



Office of the President of the Philippines
**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER
ON PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY**

RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION, AND EVALUATION AGENDA

2023-2028



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About the cover:

Women, Youth, and Children Leading Peace in Marawi City | The cover shows the women, youth, and children of Marawi City sharing how they can contribute to advancing peace in their communities. It is a snapshot of the collective vision towards a harmonious future, where the contributions of every individual, regardless of age, gender, or social status, propel Marawi City forward on the path to lasting peace.

Photo by: Kate Angela Ponio Saura

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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

The OPAPRU Research, Documentation, and Evaluation Agenda outlines the topics/focus areas that need to be prioritized within OPAPRU's various Programs. It seeks to identify the gaps in knowledge and practice and puts forth research questions, and documentation and evaluation needs that have significance for advancing and influencing the Agency's goal of fully implementing peace agreements and protecting, developing and making resilient conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas in the Philippines. Moreover, it seeks to validate accomplishments of the OPAPRU against its organizational objectives vis-a-vis individual performances, which will serve as guide towards the continuing improvement of the OPAPRU's operations and delivery of interventions.

Research refers to a spirited inquiry and systematic investigation undertaken with the purpose of generating new knowledge and understanding on issues critical for programming and policymaking; Documentation is the systematic collection of data and creation of content based on valuable insights, experiences, and lessons learned. It focuses on the richness of knowledge derived from practical implementation, encounters, and interactions in specific contexts; and Evaluation is the systematic, rigorous, and impartial assessment of a program or project to ascertain its level of achievement. It examines the design, implementation, context, and results of an intervention based on its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability.

All undertakings provide a principled basis for making decisions about policies, plans, and actions. OPAPRU's potential focus areas for research, documentation, and evaluation cover many areas of practice, including Anthropology, Economics & Management, History, Human Services, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology, among others.

PURPOSE

The OPAPRU Research, Documentation, and Evaluation (RDE) Agenda seeks to advance and streamline the research, documentation, and evaluation needs and initiatives of various OPAPRU Programs for internal and external use and reference. It ought to guide OPAPRU Programs on the potential direction of their knowledge creation and provide a pool of research and documentation topics for external partners for knowledge sharing and co-creation. Likewise, this aims to produce RDE results that will facilitate development and/or strengthen peacebuilding initiatives towards sustained peace and development for transformed armed groups, their communities, and for all Filipinos.

The RDE Agenda provides opportunities to increase understanding and awareness of the initiatives, pursuits, and concerns of OPAPRU. This invites feedback and creates interest in the potentials, impacts, challenges, and opportunities of past, current, and future undertakings of OPAPRU. Feedback as knowledge itself provides valuable sources of information for improved program implementation, and development of sound and responsive policies, systems, and processes. Meanwhile, Evaluation Agenda facilitates assessment of the OPAPRU's efforts and initiatives towards its vision in attaining just and lasting peace for all Filipinos.

Also, in line with the Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning Process of the Agency, the RDE Agenda develops the culture of transforming knowledge into Knowledge Products and Services (KPS) for policymakers, and peace partner implementers. This encourages the continuous gathering of evidence to inform planning, program development, and implementation, and adds wealth to peacebuilding literature that can be of help to other peace processes around the globe.

PRINCIPLES

The OPAPRU Research, Documentation, and Evaluation Agenda 2023-2028 shall:

- ▶ Align with the Agency's mandate, goals and other relevant laws and policies.
.....
- ▶ Engage OPAPRU units and stakeholders in meaningful, collaborative and responsive RDE initiatives in the fields of peacebuilding, development, and good governance, among others.
.....
- ▶ Champion transparency and accountability in governance through impartial and evidence-based analysis, policy recommendations and overall improved program management.
.....
- ▶ Harvest, institutionalize, and promulgate the gains and best practices of the peace process.
.....
- ▶ Serve as the first set of research that can be pursued and shall be the foundation for the envisioned Philippine Institute for Peace and Development (PIPD).



SCOPE

By virtue of Executive Order No. 158 (s. 2021), “Strengthening the Policy Framework on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity, and Reorganizing the Government’s Administrative Structure for the Purpose,” the mandate of Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU), formerly the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), was expanded from “oversee, coordinate and integrate the implementation of the comprehensive peace process” to “manage, direct, integrate and supervise all aspects of the comprehensive peace process, including initiatives that promote and reinforce national reconciliation and unity.” This development enabled OPAPRU to build on and sustain the gains of the national government as it pushed forward the comprehensive peace process. It also positioned OPAPRU’s mandate on focusing on embedding peace, reconciliation, and unity in the Philippines’ social fabric, enhancing the nation’s resilience for peace, and helping in the country’s social, economic, and political re-engineering by addressing the root causes of armed conflict.

On the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Process, OPAPRU is guided by the “Five-Point Peace, Reconciliation and Unity Agenda” which highlights the following: (1) Completion of peace agreements with the MILF and MNLF towards healing and reconciliation in the Bangsamoro; (2) Ending of armed conflict with the CPP-NPA-NDF and local armed groups by expanding the transformation programs for local peace process and/or forging political settlement; (3) Completion and sustainment of the gains of the signed peace agreements with the RPM-P/ RPA/ABB and CBA-CPLA; (4) Enhancement of the resilience for peace of communities and vulnerable groups through social healing and peacebuilding approaches in support of the peace processes; and (5) Enhancement of the delivery of Conflict-Sensitive and Peace-Promoting (CSPP)-compliant interventions in addressing the root causes and drivers of conflict through convergence and complementation in support of the peace processes.

The OPAPRU Research, Documentation, and Evaluation (RDE) Agenda 2023-2028 covers topics and focus areas relative to peacebuilding and OPAPRU’s initiatives and interventions towards its vision for a just and lasting peace for the nation and for all Filipinos—guided by the Five-Point Peace, Reconciliation and Unity Agenda. It also endeavors to include subjects of common interest with its stakeholders.

There were thirty-nine (39) topics identified that shall be prioritized for 2023 to 2028.



RESEARCH, DOCUMENTATION, AND EVALUATION PRIORITY THEMES

AGENDA 1: COMPLETION OF PEACE AGREEMENTS WITH THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) AND MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) TOWARDS HEALING AND RECONCILIATION IN THE BANGSAMORO

On the first agenda, the impact of the Peace Process is already visible, as OPAPRU's programs, together with those of other National Government Agencies (NGAs), the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Government, Local Government Units (LGUs), and peace partners, have contributed to the relative peace in the country in the past years; specifically, in the BARMM and Mindanao which propelled political transformation. These gains also contributed to increased economic activity and growth in the area, which catalyzed socio-economic improvement.

Disbandment of Private Armed Groups (DPAGs)

The signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) provided for a comprehensive approach towards achieving security and peace in the proposed Bangsamoro core territory as well as adjacent areas in Regions IX to XII, which includes, as one of its highlights, the disbandment of private armies that sow fear and intimidation. To address the security situation brought upon by Private Armed Groups (PAGs), with the virtue of Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 83, the National Task Force for the Disbandment of the PAGs (NTF-DPAGs) was created.

Existing documents that could serve as major references for this theme include: MC No. 83 s. 2015, Creating the National Task Force for the Disbandment of the Private Armed Groups in the areas of the Proposed Bangsamoro and the Adjacent Regions IX to XII; (2) Implementing Rules and Operational Guidelines (IROG) of the NTF-DPAGs; and (3) Transition Report of the Inter-Cabinet Cluster Mechanism on Normalization (ICCMN).

In pushing for this RDE theme, posted opportunities include the active support and participation of the Local Chief Executives in the IEC Campaigns for the disbandment of PAGs, the synergy between the member agencies of the National Task Force, and the conduct of timely coordination meetings between representatives of Task Groups. On the potential challenges, this include the conduct of the 2025 elections that may cause an increase in the proliferation of PAGs, and the economic instability in the region.

With these opportunities and challenges, a research study on how to leverage on and adopt the same may help this security component of the CAB gain more significant milestones.





Assessment on the Implementation of Socioeconomic Development Program for the Decommissioned MILF Combatants and Their Communities

The Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) through the Task Force for Decommissioned Combatants and Their Communities (TFDCC) implements socioeconomic development programs towards the transformation of decommissioned MILF combatants into empowered, self-reliant and productive members of the society; and for the communities to benefit from the peace dividends. The interventions for the transformation of the Decommissioned Combatants and their Communities (DCCs) include social protection, livelihood and employment, capacity development, small-scale infrastructure, and other community-based projects.

Existing documents that could serve as major references for this theme include: (1) Executive Order No. 79 s. 2019, or the Implementing the Annex on Normalization under the CAB; and (2) Data on the accomplishments of the TFDCC and its partner implementing agencies.

