

International House NY
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Komunidad (Community): Peace Hubs in Mindanao
Marawi City, Philippines

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

I am requesting support from the Davis Projects for Peace to create Peace Hub spaces in Marawi City for sustainable peace, conflict resilience, and regenerative healing through community-based peace education series and collective performance-making. This will be done in partnership with Sining Kambayaka, a cultural theater group based in Marawi City, Mindanao

II. INTRODUCTION OF CONTEXT

In 2017 in Mindanao, the southern islands of the Philippines, one of its cities, Marawi, suffered the consequences of extremist-terrorism-related violence. The displaced survivors locally referred to as *bakwit*, evacuees in their own cities, communities and homes, saw the horrific face of human-made disasters in the ugliest manifestations of war.

Mindanao, the southernmost major island in the Philippine archipelago is known for having rich natural resources, and a vast diversity of ethnicities and cultures. It is home to the Bangsamoro, a group of Muslim people within the ethnolinguistic groups in Southeast Asia. These groups, under their shared collective identity, inhabited, governed, and practiced their faith and traditions in Mindanao, preceding the forced formation of the Philippines, and surviving the persistent attempts of colonization by foreign forces such as Spain.

After more than 600 years of warfare, prejudice and discrimination within and against the Bangsamoro, in 2018, the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), *a Philippine law that pushes for the establishment of an autonomous political entity that will replace the Administrative Region in Muslim Mindanao*, was passed as a law and peace is now an ongoing negotiation among its people.

III. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES and OUTPUTS

1. A dedicated mobile space that will serve as a Peace HUB that will host activities for peace education and performing togetherness.
2. A 1-week PROTOTYPE PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM packed with creative peace education & performance workshops, and rehearsals leading to the cumulative *Community Performance*. Its development influences the contents of the Performance Module, and will be developed further in the next Cycles.
3. A day-time COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE, gathering different people from different sectors and backgrounds in Marawi to participate in co-imagining and performing a community imbibing a Culture of Peace.
4. A PEACE MODULE on how to establish Peace Hubs and Peace Activities in their own communities. The locals will further develop and test for eventual distribution in the next project Cycles with/to more Bangsamoro communities, to ensure it is easily adaptable to different and constantly changing cultures and contexts.

IV. RESULT AREAS :

1. Bangsamoro Communities are able to appreciate and understand peace as a lived and co-created way of togetherness.
2. Conflict management and responses are identified and enacted by locals through collaborative participation and consensus.
3. Locals facilitate and perform new and creative ways of peaceful togetherness with/in and outside their respective homes and communities.
4. Locals hold space or Peace Hubs that support and sustain inclusive and regenerative peace processes in Bangsamoro communities.
5. Locals exemplify increased stakeholder participation in creating a demand to uphold and maintain a culture of peace in their communities.

V. INDICATORS OF SUCCESS AND EVALUATION

Developmental Evaluation (DE) is an experimental approach for monitoring, evaluating, and learning that is cognizant of real-world evaluation challenges and at the same time responds to the need for:

- 1) constantly understanding, navigating, and adjusting to the complex evolving situation, such as the implications of the plebiscite and elections in Marawi city, to ensure project effectiveness and nurture innovations; and
- 2) finding out in a timely manner if peace efforts programmed are really making a difference in the lives of people, through a simple evaluation form, and a continuous conversation with the local partners/ fellows, assessing the needs in the communities.

This project explores the potentials of using developmental evaluation to make sense of uncertainty, capture change, and support the timely adaptation and development of peace project innovations in a dynamic conflict setting. Developmental Evaluation (DE) focuses on the evaluation of innovations in complex dynamic environments and supports adaptation, as well as systems change (Patton 2016). This highly participatory approach emerged in response to the need for real-time learning in complex and emergent situations and is especially suited in highly dynamic settings such as conflict affected areas of Mindanao. This approach will also be helpful to accompany the project in developing new approaches to problems and in providing timely feedback to staff necessary for project adaptation and improvement.