



- USAID tuberculosis programs achieved a 90 percent treatment success rate among newly diagnosed cases in target areas.
- USAID helped pioneer mobile phone banking in the Philippines, which has connected 10 million Filipinos with financial services and improved transparency in government transactions.
- USAID programs have helped conserve more than 6.3 million acres of forest lands and coastal areas.
- Since 2013, USAID has facilitated more than \$5 billion in infrastructure investments in the Philippines.

Photo credit: USAID CHANGE Project

## Country Profile

The Philippines, Southeast Asia’s oldest democracy, is an important development, trade and security partner to the United States. In recent years, the Philippines has made substantial economic progress, although one-fifth of the population still lives in extreme poverty. Through the Partnership for Growth (PFG), a White House initiative implemented in only four countries worldwide, the United States and the Philippines collaborate to address the country’s most serious constraints to lasting equitable growth.

With an overall goal of supporting a more prosperous, stable and well-governed nation, USAID’s programs in the Philippines focus on accelerating and sustaining inclusive economic growth through Partnership for Growth activities in the areas of governance, economic growth, and health and education, and through activities that enhance the country’s environmental resilience and foster peace and stability in six conflict-affected areas of Mindanao.

## OUR WORK

Since 2012, the U.S.-Philippines Partnership for Growth has addressed the Philippines’ most binding constraints to inclusive and sustainable growth: ineffective governance, insufficient public financing, inadequate infrastructure and weak human capacity.

In recent years, the Philippines has emerged as one of the fastest growing economies in the region, with gross domestic product growth averaging 6.7 percent annually. For the first time, the Philippines has received investment-grade sovereign debt ratings from three of the world’s leading credit rating agencies. In 2014, the Philippines’ ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index improved by nine points over the previous year, and, in the Global Competitiveness Index, the Philippines’ position improved by 33 places over its 2010 ranking — the biggest global jump for that period.

Yet economic gains have not yet generated tangible improvements in the lives of many Filipinos. USAID’s work is as critical as ever to ensure that recent gains are sustained and enjoyed by all Filipinos. To amplify the success and sustainability of our interventions, we have been at the forefront of applying innovation, technology, partnerships and local solutions.

## PARTNERSHIP FOR GROWTH

Through the Partnership for Growth, USAID collaborates with seven U.S. Government agencies and the Philippine government to address the country's most binding constraints to lasting, shared growth. Programs support businesses in creating more jobs by streamlining the business licensing process, and they strengthen the capacity of lead government agencies to curb large-scale corruption in government. USAID helps to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the judiciary to enforce commercial contracts. We also help shepherd public-private partnerships in infrastructure development. To spread economic gains outside the national capital region, USAID works through its Cities Development Initiative to establish growth hubs in a select number of second-tier cities. We invest in the next generation's ability to sustain growth by improving early-grade reading skills for one million children, helping universities align curricula with industry demands, and improving the science, technology and innovation ecosystem to make universities and industry more competitive. In health, USAID supports the Philippines in working toward universal health care by strengthening health systems and increasing access to and demand for quality health services in 45 provinces — home to nearly 75 percent of the population.

## PEACE AND STABILITY IN MINDANAO

Since the 1990s, USAID has promoted peace and stability in Mindanao by supporting economic growth, improved delivery of social services and good governance. Following significant improvements in most provinces, USAID now focuses on the remaining six most conflict-ridden areas of Mindanao, in the realms of governance, economic growth, health, education, water and natural resource management. Our assistance helps to both improve local government's delivery of social and economic services and bolster citizen engagement in the process, especially among youth.

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

One of the world's most disaster-prone countries, the Philippines loses up to \$5 billion per year to natural disasters. The U.S. and the Philippines partner to enhance the country's environmental resilience and mitigate the risk and impacts of natural disasters. For long-term resilience, USAID works with the Philippine government to improve natural resource management, implement disaster risk-reduction programs and integrate low-emission development strategies in local planning.

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The U.S. Government has provided more than \$240 million in disaster assistance to the Philippines over the last 10 years. Roughly 60 percent of that amount has been provided since November 2013 to help the Philippines recover from Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest tropical storms ever recorded. USAID and the U.S. military assisted three million people as soon as the typhoon hit. Today, USAID is rebuilding schools and health clinics, investing in livelihood activities, and supporting the Philippine government's national recovery planning and coordination.

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USAID helps out-of-school youth in Mindanao to enter the workforce and develop their communities. Photo credit: USAID MYDev



USAID is helping Typhoon Haiyan-affected areas build back better with disaster-resilient schools and medical facilities. Photo credit: USAID Rebuild