In pushing for this RDE theme, one could focus on the partnerships between different national government agencies, development partners, private sector and other stakeholders in support of the socio-economic development programs. Serving as a potential basepoint, this could enable the mechanism to improve the implementation of socioeconomic development programs for the DCs to ensure that all commitments in the peace agreement will be delivered. On the potential challenges, this include political dynamics in BARMM, the security situation in some areas and the frustration among DCs and their families.

Assessment of the roadmap for the implementation of the remaining commitments on the Bangsamoro Development Assistance Fund (BDAF) and Tripartite Implementation Monitoring Committee (TIMC)

During the Tripartite Review Process on the Implementation of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement (FPA), four (4) key agreements were reached in the meeting which are as follows: (1) Establishment of the Bangsamoro Development Assistance Fund (BDAF); (2) The agreement on the Co-Management of Strategic Minerals will be referred to the Oversight Committee created by RA 9054 for the continuation of its devolution process; (3) Concurrence with Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Resolutions with regard to the convergence between the 1996 FPA and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) in the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and the participation of the MNLF in the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) of the envisioned Bangsamoro Government; and (4) Creation of the Tripartite Implementation Monitoring Committee (TIMC).

The BDAF is a fund mechanism that aims to pursue socio-economic development in Southern Philippines in accordance with the GPH-MNLF 1996 FPA with the participation of the OIC in support of peace and development, poverty reduction, moral, spiritual, and cultural development, and United Nations Millennium Developments Goals (MDGs).

In pushing for this RDE theme, one could focus on the intricacies of BDAF and TIMC; and BDAF vis-a-vis Bangsamoro Normalization Trust Fund established under the GPH-MILF Peace Process. One shall also highly consider OIC member states and the likelihood of providing funds into BDAF as well as political interest and benefits of their government with regards to the BARMM. Also, seen as a challenge, one could explore potential sources of funds for the implementation of BDAF, and the key personalities that could be assigned as a member of TIMC.

This study would be a major guide to achieving a milestone in the completion of the 1996 FPA.



Scoping Study on the Special Program for the Decommissioned Members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB) and Social Welfare Committee (SWC)

Article IV. No. 3 of the Terms of Reference of the Task Force for Decommissioned Combatants (TFDCC) states that, “The Task Force shall create a special team on the special socio-economic and development programs for the decommissioned women auxiliary forces of the MILF.” From this basis, the Special Program was created to cater to women decommissioned combatants of the MILF.

In pushing for this RDE theme, the study shall be conducted with decommissioned and non-decommissioned members of the BIWAB and the SWC. Results from this shall inform the special team on the felt needs of the BIWAB and SWCs for consideration in crafting the special program for decommissioned women of both the MILF and MNLF. On the potential challenges, this includes the security situation in some areas, and interview fatigue of Decommissioned Members of the BIWAB and SWCs.

Inclusion of MNLF Women Leaders in Peace Building

Recognizing the vital role of the MNLF women is one of the major pathways of the OPAPRU in achieving just and lasting peace in Bangsamoro. A study of data and relevant case scenarios relevant to women and youth of the MNLF could elevate the current programming for the women and youth, especially on the side of recognizing and empowering the women of the community.

In pushing for this RDE theme, the study could involve the women of the MNLF across the areas of implementation of the Transformation Program. Data collected through conversations, projects, and programs must identify gender-based trends to assure the full gender responsiveness of the study.

Results from this study could identify the gaps and trends in programming for women and youth and be used for improved policy-making, formulation of guidelines, and crafting projects. Also, the conversations and stories that will be surfaced could be compiled and serve as a picture and representation of the women’s journey in the peace process.

Assessment and Scoping Study on Vulnerable Sectors in the Decommissioned MILF Combatants' Communities

As part of the Joint Statement of GPH and MILF from the 32nd Panels Meeting, the Panels agree to reconstitute the Working Group for Vulnerable Sectors, which was created by the GPH and MILF Peace Negotiating Panels in 2016. Pending its reconstitution, its tasks are subsumed under the Task Force for Decommissioned Combatants and their Communities.

In pushing for this RDE theme, it could focus on the assessment of the status of the members of the vulnerable sectors, and scoping on what interventions can be provided to them to protect them and reduce their vulnerabilities. The results of such study will inform the TFDCC and the Working Group on Vulnerable Sectors in crafting a program document for the vulnerable sectors. The security situation in some areas may pose a challenge.



Documentation of Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) Mechanisms' Processes

The principle of IGR between the National Government and the Bangsamoro Government was conceptualized by the GPH and the MILF in the CAB. This was further institutionalized as Art. VI of RA No. 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) with the creation of the National Government-Bangsamoro Government Intergovernmental Relations Body (IGRB) and seven (7) other IGR mechanisms. The IGRB and the other IGR mechanisms are mandated to resolve IGR issues between the National Government and the Bangsamoro Government. As the National Government IGRB Secretariat, the OPAPRU, through its Peace Panel and Political Concerns Office (PPPCO), intends to document the processes being conducted by the IGRB and its Joint Secretariat and in relation to the processes of the other IGR mechanisms towards the resolution of IGR issues.

Existing documents that could serve as major references for this theme include: (1) Art. VI of RA No. 11054 or the BOL; (2) Annex on Power Sharing; (3) Terms of Reference (TOR) of the IGRB; (4) TOR of the IGRB Joint Secretariat; (5) First Progress Report of the IGRB: 2019-2021; and (6) Second Progress Report of the IGRB: 2021-2022. The progress reports of the IGRB can also serve as a major basepoint as it contains IGRB's resolved and pending issues. Results from this study shall guide in the institutionalization of IGR processes, and the continuous operations of the IGRB and the other IGR mechanisms despite changes in members and Secretariat personnel.

AGENDA 2: ENDING OF ARMED CONFLICT WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES-NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY-NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT (CPP-NPA-NDF) AND LOCAL ARMED GROUPS BY EXPANDING THE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMS FOR LOCAL PEACE PROCESS AND/OR FORGING POLITICAL SETTLEMENT

On the second agenda, the goal of eradicating the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front's (CPP-NPA-NDF) influence in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas, making communities resilient, effecting good governance, and transforming the lives of former combatants and non-combatants was anchored on a two-pronged approach which emphasizes the need to: (1) sustain the operationalization of Localized Peace Engagement (LPE); and (2) ensure the implementation of the transformation program. OPAPRU is closely coordinating with different government agencies and the Security Sector that comprises the Localized Peace Engagement Cluster as lead, and support clusters under the direction of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC).

Implementation of the Localized Peace Engagement

Since 2018, the LPE Cluster has been co-chaired by the OPAPRU and the DILG. The cluster implements the two tracks of LPE: Track 1 focuses on Community Consultations and Problem-Solving Sessions; and Track 2 is geared towards conducting local peace dialogues with the CPP-NPA-NDF.

In pursuing this RDE theme, the following parameters could be analyzed to assess the level of effectivity of the LPE:

- ▶ Number of LGUs engaged in LPE works
- ▶ Identification of resources given to FRs, their families, and communities
- ▶ Budget
- ▶ Programs and Services
- ▶ Established mechanism
- ▶ Sustainability of the resources given to target communities
- ▶ Challenges encountered during the implementation and action taken
- ▶ Impact assessment of the implementation
- ▶ Ways on how to further strengthen implementation of the two tracks

Results from this study will serve as a guiding document to evaluate the program's effectiveness, ensure the creation of empirically based policies, and be a potential catalyst for forged partnerships with external evaluators.



Nexus study for Former Rebels (FRs) journey in Regions 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and CAR

This series of field-based documentation activities will record the journey of Former Rebels' struggles and their integration into the government. It shall assess the standard of living of target FRs and cull-out stories from the ground which will serve as the backbone for policy-making and decision-making.

In focusing on this RDE theme, feature stories of CPP-NPA-NDF members could be culled out, and a compendium of stories could be developed that will be distributed to partner agencies and stakeholders. This will form part of IEC efforts to raise the awareness of the public about the struggles and journey of former combatants. It gears towards identifying the following: (1) demographics of FRs, and (2) motivating factors in surfacing.

Results from this study could provide an FR descriptive base data for program reference, serve as reference in creating programs for FRs, enhance the transformation program that helps Former Rebels in their return to the mainstream society, and serve as catalyst for partnership with external documenters, including those from the academe, research institutions and individual service providers. On the potential challenges, this includes data privacy management, and the need to identify potential target locales of the study.

