

Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program

Strategic Guidance Framework 2007 - 2008

Introduction

This Strategic Guidance Framework (SGF) assists our partners understand the strategic areas where PACAP wishes to direct its funding. The SGF consists of two parts – an outline of the program and a listing of the fundamental strategies. The first part outlines the goals, purpose and delivery mechanisms of PACAP. This generally will remain consistent throughout the current five year phase of the program. The second part, the Fundamental Strategies, list those areas where PACAP will direct future funding. Given that PACAP is a dynamic funding mechanism the Fundamental Strategies are reviewed on an annual basis.

Program Outline

Before listing PACAP's Fundamental Strategies it is important to understand where they originate. The Fundamental Strategies relate to both AusAID's chosen direction in the Philippines as outlined in the Australia Philippines Development Assistance Strategy and the specific goals and delivery mechanisms of PACAP.

AusAID Philippines Development Assistance Strategy

Australia's development cooperation program with the Philippines is guided by Australia Philippines Development Assistance Strategy 2007 – 2011. This document is consistent with the MTPDP and the Millennium Development Goals.

Australia's objective is to make a contribution to improving the prospects for economic growth, poverty reduction and national stability in the Philippines. To achieve this, the program will focus on three pillars. These are a) Economic Development; b) Basic Education; and c) National Stability and Human Security.

A brief description of each of these objectives follows, however PACAP applicants are encouraged to read the document in detail (available from the PACAP Website www.pacap.org.ph). The objectives are:

- 1) Economic Growth:
 - a) Improve Philippines fiscal position
 - b) Improve the environment for private sector investment
 - c) Improve economic growth opportunities at sub-national level
- 2) Basic Education
 - a) Universal access to quality basic education
 - b) Equitable delivery of quality basic education
- 3) National Stability and Human Security
 - a) Emergence of a peaceful, just and equitable society in Mindanao
 - b) Promotion of peace and order and the rule of law
 - c) Strengthen health promotion and disease prevention and control programs
 - d) Effective emergency and disaster management

Specific Goals and Delivery Mechanisms of PACAP

PACAP operates within this broad country Strategy and is expected to show a contribution to each of the three pillars. The specific goal of the PACAP is to:

“Reduce poverty and improve the standard of living of poor communities through sustainable economic and social development”.

This goal is achieved in two ways by:

“Supporting community-initiated sustainable poverty alleviation projects; and

“Assisting capability-building initiatives of the non-profit sector (primarily NGOs and POs) as well as the LGUs to provide services that meet community-initiated needs”.

The goal clearly emphasises the need to address the needs of poor communities by reducing poverty and contributing to sustainable and equitable development. Meanwhile, the purpose emphasises that all activities must be community initiated and address the economic and social impacts of poverty in a sustainable manner. While PACAP channels its funds through non-profit service organisations (NGOs and LGUs) the beneficiaries and primary impact must lay within the communities.

All PACAP funded activities must fit within the boundaries placed on the Program by its design. In summary the design states that PACAP supports projects through two schemes: the Focal Community Assistance Scheme (FOCAS) and the Responsive Assistance Scheme (RAS). All applications for PACAP funds must fit within the parameters of the FOCAS and RAS Schemes. The features of these two schemes are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Characteristics of the FOCAS and RAS funding Schemes

<i>Features</i>	<i>FOCAS</i>	<i>RAS</i>
Main Description	A set of interrelated projects addressing community needs related to a geographic area and/or a specific development theme/issue. Each FOCAS must be directed by a Strategy (e.g., in Agusan del Sur three FOCAS themes have been identified, namely the Agusan Marsh, Enterprise Development; and Indigenous Peoples).	Stand-alone, quick impact, independent projects implemented by community service organisations with a proven track record.
Location	Implemented currently in the five provinces of Bohol, Northern Samar, Misamis Occidental, Agusan del Sur, and Surigao del Norte.	Implemented primarily in the Southern Philippines, i.e., Visayas and Mindanao (including the five FOCAS provinces). A small allocation is provided for responsive activities elsewhere in the country.
Priority Projects	Those that are in line with the FOCAS strategies of each provinces; and Those that address one or more of the AusAID's Country Program Strategy goals (a) Economic Development; b) Basic Education; and c) National Stability and	Those that address one or more of the AusAID's Country Program Strategy goals (a) Economic Development; b) Basic Education; and c) National Stability and Human Security)..

<i>Features</i>	<i>FOCAS</i>	<i>RAS</i>
	Human Security).	
NGO/LGU Capacity Building	PACAP funds capacity building for local service delivery organizations working with the target communities.	PACAP does not provide funds for capacity building of service organizations other than the basic project management and financial training directly needed for PACAP compliance. One exception is in the case of the ARMM. Given the relatively limited capacity and availability of NGOS in ARMM, PACAP will support capacity building of civil society in ARMM.
Project Duration	Longer-term (can be up to 3 years)	Short-term (maximum of 18 months)
Funds Available	PACAP can fund projects to the value of Php1.5million per year. For a three year FOCAS project the total funds available could be up to Php4.5 million.	PACAP can fund projects to the value of Php1.5million per year. For an 18 month RAS project total funds could be Php2.25 million.
Budget Allocation	Over the five calendar years 2005 to 2009, half of PACAP's Development Funds (\$A10m or approximately Php390m) will be shared between the five priority provinces.	Over the five calendar years 2005 to 2009, 40% of PACAP's Development Funds (\$A8m or approximately Php312m) will be allocated to projects in the Southern Philippines and 10% (\$A2m or approximately Php78m) will be allocated elsewhere.
Project Development Process	Developed by the proponent with assistance from the FOCAS Management Committees and the PACAP's Provincial Project Officers. Please refer to PACAP's Operational Guidelines.	Developed by the proponent with assistance from PACAP's Project Officers based in Manila. Please refer to PACAP's Operational Guidelines.
Project Approving Bodies	The PACAP Advisory Committee approves proposals endorsed by PACAP's Provincial Stakeholders Committee (PSC)	The PACAP Advisory Committee approves proposals prioritized by the Secretariat.

