduce instability in conflict-prone areas, most notably Mindanao, USAID education programs seek to improve education quality and access, and provide livelihood skills training for out-of-school children and youth (OSCY). Key goals include: re-integration of OSCY into the productive economy using cost-effective programs; greater satisfaction with education services in terms of parent, student, and public perceptions; increased resources for education (e.g., increased allocations by government and the private sector); and more efficient spending of available resources.

USAID’s Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills (EQuALLS) project brings together the U.S. Peace Corps and private sector partners to collectively address the following objectives: increased learning opportunities for children and youth through community support for education; strengthened capacity for teaching English, math and science at the elementary level; and improved relevance and training for out-of-school children and youth.

The education component of USAID’s Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) project introduces computer and internet education into schools in Mindanao; and it uses a matching grants program to raise parent and community awareness of their role in improving the quality of education offered to their children.



EQuALLS trains out-of-school youth from Mindanao to develop livelihood skills.

PHILIPPINES

Education Budget (FY 03-06)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
2003	2.0
2004	13.1
2005	9.6
2006	11.8
2007	11.9
2008	12.9
<u>TOTAL:</u>	61.3 million

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<http://philippines.usaid.gov>

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PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increased Access to Learning Opportunities:

- Renovated classrooms and provided desks and chairs for 246 elementary schools and madaris (Muslim schools); and provided assistance to 913 elementary schools and 205 high schools.
- Constructed 214 Community Learning Centers where 18,651 out-of-school children and youth have participated in non-formal education programs qualifying them for re-entry into the formal system or certification of elementary or high school equivalency.
- Mobilized 782 Parent Teacher Community Associations (PTCAs) and re-activated Local School Boards in 12 municipalities. These organizations are working with local officials to improve the collection of property taxes, a designated portion of which is ear-marked for education support.

Improved Instructional Quality:

- Trained more than 21,900 elementary and secondary school teachers in English, math, science and Information Communication Technologies (ICT).
- Trained more than 1,200 school heads and supervisors on teaching strategies and program management.
- Trained 49 teachers from 19 private madaris to implement the Department of Education's revised Basic Education Curriculum.
- Trained 289 instructional managers for the Alternative Learning Systems program for out-of-school children and youth in 38 municipalities.
- Prepared and distributed supplementary learning guides to 50,000 elementary school children.
- Equipped 232 elementary schools with satellites to receive Educational TV and other multi-media based curricula.
- Prepared and turned over to Department of Education a ten-part series on Peace Education and ten-part series on livelihood and skills modules for broadcast on Educational TV.
- Distributed approximately one million reference and reading materials to schools in Mindanao.

Reintegration of Out-of-school Youth:

- Offered more than 1200 out-of-school youth industry immersion and livelihood trainings, 50% of whom have found employment or opened their own business.
- Developed a ten-part video series on livelihood and business development skills to improve workforce quality and support the reintegration of out-of-school youth.
- 82% of 2500 out-of-school children and youth who took the Philippine Education Placement Test were certified for re-entry into the formal school system at levels higher than when they dropped out.