National Baseline Study for Localized Peace Engagement

The study will delve into the analysis of LPE Cluster efforts from the National down to Regional and Local levels. This study will determine the existing efforts implemented by the ELCAC mechanisms and account for lessons learned, best practices, and challenges encountered by partner agencies in implementing LPE. Such effort would inventory the line of efforts of NTF-ELCAC agencies and LPE Cluster member agencies from National down to regional and local levels which will serve as baseline data in LPE programming and budgeting.

On the potential challenges, this includes expected difficulty in accessing data considering the number of member agencies, and identification of the target locale of the study.



Summative Assessment of the Implementation of Localized Peace Engagement and its Transformation Program

The Transformation Program forms a component of the LPE which seeks to address the needs of the former CPP-NPA-NDF members, their families, and communities through a holistic and convergent implementation of its four (4) components: Security; Healing and Reconciliation; Confidence-Building measures; and Socioeconomic. The study will assess the implementation of Transformation Program Plan by Local Partner on priority provinces. Local peace partners were advocated to develop a Transformation program that responds to areas peculiarities.

Through this RDE theme, evaluation and assessment in the effectiveness and sustainability of results of the transformation program; also, with the four components responsiveness to former CPP-NPA-NDF members, their families and communities, and alignment and partnership with local government and other agencies in the implementation of TP, could be provided. Also, through this RDE theme, best practices could be identified and documented, guides for the program implementers to enhance and sustain TP efforts in the ground could be generated, and new partnerships could be formed.

AGENDA 3: COMPLETION AND SUSTAINMENT OF THE GAINS OF THE SIGNED PEACE AGREEMENTS WITH REBOLUSYARNONG PARTIDO NG MANGGAGAWA NG PILIPINAS/REVOLUTIONARY PROLETARIAN ARMY/ALEX BONCAYAO BRIGADE (RPM-P/RPA/ABB) AND CORDILLERA BODONG ADMINISTRATION-CORDILLERA PEOPLE’S LIBERATION ARMY (CBA-CPLA)

On the third agenda, the historic signing of the Clarificatory Implementing Document (CID) with the Rebolusyaryong Partido ng Manggagawa ng Pilipinas/Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPMP/RPA/ABB)-Tabara Paduano Group (TPG), or KAPATIRAN in 2019, helped fast track the transformation process of the groups’ members. For the Cordillera Bodong Administration-Cordillera People’s Liberation Army (CBA-CPLA), the completion of the Peace Agreement continues to move forward through the Normalization Program that provides sustainable livelihood programs, social services, and confidence-building measures for the group’s members – along with OPAPRU’s continuous support for the initiatives for Cordillera Autonomy.

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Implementation of the Transformation Plan for the RPM-P/RPA/ABB including the continuing transformation of the KAPATIRAN

The CID lays down all the commitments between the GPH and the RPM-P/RPA/ABB-TPG and is part of the effort to achieve inclusive and sustainable peace in the country. The CID has five components, namely: 1) Disposition of Arms and Forces and Security Arrangements; 2) Social and Economic Reintegration of the KAPATIRAN Members; 3) Release of the Remaining Alleged Political Offenders; 4) Full transformation of the KAPATIRAN into a civilian organization engaging in socio-economic and political activities; and 5) Community Peace Dividends. Originally envisioned to be implemented for three years from 2019 to 2022, the achievement of the commitments across the five CID components is projected to be attained by 2025, anchored on the multi-agency and local government convergence.



One could utilize the accomplishments under the RPM-P/RPA-ABB-KAPATIRAN Peace Process as foundations for further explorations. These ‘base points’ are: (1) Signing of CID; (2) Four (4) Implementing mechanisms organized to implement the CID; (3) Destruction of firearms, decommissioning of 727 KAPATIRAN members, and organization of eight (8) community defense units (CDUs) as part of the Disposition of Arms and Forces and Security Arrangements; (4) Social protection and Livelihoods to 727 KAPATIRAN members in 12 chapters; (5) 105 housing units awarded to KAPATIRAN across 15 settlement sites in Naic, Cavite, Western Visayas, Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro City; (6) Multi-sectoral partnerships established for complementary programs; (7) Accreditation of 7 KAPATIRAN Chapters by their respective LGUs, 699 KAPATIRAN women, CDU and Bantay Gubat wives and children as beneficiaries of Women in Transformation Program; (8) Interventions

provided to assist communities granted with livelihood and enterprise as Community Peace Dividends; and (9) Multi-agency partnerships established for the grant of Amnesty of KAPATIRAN members.

Simultaneously, specific themes can also be explored, such as: (1) Well-being of KAPATIRAN members and their families; (2) Implementation of Livelihood Programs; (3) Community Development Projects; (4) Lack of post-evaluation of programs, activities and projects; (5) Implementation of Livelihood programs for former rebels; (6) post-evaluation of decommissioning; and (7) Community Peace Dividends.



Opportunities identified in this RDE theme include the strong support of the LGU-led eleven (11) Site Coordinating Teams (SCTs) that lead the ground implementation of the socio-economic interventions of KAPATIRAN, the Livelihood Settlement Grant (LSG) Programs in twelve (12) chapters (except NCR Chapter), Livelihood Reinforcement Grant (LRG) Program implemented in five (5) KAPATIRAN Chapters (Cadiz, EB Magalona, KAWAWA, Aklan, Tanjay), the local accreditation of ten (10) chapters which facilitate the accessing of services, the completion of housing units for 105 members of the KAPATIRAN in Western Visayas, Cavite, and Bukidnon, and the issuance of land tenurial instruments for the occupation of areas of the KAPATIRAN.

Finally, one glaring challenge in this RDE theme is that the location of the peace and development community settlement sites of the KAPATIRAN would have to be considered in the conduct of data-gathering activities.

Impact Evaluation of the ongoing GPH-CBLA-CPLA Peace Process

The implementation of this Completion Strategy for the CBA-CPLA Peace Process is anchored on Chapter 13: Ensure Peace and Security and Enhance Administration of Justice of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 that focuses on the implementation and sustainability of socioeconomic reintegration programs for former CPLA members, their families and communities, and also with the National Security Policy 2023-2028. The multi-stakeholder convergence to support regional peace and development advocacies and interventions towards Cordillera Autonomy will also be pursued. Interventions will focus on the following:

- ▶ Support the maintenance of the implementing mechanism of the peace table particularly the Joint Evaluation and Monitoring Committee (JEMC) composed of Regional Line Agencies, active members of the CBA-CPLA and the OPAPRU Field Office;
- ▶ Prioritized the security arrangement in CTG-threatened CBA-CPLA communities in Abra, Kalinga and Apayao;
- ▶ Support the implementation of Sustainable and Inclusive Peace and Transformation (SIPAT)-DA Program to the remaining twenty-eight (28) Barangays and 12 SIPAT Greening Projects of the six (6) People's Organizations in CAR; and
- ▶ Construction of four (4) educational facilities and one (1) water system in support of the youths and women in CBA-CPLA communities for their access of basic services like school, dormitories and water system in Kalinga and Mountain Province especially those belonging to the 6th to 4th income class municipalities.



Overall, the normalization program will lead to:

- ▶ Decommissioning of all validated CPLA members (initial report of almost 5,517 individuals) from all factions/ groups;
- ▶ Provision of socio-economic needs/ opportunities of these members, their families and communities specifically the 232 CPLA-identified barangays in Cordillera;
- ▶ Sustainment of temporary employment of 473 individuals as Bantay Gubat;
- ▶ Yearly enrollment of 1,500 CBA-CPLA individuals and their next of kin to Philhealth;
- ▶ Creation and implementation of a recognition program for Cordillera martyrs/ old guards or pioneers;
- ▶ Installation of two (2) remaining memorabilia dedicated to the historical Cordillera movements;
- ▶ Implementation of programs for women, youth and IP groups;
- ▶ Provision of support for the awarding of land titles for farmer-beneficiaries in Sitio Ileb, Nambaran, City of Tabuk;
- ▶ Documentation of peace journey mapping and/ or the different program interventions; and,
- ▶ Provision of local and national support to the passage of the Cordillera Autonomy Bill.

General themes that could be explored under this theme are: 1) The Implementation of the Transformation Plan through the 5-Year Normalization Program; (2) Healing and Reconciliation (Documentation, Memorabilia and SIPAT Commemoration); (3) Socio-Economic Interventions (SIPAT, Bantay Gubat Program and Special Educational Assistance Program (SEAP) under OPAPRU-NCIP Partnership); and (4) Confidence-building.

