



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Communication & Engagement Final Report

Australian Development Research Awards Scheme

2012 Funding Round

Purpose: The aim of this template is to provide the Australian Government and research teams with a systematic way to collect data on the outcomes of individual ADRAS research projects. Reporting includes a mix of metrics, case studies and narrative and can be tailored to suit individual projects.

The Communication and Engagement Final Report is a supplement to the ADRAS Final Report, coming six months after project completion, to provide any further updates in terms of knowledge outputs/outcomes and/or policy impacts. Tables should include an update on data provided in the ADRAS Final Report.

Agreement Number	66148
Project Title Please restate the working title as specified on the Australian Aid website at: http://aid.dfat.gov.au/research/Pages/adras-awards-2012.aspx	Ways for Women to Participate in Peacebuilding (Philippines)
Administering Organisation	The Australian National University
Principal Investigator	Dr Imelda Deinla
Total Australian Aid funding received during reporting year (AUD\$)	\$755,213

1. Please outline what has been achieved by the project in terms of influencing policy/practice/thinking in the field of study? *Limit 500 words.*

Six months after the completion of the project and submission of the final ADRAS Report, this project has continued its work on engagement and communication with key stakeholders.

For this project to have comprehensively influenced domestic and international policy, practice and attitudes in ARMM as a conflict area would have been an ambitious target for a 3-year time span, even without the complications of change of Presidency in the Philippines and the consequent fragile political situation nationwide, and the outbreak of severe episodes of violent conflict (Mamasapano in 2016 and Marawi in 2017) which have had the effect of suspending the peace process and delaying a final, legal settlement of peace in Mindanao. In short, what began as a very promising political environment for the project in 2015 was rapidly overtaken by numerous challenges for policy makers and local people that were more important in the moment than this project's findings, analysis and recommendations.

However, a key achievement however of this project has been its ability to engage with various actors from the state and non-state sectors. Time spent on communications and trust-building with stakeholders has yielded access to groups (such as Muslim women lawyers, insurgent groups, legal policy makers, and indigenous leaders) who have been invisible or underrepresented in other descriptions of ARMM. Relationship building with these groups, as well as with local elites, has been mostly done informally – through networks and channels – as well as formally, such as in conferences. A key message that we have communicated throughout all of these encounters is the importance of recognizing the existence of legal hybridity in Mindanao, and the potential to harness its positive aspects as well as addressing the many challenges it brings.

Attending to concerns of violence against women (VAW) in ARMM is not a 'priority' in the formal peacebuilding processes being undertaken by the government and insurgent groups. Neither is it the most pressing issue for women in Mindanao. It is, however, part of the routine business of the community-based and state justice mechanisms that are central to this project.

The prospects for long-term institution building and behavioural change in ARMM are both slow and highly contingent on reaching a peace settlement. This project, through interviews, workshops and seminars among various state and non-state based justice mechanisms has brought together disparate actors who are normally in competition with each other for influence and power in the community. In most cases, the project activity was the first time that actors had come together, much less held constructive conversations about addressing a common challenge such as VAW and thinking in a systematic way about the particular issues and needs of women in conflict.

The project has been, and will continue to be, influential in pushing the value of evidence-based policy making. One of the contentious issues during the drafting of the shelved *Bangsamoro* Basic Law (BBL) was whether the current state-based *shari'ah* court personnel should be replaced with an entirely new set of judges and staff. This mooted government 'plan' has no empirical basis and runs counter to the situation on the ground where *shari'ah* judges actually perform their mandated functions, as well as provide mediation duties for

which they are not recognized or supported. Facilitating an open conversation about this and the many issues surrounding the possible enhancement of *shari'ah*, among the various actors, created a space to reconsider this plan and a framework of discussion through which the *shari'ah* court judges themselves could take more agency in the policy debate. At another level, the project members have engaged with policymakers, peace negotiators and legislators to broaden participation in crafting the BBL (or the legal framework that will replace this) to better take account of the interests of Indigenous peoples and Christians.

At the request of Embassy Manila, we included the World Bank and some of their stakeholders in project workshops, enabling them immediate access to the discussions and data for their own programming.

2. How have key stakeholders been engaged in the research?

Table 1: Engagement of external individual / groups / networks

In terms of update from the cessation of project activities on January 2017:

External Individuals / Groups / Networks per Theme			
External Individual / Group / Network engaged ¹	Duration of engagement ²	What / how did engaged group contribute? ³	Changes to relationships/networks ⁴
Some members of the Government of the Philippines Negotiating Panel	We have engaged with the GPH Panel since 2014 and brought its lead negotiator, Prof Miriam Coronel Ferrer, to deliver a lecture at ANU. The CI met her again, though she had been replaced, for new information about the new composition of the expanded Bangsamoro Transition Commission under the new Duterte administration.	They gave us leads/ introduction to their counterparts – MILF, and also introduced us to legislators that will be responsible for review and passage of basic law. They also participated in the discussions with justice providers from Mindanao, particularly clarifying issues in the draft law in terms of the provisions of the proposed enhanced <i>Shari'ah</i> .	Continuing communication/ engagement has kept us in the loop of new developments and also allowed us some 'capital' with various groups for future work or collaboration.
National Commission for Muslim Filipinos	Since 2014.	Since the last report, we have engaged research team members on their feedback/ suggestions about the research and particularly the survey they implemented, and how to improve the process and partnership.	Forging deeper relationship – and possible collaboration in follow-up activities even after the termination of project.
Philippine Political Science Association	Since February 2017.	The PPSA invited the CI to present ADRAS findings during the PPSA International Conference on 12-14 May 2017, which was attended by more than 400 presenters and organizers from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.	As its membership is nation-wide, the CI was able to meet with scholars and practitioners working on Mindanao.

