

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Communique between United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)
Date	12 Mar 2007
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Philippine Insurgencies (1968 -)

The Maoist Insurgencies (1968 -)

Philippines-NDF

The Philippines have been defined by a series of center-periphery and often ideologically Maoist, separatist insurgencies. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), began its war against the central Philippine government in 1968 through their armed wing – the New People’s Army (NPA). Further legitimacy was gained through the establishment of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in 1973. Grievances were predominantly opposed to the corruption and repression under the authoritarian Marcos regime.

Philippines-Cordillera

With the overthrow of Marcos’ regime in 1986, the CPP factionalized further to take on more localized characteristics. The Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA) broke away from the NDF in 1986 to focus on the protection of the Cordilleran people and land in northern Luzon. Hostilities were formally ended in July 2011, with an agreement signed between the central government, the CPLA and the Cordillera Bodong Administration (CBA) that allowed for the absorption of CPLA fighters into the Philippine Army and the re-working of the CBA-CPLA into a socio-development organisation.

Philippines-RPM-P

Meanwhile, purge among the CPP in the early 1990s, encouraged the formation of a parallel party, the Revolutionary Workers Party (RPM-P). Their armed wing, the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) which had carried out a number of assassinations during the 1980s at the bequest of the CPP, followed suit and allied themselves with the RPM-P in 1997 forming the (RPM-P-RPA-ABB). Severely weakened by the split with the CPP and with the arrest of several key figures, the RPM-P-RPA-ABB signed a peace agreement in December 2000, which encouraged the RPM-P’s branch in Mindanao to break away in 2001.

The CPP-NPA has only participated in intermittent talks with the government. Talks halted in 2004 when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s administration sought closer ties with the U.S. in the war on terror and added the CPP-NPA to the list of terrorist organisations, renewing violence. Following the launch of a counter-insurgency by the Philippine government, negotiations have been further delayed due to suspected internal differences between the CPP ‘old guard’ and younger members.

The Moro Insurgency (1968 -)

Philippines-Mindanao

The Moro Insurgency began in 1968, in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago after the killing of Moro Commandos, the so-called Jabidah Massacre, by the Philippine Army following a plot to invade Sabah province in Malaysia. The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) captured a swath of territory in the mid-1970s. In an attempt to stem the violence, the constitution was reformed and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was created 1990 granting a devolution of power to the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. Following the establishment of the ARMM, the MNLF splintered into a range of smaller groups including Islamic factions such as the

Stage	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	<p>For UNICEF</p> <p>Dr. Nicholas K. Alipui</p> <p>Representative, UNICEF Philippines</p> <p>For MILF</p> <p>Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim</p> <p>Chairman, MILF</p>
Third parties	IMT
Description	In the Joint Communique, UNICEF and MILF agree on the importance of rights of women and children and agree to deliver basic services (immunisation, birth registration, micronutrient supplementation, etc.) in an event called Days of Peace, with MILF tasked with providing security.
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Agreement document	PH_070212_Joint Communique between UNICEF and MILF.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
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Groups

Children/youth

Groups→Children/youth→Substantive

This whole agreement concerns children and services for children.

Page1 :

1. Both parties agree that the rights of children and women should be upheld at all times and that essential services must be provided without interruption;
2. Both parties recognize the need to undertake deliberate extra-ordinary efforts to reach children and women living in conflict-affected and hard-to-reach communities;
3. Both parties acknowledge that political negotiations at the highest levels should be complemented by peace-building efforts at the grassroots to ensure support and participation of communities in the peace process;
4. To help improve the situation of children and women and contribute to the enhancement of the social condition for peace, UNICEF will launch a “Days of Peace” campaign designed to deliver basic social services in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao;
5. UNICEF will use its own resources as well as mobilise support from international organizations, the Philippine government and civil society organisations to deliver these services;
6. The initial round of Days of Peace will commence on April 16 and will consist of immunization, micronutrient supplementation, de-worming and breastfeeding counselling in selected barangays; follow-up rounds will occur in June/July and October in 2007 and beyond with additional basic services that will be added on, i.e. birth registration, malaria control, control of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, etc.; the establishment of community-based health programmes in selected areas will also be initiated during this period;
7. UNICEF will work with the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) for the identification of target barangays giving priority to those that have been affected by armed conflict and internal displacements, most inaccessible and with substantial number of children and women;

Page 2:

8. The BDA who will act as the co-convenor of the Management Team of the campaign together with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) will help organise and prepare the target communities through their Regional Project Management Offices (RPMOs);
9. The Days of Peace campaign requires a commitment to full cessation of hostilities from all parties to facilitate maximum delivery of services for children; the MILF will be in charge of providing access and guaranteeing security for the service delivery teams;

Disabled persons

No specific mention.

Elderly/age

No specific mention.

Migrant workers

No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/ national group

No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 1:
7. UNICEF will work with the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) for the identification of target barangays giving priority to those that have been affected by armed conflict and internal displacements, most inaccessible and with substantial number of children and women;

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender Page1 :

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Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society	<p>Page 1: 3. Both parties acknowledge that political negotiations at the highest levels should be complemented by peace-building efforts at the grassroots to ensure support and participation of communities in the peace process;</p> <p>Page 1: 5. UNICEF will use its own resources as well as mobilise support from international organizations, the Philippine government and civil society organisations to deliver these services;</p>
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	No specific mention.
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.
Civil and political rights	No specific mention.
Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment Page 1:
6. The initial round of Days of Peace will commence on April 16 and will consist of immunization, micronutrient supplementation, de-worming and breastfeeding counselling in selected barangays; follow-up rounds will occur in June/July and October in 2007 and beyond with additional basic services that will be added on, i.e. birth registration, malaria control, control of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, etc.; the establishment of community-based health programmes in selected areas will also be initiated during this period;

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 2:
The Days of Peace campaign requires a commitment to full cessation of hostilities from all parties to facilitate maximum delivery of services for children; the MILF will be in charge of providing access and guaranteeing security for the service delivery teams; [Note: cessation of hostilities must at least cover the duration of the Days of Peace activities, From April 16 2007, at least through to October 2007]

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	For UNICEF Dr. Nicholas K. Alipui Representative, UNICEF Philippines
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Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar Page 2:
10. This agreement shall be implemented in cooperation and coordination with other stakeholders including, but not limited to, the International Monitoring Team (IMT), Joint Coordinating Committees for the Cessation of Hostilities (JCCCH), Local Government Units (LGUs) and Department of Health (DOH).

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.