More specific themes could also be explored, these themes are: (1) Accomplishments of the Peace Process versus the 26-point demands in the 2011 MOA; (2) Possible unification of the CBA-CPLA factions towards Normalization and Cordillera Autonomy; (3) Convergence and coordination with the academe and the National/ Regional Line Agencies for the implementation of the Normalization Program and Cordillera Autonomy; (4) the 339 inventoried firearms turned-in and destroyed; (5) the 498 former members of the CBA-CPLA and next-of-kin employed as forest guards; (6) the One Hundred Eighty (180) of the Two Hundred Twenty (220) old guards and martyrs documented and underwent Needs Assessment; (7) 200 CBA-CPLA next of kin as SEAP Grantees; (8) 232 barangays covered by the Transformation Program; (9) 24 communities served through the SIPAT Program in partnership with DA-accredited Peoples Organizations; (10) Localizing Women & Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in the six Provinces of CAR; and (10) Assessment of different CBA-CPLA factions.

Opportunities such as the identification of “Ways Forward” for policy mechanisms and/or enhancement points on the ongoing peace process, identification of policy recommendation/mechanisms and/or appropriate data for basis of future development project/ interventions among the CBA-CPLA communities, and possible identification of development projects/ intervention among non-covered former armed groups/ non-CBA-CPLA individuals were identified that could push forward this RDE theme.

On the other hand, a key challenge that was identified for this theme was the geographical dynamics of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Specific for the Joint Evaluation and Monitoring Committee (JEMC), a major challenge is the the factionalism that stems from different/multiple leaders with different interest and diversity of Cordillera tribes. For SIPAT, numerous challenges were identified, which include: the entitlement from the CPLA leaders/members claiming that the project is from them, so they need to have a share of the interventions; limited target areas per year prompting other areas to complain and/or request for same intervention; fast turn-over of DA staff limiting the full and efficient implementation of the program; and the procurement process of DA-CAR acquiring livestock from other regions led to high mortality rates of the purchased ruminants. For SEAP, the delay in the submission of documentary requirements needed to be enrolled in the Program. Lastly, for the Bantay Gubat Program, the vacated positions are always filled up by their next of kin thereby depriving other would-be beneficiaries from enjoying the same—no provision in JMC No. 2013-02 that in case of vacancy the next of kin would be given priority.



AGENDA 4: ENHANCEMENT OF THE RESILIENCE FOR PEACE OF COMMUNITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS THROUGH SOCIAL HEALING AND PEACEBUILDING APPROACHES IN SUPPORT OF THE PEACE PROCESSES

On the fourth agenda, OPAPRU continues to facilitate the promotion of social cohesion, mutual understanding, and reconciliation across the country to provide viable platforms for the meaningful participation and involvement of women, youth, and other vulnerable sectors. OPAPRU actively engaged in the Marawi Rehabilitation and endorsed the Human Fraternity Document to embed peace, reconciliation and unity in the social fabric; ensuring that vulnerable individuals, groups and communities can prevent, resist, resolve, and transform conflict. Efforts related to this are continuously being boosted by OPAPRU's collaboration with academic partner institutions and other peace partners. It has also played a catalytic role in Peace Education and the promotion of Culture of Peace in the academe and other learning institutions.

The role of women and youth in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas in Preventing and Transforming Violent Extremism (PTVE)

The Social Healing and Peacebuilding (SHAPE) Program is focused on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Youth Peace and Security (YPS) and the PTVE. The PTVE is relatively a new program of the office and would like to establish the relationships and intersectionality of women and youth in conflict affected and conflict vulnerable areas. This is to ensure the integration in the implementation of the 3 components of the program. The study shall be conducted to youth who are children or siblings of former violent extremists (FVE) and women who are mothers, spouse or siblings of FVEs in Mindanao—with target provinces yet to be determined.



Studies in theme can be a basis for a new project proposal that will focus on PTVE. Additionally, results from the studies will strengthen implementation strategies of the PTVE program and integration of the National Action Plans on WPS and YPS. However, security concerns in the identification of target respondents and actual data gathering for the research can be a challenge in the exploration of this specific theme.



Assessment of the Indigenous Peoples role in Preventing and Transforming Violent Extremism (PTVE) in the Bangsamoro

The IPs have their own customs and traditions in peacebuilding and resolving and managing conflicts. This study will assess the existing or potential role of IP with regards to PTVE in the Bangsamoro. It will also look into the customs and traditions that contribute to PTVE. Clearly, the studies shall be conducted with the different IP communities/ICCs in the Bangsamoro.

The result of the study will strengthen the implementation and integration of the PTVE and IP Healing and Reconciliation components of the SHAPE Program. Just like the women and youth topic, studies on IPs in the context of PTVE in the Bangsamoro could be hindered by the availability of resources both human and financial to conduct the study and security concerns the identification of target respondents and actual data gathering.

Process Evaluation of the Indigenous Peoples Healing and Reconciliation (IP H&R)

The Process Evaluation shall assess the actual process of the implementation of the IP H&R vis-à-vis the intended process as indicated in the Framework and Process. This evaluation shall assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the process as well as the relevance, appropriateness, and acceptability considering that this focuses on the IP/Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs).

The process evaluation will be conducted in ICCs where the IP H&R Intervention following the process and steps 1-5 were completed. The representations will also be coming from IP Communities/ICCs who followed the Path 1- IP-led path, in which the IPs take the initiative to settle internal disputes, enforce decisions, and carry out agreed-upon plans and programs, and Path 2 - Convergence-led, involves national and local

government, relevant institutions, and organizations working together to defend, preserve, promote, and fulfil IP rights.

Results of the process evaluation shall inform the enhancement of the IP H&R Process. Additionally, emerging issues for the evaluation can also be the basis for policy advocacy, new interventions, and project proposals, as well as new partnerships.

Assessment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Children's Concept of the Marawi Siege

The study aims to assess the children's understanding and concept of the Marawi Siege and the type of narratives that were passed from the parents/guardians/siblings to the younger members of the families. It will also explore the difference of the accounts if passed on by men or women.

The study will focus on children 6-8 years old or those who were still too young to understand or yet to be born during the Marawi Siege. These children will be coming from IDP families.

The research will employ age-appropriate activities like games, arts and crafts, and storytelling in data gathering. The results of the study can inform the development of project proposals for the continued rehabilitation of the IDPs in Marawi City, particularly programs and projects for children.

Assessment of the Participation of grassroots women in the implementation of the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) 2023-2033

The NAPWPS 2023-2033 is already in the fourth generation which aims to contribute to the expansion of women's role in the peace process and conflict transformation and to the protection of their human rights in conflict situations.

This study would like to determine the level of participation among grassroots women in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas in the implementation of the NAPWPS 2023-2033 to further strengthen the implementation strategies and identify capacity-building needs as well as the development projects that will address emerging needs of this sector.

Likewise, it will explore their level of participation, hindering and facilitating factors, best practices and identify recommendations for the NAPWPS enhancements. Lastly, representatives of the grassroots women shall be coming from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Target women will also be coming from communities covered by CSO and government-initiated NAPWPS projects/interventions.

Results from this study would determine areas for improvement in the NAPWPS Pillar 1 and create basis for policy advocacy and possible project proposals that would focus on the promotion of Empowerment and Participation of grassroots women.

Baseline Study of the NAPWPS 2023-2033

A baseline study is an analysis of the current situation to identify the starting point for a program or project. In the case of the NAPWPS, the baseline figures of indicators shall be identified to assess the effect of the interventions and to serve as basis for comparison at the end of the NAPWPS implementation. It will be utilizing existing and secondary data from concerned government agencies as well as studies of the academe and CSO. In the absence of secondary data, primary data shall be gathered through feasible methodologies.

Results of the Baseline Study may provide new information on emerging issues that can be opportunities for new interventions and partnerships on WPS. Subsequently, information from the Baseline Study may also be used to inform and develop Project Proposals and policy advocacy on WPS.

Midterm Evaluation of the NAPWPS 2023-2033

The objective of the Midterm Evaluation of the NAPWPS is to assess the continued relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the strategies and action points identified per pillar and the progress made towards achieving its objectives and targets.

The scope of the evaluation shall cover the progress of the objectives of the four pillars - Empowerment and Participation; Protection and Prevention; Promotion and Mainstreaming; and Monitoring and Evaluation—and achievements of targets per indicator. Additionally, emerging issues, challenges and gaps shall also be identified, as well as the corresponding recommendations to further improve the implementation of the remaining years of the NAP.

Members of the National Steering Committee for Women, Peace and Security (NSCWPS) shall be tapped for technical and financial for the conduct of the midterm evaluation. The results of the evaluation shall be opportunities for the improvement of the NAPWPS, new projects and interventions and partnerships with new stakeholders.