¹ *Engaged*: State the name of the organisation / institution / group / network and any relevant individual or key contact personnel involved

² *Duration of engagement*: State whether the engagement is 'new' i.e. commenced during the ADRAS project or 'existing' and include the years of engagement e.g. 2009, 2010, 2011

³ *Contribution of engaged group*: Classify the contribution according to which stage in your research project the engagement has occurred. For example: Design; Implementation/fieldwork; report writing; review. Consideration of findings/recommendations; Communication / dissemination

⁴ *Change*: Outcomes in terms of changes in engagement – relationships / structures, networks including creation of new networks; formalizing relationships e.g. through MoU's;

3. What knowledge outputs or research communications have resulted from the project? How have these been used to achieve the research objectives?

Please provide the Australian Government with copies of these outputs with this progress report.

Table 1: Key knowledge Outputs

There have been three outputs produced since submission of Final ADRAS Report:

Type of output	Title/description of output	Published Y/N?	Source	
Conference paper/poster/presentation	<i>Legal Hybridity, Shari'ah and Rule of Law in Mindanao, Philippines</i>	N	Preliminary notes and Powerpoint for conference presentation (forthcoming journal publication); part of this report	1
Academic paper (journal article/working paper/book chapter/monograph)	Beyond political accommodation: making <i>Shari'ah</i> justice work for women in the Bangsamoro	N	Under review for publication with <i>Law and Policy</i> ; part of this report	1
Policy document (Policy brief/research brief /recommendations /seminar)	Consolidated Policy and Research Brief	N	Brief and powerpoint - Part of this report	2
			No of total outputs:	4

Table 2: Methods of Communication

Communication per Knowledge Output				
Target Audience	Knowledge output	Communication Method ⁵	Audience Reached ⁶	Response ⁷
Academics and practitioners	Legal Hybridity, Women and Peacebuilding in Mindanao, Philippines	Conference presentation at the PPSA International Conference (Cebu, Philippines, 12 May 2017)	Around 50 people reached in the Philippines	Well-received and opportunity to link with scholars working on Mindanao
Academics and practitioners	Legal Hybridity, Shari'ah and Rule of Law in the Mindanao	Conference presentation at the Law and Society Association Conference (Mexico City, 24 June 2017)	Around 11 academics reached, coming from Australia, Japan, UK and North America	Well-received presentation, and with constructive feedback
Academics and practitioners	Consolidated Policy and Research Brief	To be discussed during the 'Preventing violence against women – beyond law and	Approx 40 participants, including significant representation from DFAT, private	

		justice' seminar, 31 August 2017, ANU and DFAT Law and Justice Community of Practice	sector and university gender and development specialists	

4. Are there any future C&E activities planned or in the pipeline that will improve the reach and/or uptake and use of the research?

A full consolidated research report is in the drafting stages as a collective work product involving local partners. We aim to product this as a 'plain English' document with plenty of infographic content so that it can be used – and parts translated. Once completed, it will be widely circulated, primarily in the Philippines and Australia. By applying for other forms of funding, we also plan to go back to our respondents and stakeholders for reporting and feedback in early 2018 and explore possibilities for future research. Timing is contingent on the political situation in Mindanao and Manila.

5. What can we learn from challenges/issues experienced in relation to C&E throughout the project? *Limit 500 words.*

⁵ *Communication Method*: General statement of method e.g. publication, social media, seminar, meeting, conference, teaching, course etc.

⁶ *Audience Reached*: Specify level as well as estimate proportion of intended target audience reached, where possible. Include gender breakdown

⁷ *Response*: Qualitative assessment of response or sign of attention paid to the communication by the target audience E.g. expressions of interest; requests for more information; active participation and engagement; provision of comments or feedback. May include negative responses.

Timing, sensitivity and tact are important consideration in communicating and engaging with key stakeholders, particularly with local actors in Mindanao. Key actors in the centre, Manila, are also reticent in openly discussing their views on Mindanao. Trust-building is important, before one even thinks of engagement. Informal discussions through multiple channels are necessary before reaching the intended person or group. Informal discussions and demonstrated capacity to keep these confidential are more effective and have more persuasive value than formal presentations or meetings. For example, when the CI presented at the PPSA Conference everyone was quiet and not one question was asked. However, she was quietly approached by interested participants after the presentation and asked in detail about the research.

The ARMM, with its persistent history of conflict, is a highly contested space and known for frequent changes of policy actors who come and go with the fluid political environment. Thus, researchers need to keep abreast of developments on the ground and in Manila, keep checking in with stakeholders and to be able to exercise flexibility in dealing with different personalities and loyalties.

Communicating with people on the ground is also very constrained by the security situation and inadequate communication infrastructure. This project has, however, given the team an invaluable experience of listening to voices from the ground and giving this amplification in the research outputs, in contrast to the way that they are rarely heard in 'mainstream' discourses. It is important to elevate these voices in the discourse that is mostly dominated by elites in the region and in Manila. The importance of engaging with the local also dispels many stereotypes and generalizations about women in conflict and of Muslim women. This research has given us a contextual understanding of violence and issues confronting women in Mindanao, Philippines.

9. Certification

I certify that all the details contained in this C&E Final Report are true and that all research partners and co-investigators agree that this report is an accurate representation of the projects progress so far.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. de Vries', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Signed, Principal Investigator

Date: 14 July 2017