Fundamental Strategies

PACAP's fundamental strategies for FOCAS and RAS are shown in Table 2. All PACAP projects must show a direct contribution to one or more of the strategies listed in the table.

Table 2: Strategic Guidance Framework 2007/08 – Fundamental Strategies

<i>Fundamental Strategies</i>		
<i>Focal Community Assistance Scheme (FOCAS)</i>		
Contribute to Economic Development in the southern Philippines and especially PACAP's five target Provinces	Improve access to quality Basic Education	Improve national stability and human security through the emergence of a peaceful, just and equitable society in Mindanao
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve economic opportunities for rural people through increases in productivity, access to markets, better infrastructure, and growth of small-medium enterprises in targeted provinces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities for vulnerable and marginalised groups (out-of-school youth, the unemployed and illiterate) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce the Mindanao Peace Processes through the more effective participation of communities and institutions Promote peace-building and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an enabling environment for private sector engagement with local communities • Build opportunities for private sector/community linkages in profitable equitable enterprises. • Improve community use of savings and remittances to invest in profitable local enterprises. • Support communities effective participation in monitoring and/or managing infrastructure investments (e.g. potable and irrigation water use) • Advocate for and support policies and programmes that promote equitable and sustainable economic development at the local level • Improve local capacity for business planning, financial analysis, product development and marketing. • Improve the community's capacity to analyse the financial soundness of business opportunities and mobilise and manage resources. 	<p>to achieve formal standards of basic education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support technical and vocational education for vulnerable and marginalised groups that ensures community access to greater employment opportunities 	<p>conflict analysis/resolution models.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance basic services and livelihoods in conflict areas (including women's and children's health services).
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Fundamental Strategies Responsive Assistance Scheme (RAS)		
<p>Contribute to Economic Development in the southern Philippines and especially PACAP's five target Provinces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide livelihood opportunities in Conflict Affected Communities • Build the capacity of local communities to implement and manage livelihood activities 	<p>Improve access to quality Basic Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve education opportunities for remote and/or vulnerable boys and girls • Provide opportunities for out-of-school youth, the unemployed and illiterate to achieve formal standards of basic education 	<p>Improve national stability and human security through the emergence of a peaceful, just and equitable society in Mindanao</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce the Mindanao peace processes by more effective participation of Conflict Affected Communities and local institutions in peace building and conflict prevention programs. • Enhance basic services and income generating activities in Conflict Affected Communities through training and supporting LGUs, NGOs and the community in planning and budgeting. • Strengthen local civil society networks, organisations and processes in Conflict Affected Communities particularly in ARMM. • Specifically improve women's and children's access to quality health services in Conflict Affected Communities

In addition all PACAP applicants should ensure that their proposed projects conform to the cross cutting policies of AusAID (<http://www.usaid.gov.au/publications>). Among others, applicant's attention is drawn to the policies on:

- Gender and Development
- Environment
- Anti-corruption
- Health and HIV/AIDS
- Peace, Conflict and Development Policy

How is the SGF used?

All applicants for PACAP funds must ensure that their proposed FOCAS and RAS activities comply with a Strategic Guidance Framework. Therefore proposals must contribute to one or more of the fundamental strategies in Table 2. The PACAP Secretariat assesses and selects proposals based on their contribution to the strategic criteria in this SGF.

For the FOCAS, as well as guiding the selection of appropriate activities, this SGF strengthens the selection of FOCAS initiatives within each Province, and reinforces the development of each FOCAS Strategy.

When is the SGF developed?

The PACAP SGF is developed annually. The drafting of the SGF coincides with the PACAP Annual Planning process and the draft SGF is submitted to AusAID on 31 March each year. As such, the development of the SGF commences one to two months previously. This SGF covers the period from the 1 July 2007 to 31 June 2008. The development and approval process occurred through March, April and June 2007.

Given that PACAP will have its Mid-term Review in September 2007 the SGF will be reviewed by the PACAP Advisory Committee in November 2007 and will be amended to incorporate any of the new initiatives proposed by the Mid-term Review.

How is the SGF developed?

The SGF is developed in a clear, transparent, and accountable manner. Each year the PACAP Director (PD) facilitates an annual workshop to review the PACAP SGF. The annual workshop includes the PAC, Secretariat, plus other key stakeholders from civil society, academe, and government.

For this SGF the PD facilitated a gathering of PACAP stakeholders including the PACAP Secretariat and PAC at a participatory workshop held on 8 March 2007. The results were formulated into a draft document. This was then circulated to all members of the PAC and Secretariat for comment (26 March 2007). Significant revisions were discussed at the June 2007 meeting of the PAC. After all amendments were discussed and incorporated the final document was presented for approval by AusAID and NEDA (who comprise the Program Coordinating Committee) (31 July 2007). In developing the SGF, the PD ensured that the PAC and Secretariat were fully informed of developments and shifts in both AusAID and GRP policy.

How do we access the SGF?

The SGF is available on the PACAP Website (www.pacap.org.ph) and is sent to all prospective proponents applying for PACAP funds. Copies are also available on request from the PACAP office.