Assessment of youth participation and representation in the implementation of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (NAPYPS) in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas

The YPS agenda was first introduced in 2017 through the Youth Peace Table (YPT) wherein young peace advocates, both school- and non-school based, gathered in a safe space to further explore their capacities in building a culture of peace and conflict-sensitivity. The NAPYPS 2023-2033 was crafted which presented the 10-year plan that details key action points strengthening the meaningful participation of young people in peacebuilding, governance, protection of human rights and the implementation of global and national sustainable development agenda.

This study would determine the level of participation and representation of different youth groups (IPs, IDPs, etc.) in the implementation of the NAPYPS to further strengthen its implementation strategies, and identify capacity-building needs to improve youth participation. It will target youth coming from the different peace tables and other conflict-affected/conflict-vulnerable areas in the country. Likewise, the study will determine the level of youth participation, the facilitating and hindering factors



on youth participation, best practices, and identify recommendations that will further inform and improve the NAPYPS. Lastly, it will identify areas for improvement in the NAPYPS and basis for policy advocacy and for possible project proposals on YPS.

Baseline Study of the NAPYPS 2023-2033

The baseline study of the NAPYPS 2023-2033 shall identify the baseline figures of indicators in order to assess the change or achievement of the targets at the end of the NAPYPS implementation. It will be utilizing existing and secondary data from concerned government agencies as well as studies of the academe and CSO. In the absence of secondary data, primary data shall be gathered through feasible methodologies.

Results of the Baseline Study may provide new information on emerging issues that can be opportunities for new interventions and partnerships on YPS. Subsequently, information from the Baseline Study may also be used to inform and develop Project Proposals and for policy advocacy on YPS.

Midterm Evaluation of the NAPYPS 2023-2033

The objective of the Midterm Evaluation of the NAPYPS is to assess the continued relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of the strategies and action points identified per pillar and the progress made towards achieving its objectives and targets.

The scope of the evaluation shall cover the progress of the objectives of the five pillars—Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnership, and Disengagement and Reintegration—and achievements of targets per

indicator. Additionally, emerging issues, challenges and gaps shall also be identified, as well as the corresponding recommendations to further improve the implementation of the remaining years of the NAP.

Members of the National Steering Committee for Youth, Peace and Security (NSCYPS) shall be tapped for technical and financial for the conduct of the midterm evaluation. The results of the evaluation shall be opportunities for the improvement of the NAPYPS, new projects and interventions and partnerships with new stakeholders.

Impact Assessment of the Conflict-Sensitivity and Peace Promotion (CSPP) Trainings to Peace Partners

The SHAPE Office in collaboration with OPAPRU Programs/Units conducted series of CSPP Trainings to peace partners from 2018-2022 to enable them to understand the CSPP concepts and apply the principles and tools in their plans, programs, projects and activities.

This assessment will look into the application of the CSPP principles and tools in the concerned agencies' plans, programs, projects and activities. The proposed respondents for the assessment will be the peace partners who completed the training via online and face-to-face training from 2018-2022.

Results of the assessment will inform the enhancement in the CSPP Training Modules and Design with Peace Partners. Additionally, it will also give opportunity for follow-through activities on CSPP with peace partners.

AGENDA 5: ENHANCEMENT OF THE DELIVERY OF CONFLICT-SENSITIVE AND PEACE-PROMOTING (CSPP)-COMPLIANT INTERVENTIONS IN ADDRESSING THE KEY DRIVERS OF CONFLICT THROUGH CONVERGENCE AND COMPLEMENTATION IN SUPPORT OF THE PEACE PROCESS

Lastly, on the fifth agenda, OPAPRU has continued to provide Conflict-Sensitive and Peace-Promoting (CSPP)-compliant interventions to its peace stakeholders. The PAYapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn (PAMANA) Program continues to carry out socio-economic in conflict-affected communities throughout the country. For this purpose, development projects intended for agricultural productivity support, agri-fishery, capacity-building, livelihood, peace dividend, natural resource management, community support, community infrastructure, electrification, water system, flood control, survey, roads, bridges, and health centers have been completed. Partnerships and cooperation with international organizations have also been facilitated by OPAPRU, which was able to mobilize resources to support the requirements of various peace tables and align their programs and projects to the peace, reconciliation and unity agenda. OPAPRU shall embark on fostering support and forging partnerships with local organization including private sector to mobilize resources to augment and sustain the gains in the implementation of the peace process.



Process Evaluation of PAMANA National Program Management Office (NPMO)

The PAMANA National Program Management Office is mandated to support OPAPRU programs improve access to basic services of Conflict-Affected Areas/Conflict-Vulnerable Areas (CAAs/CVAs) through the integration and promotion of gender and CSPP approaches in government interventions. The process evaluation determines whether program activities have been implemented as intended and resulted in certain outputs.

The primary impact of the evaluation would be the enhancement and guide to the PAMANA Manual. Finally, the coverage of the Process evaluation would be from 2020 to 2022.

Impact-Assessment of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the Implementation of the Philippine Comprehensive Peace Process

The international community is very much involved in the Philippines' Comprehensive Peace Process. It is important to determine if the ODA being poured out in the conflict-affected and vulnerable areas across the country has a high impact. The assessment will cover ODA-funded programs, projects, and activities during the time of the Aquino and Duterte administrations. Lastly, the result of the study will enable the government to evaluate partnerships with international partners.

Comparing International Peace Processes, Good Practices, Lessons Learned and the Role of the International Community in each

The idea is for OPAPRU to have a compendium of all past and existing peace processes, including their good practices, lessons learned and the role of the international community in each. It will look into the different peace processes across the world, their good practices and lessons learned, and the role that the international community played in each.

This could be a good reference for the OPAPRU for its planning and strategizing. The only concern for this theme is the value that it would add to existing publications of the same nature.

Government mechanism for monitoring programs and projects of international partners in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas

Currently, there is no existing mechanism within the government that monitors the implementation of programs and projects of international partners in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas. The idea is to develop such a mechanism, wherein the OPAPRU is given the authority to exact accountability from the international partners to report the implementation of their interventions in Conflict-Affected Areas/Conflict-Vulnerable Areas (CAAs/CVAs). This initiative will result in a more efficient monitoring of the interventions of international partners in CAAs/CVAs. One challenge in forwarding this specific theme is defining/determining the limit of jurisdiction between OPAPRU and the Department of Foreign Affairs—clear distinction of processes and avoiding repetitions.



INTERNAL MANAGEMENT: IMPROVED OPAPRU SYSTEMS AND BUSINESS

The OPAPRU remains steadfast with its goal to end all organized armed conflict and fully implement the peace agreements by 2028 to ensure transformation of the former armed groups to civilian lives as well as the protection, development and resilience of conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas. All of these objectives are geared towards the highest goal of sustained peace and development for the transformed former armed groups, their communities, and for all Filipinos.

To this, the Internal Management as the organizational systems and processes of the Agency continues to facilitate the effective and efficient implementation of all OPAPRU Core Programs; serving as the foundation of OPAPRU's long-term strategy, focusing on institutional reforms to complement the levelling up in the delivery of the OPAPRU mandate. These are operationalized through the Internal Management's advancement of its internal and external support to the comprehensive peace process and promotion of unity and reconciliation—this means the organization's enhanced capacities of its personnel towards organizational commitment; institutionalized technical support, support services and business quality processes; and rallied support of all peace stakeholders as well as the public behind the government's efforts to peace, reconciliation and unity.

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Enhancing the government's capacity to manage, direct, integrate and supervise all aspects of the comprehensive peace process including initiatives for national unity and reconciliation

The expansion of OPAPRU's mandate by virtue of Executive Order No. 158, s. 2021 is a recognition to the reality that the longstanding conflicts in the country could only be resolved through a comprehensive approach and initiatives for national unity and reconciliation. This mandate also provides the OPAPRU several opportunities to engage and influence all the relevant government agencies, non-government organizations, academe and other stakeholders through the whole-of-society approach.



However, the metes and bounds of this expanded mandate is yet to be defined. As such, this research and documentation activity will help the OPAPRU define the scope and reach of its mandate and explore all the possibilities to further enhance its capacity to manage, direct, integrate and supervise all aspects of the comprehensive peace process including initiatives for national unity and reconciliation.

The study shall examine the legal and administrative boundaries of Executive Order No. 158, s. 2021 vis-a-vis the mandate to manage, direct, integrate and supervise all aspects of the comprehensive peace process, including initiatives for national unity and reconciliation.

The study shall give an opportunity to: (1) clearly define the scope and reach of EO 158, s. 2021 in order to demonstrate its capacity to transform the lives of Filipinos in conflict affected and vulnerable areas; (2) help in strengthening OPAPRU's legitimacy to manage, direct, integrate and supervise the comprehensive peace process, and advocate for its strategic autonomy in performing its functions; and (3) help OPAPRU in the Executive Review of Executive Order No. 158, s. 2021 in 2025.

