

## APPENDIX 1: **Background and Purpose**

### **Background**

The Philippines' Partnership for Growth (PFG) is a bilateral partnership between the United States Government (USG) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GPH) initiated in 2012. It is one of four such Partnerships created around the world as part of a signature U.S. Presidential initiative. The Philippines' PFG seeks to accelerate and sustain broad-based and inclusive growth by addressing key constraints to growth that were identified in a jointly conducted Constraints Analysis (CA). Based on this CA, the USG and the GPH developed a Joint Country Action Plan (JCAP) that identified a set of policy reform and project activities through which the constraints would be addressed.

The Partnership for Growth is not a "project" or a "program" in the traditional sense, but more of an overarching conceptual framework linking activities of a diverse range of development actors targeting key constraints in the Philippine economy. It is currently characterized by a relatively limited governance structure needing enhanced lines of authority and without a secretariat or staff. More generally, PFG governance is about empirical analysis, information sharing and coordination than about management.

Reflecting its unique nature, the "logical framework" that connects PFG inputs and outputs to purposes and goals is, at least at this point, both incomplete and not particularly robust. The PFG has also been evolving, adding new activities, such as the Cities Development Initiative (CDI), which were not envisioned in the original JCAP. In addition, United States for International Development (USAID) is implementing very substantial programs in health, education and the environment that the Mission views as contributing significantly to the PFG even though they were not part of the JCAP and are not fully encompassed by the existing PFG governance structure.

The recently conducted PFG mid-term evaluation included a Philippines Case Study that identified the need for more robust PFG-wide monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The weakness of PFG-wide M&E in the Philippines reflected not so much the absence of activity level M&E data or of an overall M&E framework (which was developed in 2012), as the lack of an instituted mechanism (and dedicated staff) to collect and analyze this performance data across thematic areas and for the PFG as a whole and to marshal this analysis as a basis for PFG performance reviews. The mid-term evaluation also noted that PFG coordination and governance would benefit from a more fully articulated "theory of change" encompassing activities by all PFG participants, including USAID's Cities Development Initiative and Human Development (Education and Health) activities.

### **Purpose**

USAID Philippines (USAID/P) seeks technical support to establish and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework that will provide a more rigorous and empirical basis for decision making, oversight and reporting by the PFG steering committee and sub-committees. This will include assembling, analyzing and organizing data both on overall PFG performance and on the performance of the PFG's constituent programs, projects and activities. In particular, this task order will provide monitoring and evaluation advisory services and analytical support to the PFG Steering Committee, the three thematic sub-committees, and the sub-committee on cross-cutting programs to facilitate work flows, clarify key development hypotheses (and their underlying theories of change), inform PFG Performance Reviews, and strengthen the empirical basis for PFG oversight and decision-making.

USAID/P also seeks secretariat support for the PFG steering committee to facilitate meetings, and organizing data on overall PFG performance and its constituent programs, projects and activities.