Transforming while performing: The Story of OPAPRU's internal transformation while transforming the lives of Filipinos in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas

The recent developments in the peace policy front propelled by the expansion of OPAPRU's mandate by virtue of Executive Order No. 158, s. 2021 transformed its internal mechanisms. Likewise, the subsequent change in the administration ushered in a new set of priorities as enshrined in President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. Administration's 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028. Additionally, the milestones of the peace process in the Bangsamoro region and critical developments in the localized peace engagements have drastically affected the domestic peace and security landscape. Although these favorable developments prompted the OPAPRU to undergo organizational transformation, the delivery of commitments to conflict-affected and vulnerable areas remains a challenge.

The documentation and culling out of lessons learned and best practice in the OPAPRU's journey and achievements in the Performance Governance System (PGS) Scorecard will cover from 2019 up to the present.

The product of this documentation can be used to cascade the efforts of the OPAPRU to transform its internal mechanisms in order to effectively and sustainably transform the lives of Filipinos in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas. It will also demonstrate the OPAPRU's adaptive culture to proactively manage volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous developments in the peace environment. Finally, it can also help the OPAPRU in the Executive Review of Executive Order No. 158, s. 2021 in 2025.

Feasibility study on the transformation of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) into Department of Peace, Reconciliation and Unity

From the issuance of Executive Order No. 19, s. 1992, establishing the National Unification Commission (NUC), followed by Executive Order No. 125, s. 1993, creating the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), reaffirmation through Executive Order No. 3, 2001, and in 2021, then through Executive Order No. 158,

which reorganized and renamed OPAPP as the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU), the OPAPRU has assumed a new role as it spearheads national reconciliation and reunification.

In line with this transformation and expanded mandate, the size, functions, operations, financial, and human resources needs have grown exponentially in the last twenty years. Its manpower from 192 officials and personnel in 2005 has grown to 707 in 2022. The OPAPP's budget has likewise increased exponentially from 936 million in 2010 to 1.9 billion in 2022. At present, the Agency is necessarily making organizational augmentation pursuant to the effective implementation of its expanded mandate under Executive Order No. 158, s. 2021.

Towards a vision of institutionalizing peace, reconciliation, and unity as an integral part of governance, there is a potential risk as the current nature of the Agency is unstable—susceptible to various uncertainties which may pose a serious threat to the State's commitment to sustainable peace and which, in turn, may place the gains of the national government on peacebuilding efforts over the last three decades in jeopardy. Thus, in the interest of sustainable peace, there is a call to transform the existing administrative structure into one adopting a more permanent character in the machinery of the national government and thereby ensure that the promotion of peace is not merely a fleeting priority or an ad hoc approach, but rather a sustained and consistent effort of the government—towards the creation of the Department of Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (DPRU).

The feasibility study will cover existing documents that could serve as major references, which include: (1) Executive Order No. 19, s. 1992; (2) Executive Order No. 125, s. 1993; (3) Executive Order No. 3, 2001; and (4) Executive Order No. 158, s. 2021. An analysis on the viability of the creation of DPRU towards attainment of peace and national reconciliation and reunification, versus maintaining its current under an Executive Order. Lastly, courses of action towards an Agency that would ensure and banner that the promotion of peace is not merely a fleeting priority or an ad hoc approach, but rather a sustained and consistent effort of the government—along with the pros and cons of various courses of action identified.

By conducting the feasibility study, it will explore the effective ways towards maintaining and furthering the gains of the peace processes. It shall also gauge whether such transformation has enough ground support towards realization, and ultimately, simulate a scenario of OPAPRU as transformed into DPRU and evaluate the set-up that would lead to more breakthrough outcomes and results.

Feasibility study on the creation of the Philippine Institute for Peace and Development

In 2020, Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity, Secretary Carlito G. Galvez Jr., proposed the creation of a 'National Peace Institute' that will enable the agency to further strengthen and expand its peace constituency-building efforts with the academes, civil society organizations (CSOs), vulnerable sectors, national line agencies, and international peace partners.

This is in consonance with the signing of Executive Order No. 158, s. 2021 which further amplifies the State's commitment to initiate and mobilize different sectors of society in addressing the root causes of internal armed conflicts and social unrest through the passage and implementation of key political reforms requiring administrative action, new legislation, or constitutional amendments.

Through a national institution devoted to offering specialized capacity-building and training programs, conducting domestic and international research, establishing applied research projects, and providing peace and development knowledge management and sharing services, among other things, the national leadership will be able to broaden, support and sustain the gains of the Philippine comprehensive peace process. Thus, the proposed Philippine Institute for Peace and Development (PIPD) will handle the agency's knowledge management, peace education, peacebuilding networks

and capacity-building programs for future peacebuilders and conflict managers. The PIPD shall conduct research and study, documentation, and education on OPAPRU's various initiatives—from environmental scanning to mediation and peace negotiations, to reconciliation, rehabilitation and unification efforts.

Focusing on this theme, it can be explored how the creation of the PIPD can support the effective accomplishment and implementation across various peace tables. It shall also examine how the creation of the PIPD can sustain the country's recognition by the Global Peace Index 2022 as one of the five countries worldwide with the largest improvements in peace and security along with Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Algeria; also from the GPI mentioning that the Philippines recorded the largest improvement in the Asia-Pacific region, driven by changes in the country's safety and security, and ongoing conflict domains.

Ultimately, results from this study could shed light in the advantages or disadvantages of having a leading peace policy research and training institute in the field of peace and sustainable development studies. It could also be an opportunity to further identify the function and mandates of the PIPD in relation to the work of OPAPRU and determine the resources needed towards its establishment, securing funding for the creation and sustainment of the institution, and the legal and regulatory hurdles of creating a new governmental institution.



Towards the Development of a National Education for Peace and Sustainable Development Integration Framework and Roadmap for Basic, Higher and Other Learning Institutions

In line with the developing efforts of OPAPRU in further strengthening the Peace Education mainstreaming efforts to both Basic and Higher Education sectors as well as in other Learning Institutions, a draft Executive Order was endorsed to provide avenue for learning institutions, be it formal or non-formal, to harmonize the integration of Peace Education concepts in their curricular offerings. With this in mind, it is deemed of paramount significance to come up with a National Education for Peace and Sustainable Development Integration Framework which will be anchored on the aforementioned Executive Order.

This study seeks to explore how the whole-of-nation approach in advancing the peace agenda and building on the gains of the comprehensive peace process can be maximized by providing a platform for the academe, relevant NGAs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to convene and come up with a National Education for Peace and Sustainable Development Integration Framework and Roadmap. The said framework will help harmonize the different initiatives and efforts of various formal and non-formal learning institutions in terms of integration and incorporating Peace Education and Sustainable Development concepts in their curricular offerings. It shall provide avenue for all relevant institutions to map their Programs, Projects and Activities related to mainstreaming and Peace Education and Sustainable Development concepts in their respective contexts.

Current challenges that can be explored from this initiative include the current unavailability of a signed Executive Order for this purpose, and the need for the convening of Executive Committee representatives from different National Government Agencies to fully forward such an initiative.

Mapping Peace Educators' Peace Education Competencies: Basis for a Peace Education Capacity Building Program for Teachers

Peace Education is defined as teaching for and about human rights, gender equality, disarmament, social and economic justice, non-violence, sustainable development, international law and was later added traditional peace practices (Global Campaign for Peace Education, 1999). With this definition, peace education is not only a form of education that is desired in and among conflict areas but an essential form of education in all communities to safeguard human rights protection, nonviolence and participation as necessary principles of societal life; contrary to the belief that Peace Education is only needed in areas where there are conflict and armed struggles.

In line with this, the promotion of peace education proves necessary in breaking violent mindsets and sustaining peace. Moreover, the mainstreaming of peace education in formal and non-formal education is also identified as a necessary intervention of a transitional justice process in the context of the implementation of post-agreement normalization and transformation programs.

The different education institutions in the country have likewise implemented peace education initiatives with varying levels of success. However, several challenges were also identified such as limited access to capacity building activities for peace education, having no clear-cut guidelines on peace integration in the curriculum, misinformation/misinterpretation of peace and conflict concepts, and threats of emergence or resurgence of violent conflicts. These challenges hinder the effective mainstreaming of peace education in education systems.

Bearing the aforementioned considerations, this study shall endeavor to map educators who are teaching and/or integrating peace education in their current educational set-up. Peace education integration may be in any of the following schemes any of the following schemes:

- a. Integrate/Incorporate with other subjects such as, but not limited to, history, social sciences, sociology, political science, management, humanities, National Service Training Program, and Environmental Science; or
- b. Offer as a compulsory subject; or
- c. Offer as an elective subject; or
- d. Offer as an after-school complementary, voluntary, and/or self-paced program or continuous program.

The study shall include all the educators who were part of the Training Needs Assessment conducted by OPAPRU in January 2023, although the scope can still be broadened by including other peace educators who were not initially part of the Peace Education Community of Practice pool of educators.

Assessment of the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS)

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) promulgated Resolution No. 1200481 and MC No. 06, s. 2012 providing the guidelines in the establishment and implementation of the Agency SPMS. These issuances mandate all government agencies to establish the Performance Management Team (PMT) and implement their respective SPMS based on the said guidelines

In November 2021, the Office Order on the updated policy and guidelines on the SPMS was approved by the PAPRU and was issued to all OPAPRU Offices/Services/Units. This policy issuance aims to translate the agency's vision and mission into actionable strategies and align each program's strategic objectives to the overall goals of OPAPRU. The updated SPMS policy and guidelines aim to increase the level of awareness and appreciation of personnel on the performance management system, process and its implementation.

In March 2023, the proposal to amend the OPAPRU SPMS was approved by the Deputy PAPRU through Memorandum 23-1255, which included the Contract of Service (COS) personnel in the scope of the implementation coverage of the SPMS. Through this amendment, the results of the performance evaluation of both contractual and COS personnel shall serve as inputs for the Heads of Executive Offices and Directors of Program Offices and Services in providing suitable interventions for talent development in reference to the identified developmental needs.

This documentation agenda shall cover the implementation of the SPMS in OPAPRU annually, following the Four Stage Performance Management System Cycle, to wit:

- ▶ Stage 1: Performance Planning and Commitment
- ▶ Stage 2: Performance Monitoring and Coaching
- ▶ Stage 3: Performance Review and Evaluation
- ▶ Stage 4: Performance Rewarding and Development Planning

Another is the need to review current OPAPRU practices with regard to the implementation of the SPMS from 2019-2023 to identify the recurring issues, gaps and concerns and provide recommendations for the continued improvement of the process.

By conducting the assessment of the SPMS, the Agency will secure the record of the performance evaluation results of all personnel regardless of their respective employment status. It will also offer written evidence of the personnel performance as a basis for rewards, recognition, incentives, and/or promotion. The Unit/Office Heads and Executives may refer to the results of the performance evaluation in identifying the needed learning and talent development interventions of their personnel. Further, mentoring and coaching processes by the supervisors and/or office heads within the Agency can be institutionalized and documented. Lastly, it will advance improvement and automation in the SPMS Process.

There are challenges identified in the assessment such as the level of awareness of the OPAPRU personnel in the components and processes of SPMS implementation, the adherence in the implementation of the Four-Stage Performance Management Cycle by the offices/services, and the availability of data or lack thereof.

Process Evaluation on the Procurement and Distribution of Supplies and Equipment

Procurement and distribution/provision of equipment are integral activities that support OPAPRU's overall operations. A review of current OPAPRU practices with regard to the procurement and distribution/provision, using as baseline related Philippine laws, policy frameworks, and government benchmarks, would aid in the identification of the recurring issues, gaps, and concerns; providing recommendations for the continued improvement of the process.

A focus on this theme would catalyze improvement in the procurement and distribution policies of OPAPRU, and improvement on budget planning and utilization.

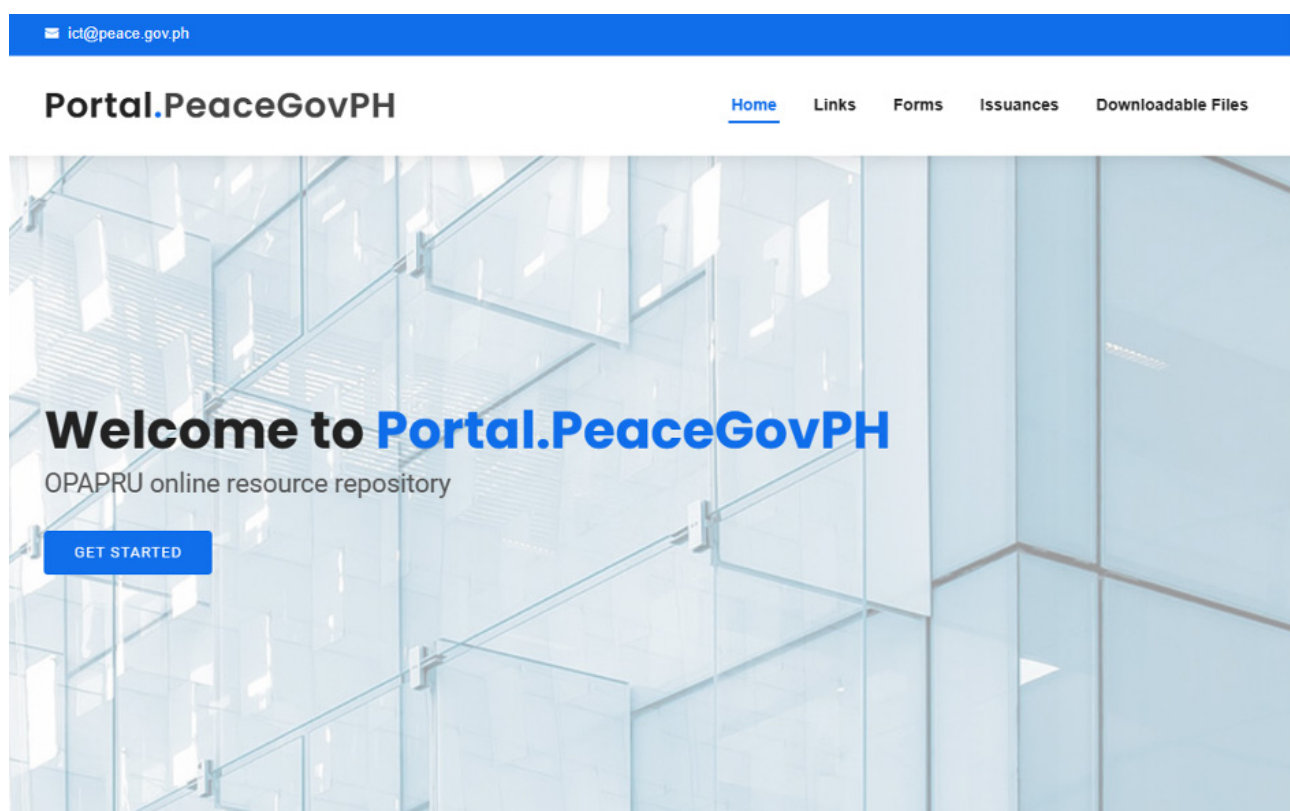
The use and impact of ICT to peace, reconciliation, unity, and conflict management

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has had a significant impact on the seamless operations of the OPAPRU. Its importance was further underscored during the pandemic as it enabled the OPAPRU to streamline its processes and allowed its personnel to work remotely. To further realize the promise of ICT and to further advance the cause of peacebuilding, the OPAPRU needs to undergo a digital transformation. Primarily, the digital transformation will cover its internal processes from financial management and human resources to preserving archiving documents.

Assessment on the adherence to the Program Expenditure Classification (PREXC) approach

In 2015, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) introduced the Program Expenditure Classification or PREXC approach in the budgeting process. Previously, under the Major Final Output (MFO) budget structure, agencies' programs, activities, and projects are grouped according to MFO. As such, a program, activity, or project may contribute to more than just one MFO.

The PREXC approach restructures this in such a way that it aligns all recurring activities and projects under the Programs in accordance with an agency's mandate.



The study will cover three areas of OPAPRU Project Information System (OPIS) such as the Financial Management Information System (FMIS), Human Resource Information System (HRIS) and Digitalization. By conducting this study, it will improve the streamlining of services, process improvement, and automation. The cost of such initiatives, however, is a foreseen challenge, so a budget forecast from this study would benefit future ICT developments.

It reflects in the budget the link between strategies, budgets, and results, and facilitates the monitoring and evaluation of programs with the performance indicators attached to each program. It also strengthens the link between planning and budgeting by clearly articulating how the government's strategies and investments under each program are linked to the attainment of desired sectoral and socio-economic results. The PREXC (2016) also establishes a regime of greater accountability on how each peso spent on a program delivers measurable results. The adoption and implementation of the PREXC budget structure started in FY 2018.

As required by the DBM, the OPAPRU submitted its initial proposed PREXC budget structure following the DBM guidelines and prescribed templates in 2016. In 2017, the OPAPRU submitted to the DBM its updated PREXC budget

structure, containing its seven (7) major programs namely: 1) Implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB); 2) Implementation of the GPH-MNLF Final Peace Agreement (FPA); 3) Negotiations with the CPP/NPA/NDF and Implementation of Agreements; 4) Implementation of the Closure Agreements; 5) PAYapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn (PAMANA) Program; 6) National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAPWPS); and, 7) Conflict and Prevention and Management Program.

However, the DBM only adopted two programs for the OPAPRU in the National Expenditure Program (NEP) for FY 2018: 1) the PAMANA program, and 2) “Technical Advisory and Support Services on the Comprehensive Peace Process Program.” The same was carried into the 2018 General Appropriations Act (GAA). The articulation of the agency’s programs in the succeeding NEPs and GAAs has not changed since. Hence the coverage of the assessment will be only for the two abovementioned programs.

This assessment is an opportunity to evaluate whether the current PREXC budget structure of the OPAPRU allows for effective and efficient implementation of the agency’s programs. It will also determine if the existing OPAPRU PREXC budget structure is responsive to and reflective of the current priority programs of the agency and identify the advantages and disadvantages of lumping several programs into one.

Implementation of the initiatives under the OPAPRU RDE Agenda 2023-2028

The initiatives under the RDE Agenda ought to guide Programs on the potential direction of their knowledge creation and provide a pool of research and documentation topics for external partners for knowledge sharing and co-creation. It aims to produce results that will facilitate the development and/or strengthening of peacebuilding initiatives towards sustained peace and development for normalized armed groups and their communities. It covers all OPAPRU Programs’ research, documentation and evaluation needs. A total of thirty-nine (39) topics, including this, are identified to be prioritized for 2023 to 2028.

By implementing the initiatives of the RDE Agenda, it should increase the understanding and awareness of the initiatives, pursuits, and concerns of OPAPRU. It shall invite feedback and creates interest in the potentials, impacts, challenges, and opportunities of past, current, and future undertakings of OPAPRU—towards improved program implementation, and development of sound and responsive policies, systems, and processes. The presented initiatives may act as valuable assets to mobilize resources and garner support from various local and international organizations.

It also encourages and promotes the continuous gathering of evidence to inform planning, program development, and implementation, and adds wealth to peacebuilding literature, that can be of help to other peace processes around the globe. Further, it will provide an evidence-based approach to ensure that decisions are based on real-world findings rather than assumptions.

It will also facilitate a culture of learning and adaptation where OPAPRU can learn from their successes and failures, leading to continuous improvement. Ultimately, it can lead to enhanced credibility of OPAPRU as it shows that OPAPRU’s programming and implementation is backed by solid research, evaluation and grassroots consultation through documentation.

The implementation of the initiatives under the RDE Agenda, however could face several challenges. Some of these are: (1) various initiatives under the RDE Agenda require significant resources, including time, funding, technology, and skilled personnel. Securing these resources are necessary to achieve identified goals, (2) a shift towards evidence-based decision-making may shift resistance, particularly if it challenges long-standing practices or beliefs; (3) the success of the initiatives relies on the quality and availability of data. Organizations might face difficulties in collecting accurate data or accessing relevant information; (4) analyzing research data and converting it into actionable insights can be complex hence organizations might require expertise in data analysis and interpretation; and lastly (5) research, documentation and evaluation often require time to gather meaningful insights. It is important to be patient and realistic about the timeframes to see substantial results.

ANNEXES

RDE Priority Themes and Lead OPAPRU Program

Topics	Responsible Program
Disbandment of Private Armed Groups (DPAGs)	PROGRAM 1: GPH–MILF Peace Process PROGRAM 2: GPH–MNLF Peace Process
Assessment on the Implementation of Socioeconomic Development Program for the Decommissioned MILF Combatants and Their Communities	PROGRAM 1: GPH–MILF Peace Process
Formulation of the roadmap for the implementation of the remaining commitments on the Bangsamoro Development Assistance Fund (BDAF) and Tripartite Implementation Monitoring Committee (TIMC)	PROGRAM 2: GPH–MNLF Peace Process
Scoping Study on the Special Program for the Decommissioned Members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB) and Social Welfare Committee (SWC)	PROGRAM 1: GPH–MILF Peace Process PROGRAM 2: GPH–MNLF Peace Process
Inclusion of MNLF Women Leaders in Peace Building	PROGRAM 2: GPH–MNLF Peace Process
Assessment and Scoping Study on Vulnerable Sectors in the Decommissioned MILF Combatants’ Communities	PROGRAM 1: GPH–MILF Peace Process
Intergovernmental Relations (IGR)	PROGRAM 1: GPH–MILF Peace Process

Implementation of the Localized Peace Engagement	PROGRAM 3: Localized Peace Engagements
Nexus study for Former Rebels journey in Regions 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and CAR	PROGRAM 3: Localized Peace Engagements
National Baseline Study for LPE	PROGRAM 3: Localized Peace Engagements
Summative Assessment of the Implementation of Localized Peace Engagement and its Transformation Program	PROGRAM 3: Localized Peace Engagements
Implementation of the Transformation Plan for the RPM-P/RPA/ABB including the continuing transformation of the KAPATIRAN	PROGRAM 4: GPH-RPM-P/RPA/ABB Peace Process
Impact Evaluation of the on-going GPH-CBA-CPLA Peace Process	PROGRAM 4: GPH-RPM-P/RPA/ABB Peace Process
The role of women and youth in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas in preventing and transforming violent extremism (PTVE)	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding
Assessment of the Indigenous Peoples role in preventing and transforming violent extremism (PTVE) in the Bangsamoro	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding

Assessment of IDP Children’s Concept of the Marawi Siege	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding
Assessment of the Participation of grassroots women in the implementation of the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) 2023-2033	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding
Assessment of youth participation and representation in the implementation of the National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security (NAPYPS) in conflict affected and conflict vulnerable areas	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding
Impact Assessment of the Conflict-Sensitivity and Peace Promotion (CSPP) Trainings to Peace Partners	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding
Process Evaluation of the Indigenous Peoples Healing and Reconciliation (IP H&R)	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding
Baseline Study of the NAPWPS 2023-2033	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding
Midterm Evaluation of the NAPWPS 2023-2033	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding
Baseline Study of the NAPYPS 2023-2033	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding

Midterm Evaluation of the NAPYPS 2023-2033	PROGRAM 5: Social Healing and Peacebuilding
Process Evaluation of PAMANA National Program Management Office (NPMO)	PROGRAM 6: PAyapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn (PAMANA) Program
Impact-Assessment of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the Implementation of the Philippine Comprehensive Peace Process	PROGRAM 6: PAyapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn (PAMANA) Program
Comparing International Peace Processes, Good Practices, Lessons Learned and the Role of the International Community in each	PROGRAM 7: International Cooperation and Partnership
Government mechanism for monitoring programs and projects of international partners in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas	PROGRAM 7: International Cooperation and Partnership
Enhancing the government’s capacity to manage, direct, integrate and supervise all aspects of the comprehensive peace process including initiatives for national unity and reconciliation	PROGRAM 8: Organizational Capital
Transforming while performing: The Story of OPAPRU’s internal transformation while transforming the lives of Filipinos in conflict- affected and vulnerable areas	PROGRAM 8: Organizational Capital
Feasibility study on transformation of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) into Department of Peace, Reconciliation and Unity	PROGRAM 8: Organizational Capital

Feasibility study on the creation of the Philippine Institute for Peace and Development	PROGRAM 8: Organizational Capital
Towards the Development of a National Education for Peace and Sustainable Development Integration Framework and Roadmap for Basic, Higher and Other Learning Institutions	PROGRAM 8: Organizational Capital
Mapping Peace Educators' Peace Education Competencies: Basis for a Peace Education Capacity Building Program for Teachers	PROGRAM 8: Organizational Capital
Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS)	PROGRAM 8: Finance/Resources PROGRAM 8: Human Capital
Process Evaluation on the Procurement and Distribution of Supplies and Equipment	PROGRAM 8: Finance/Resources
The use and impact of ICT to peace, reconciliation, unity, and conflict management	PROGRAM 8: Organizational Capital PROGRAM 8: Finance/Resources
Assessment on the adherence to the Program Expenditure Classification (PREXC) approach	PROGRAM 8: Finance/Resources
Implementation of the initiatives under the RDE Agenda 2023	PROGRAM 8: Organizational Capital

To explore partnership opportunities aligned with the OPAPRU Research, Documentation, and Evaluation (RDE) Agenda 2023-2028, please email us at **opapru.rde@peace.gov.ph**



BAGONG PILIPINAS