Introduction

Civil society in the Philippines is historically among the world’s most vibrant and active. Rooted in traditional values of communal unity, or bayanihan, and Western democratic ideals, thousands of Philippine civil society organizations (CSOs) seek to build peace, alleviate poverty, protect human rights, promote economic growth, and ensure social inclusion. CSOs are remarkably known for serving as lifelines to the most vulnerable populations, especially in times of crisis and disaster triggered by natural hazard. They also have strong and productive working relationships with the national and local governments. CSOs largely depend on bilateral and multilateral donor institutions for funding, although domestic sources such as the government and the private sector also offer support. Larger organizations have strong management and networking capacities, and the sector has been able to withstand challenges such as funding.

Country Context

The Philippines is an archipelago of 7,641 islands near the equator in the Pacific Ocean. The world’s 12th most populous country, the Philippines has an ethnically diverse population of 109 million people. Filipino (a version of Tagalog) and English are the official languages, although scores of other languages are also spoken. The Philippines is one of two predominantly Christian countries in Asia, with almost 86 million people affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. Its tropical climate hosts abundant wildlife and natural resources but is prone to frequent typhoons.

A former Spanish and United States colony, the Philippines gained independence in 1946. Over the next 3 decades, democratically elected governments grappled with the challenges of modernization and economic development while dealing with chronic insurgencies. Since World War II, communist insurgents and Muslim separatists seeking autonomy for the Moro people in the southern island of Mindanao have engaged in frequent armed conflict with the government. In 1972, President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Sr. imposed
martial law, which remained in effect until democracy was reinstated in 1986 through the “people power” revolt. A 2014 peace agreement between the government and Muslim groups paved the way for growth in the southern Philippines, but violent clashes with Communist groups continue in remote areas.

The Philippines is among Southeast Asia’s most dynamic economies. Gross domestic product growth is expected to reach 6.0% in 2023 and 6.2% in 2024, driven largely by rising employment, public investment, the resumption of tourism after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and expanding production and retail sales. Remittances are an important source of income and reached a record high of $3.49 billion in December 2022. The Philippines officially joined the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the world’s largest trade bloc, in February 2023.

The country ranked 116 of 191 countries, or in the medium range of human development, in the United Nations’ 2021–2022 Human Development Index, which measures average achievements in life expectancy, education, and standard of living. Some 18.1% of the population lives below the poverty line.

The country’s long-term strategy, AmBisyon Natin 2040, envisions inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Priority areas for development are housing, manufacturing, connectivity, education, tourism, agriculture, health and wellness, and financial services. A major goal is to expand the public infrastructure for water, sanitation, electricity, transportation, and the internet. The government has implemented major tax reforms to raise revenues to support public investment, but graft and corruption, armed conflict, and weak resistance to disasters triggered by natural hazards continue to impede development.

The 1987 Constitution of the Philippines established a presidential system of government, with separate and equal executive, legislative, and judicial branches. The President is elected for one 6-year term with no provision for reelection. Senators are elected for a maximum of two 6-year terms, while members of the House of Representatives may serve a maximum of three consecutive 3-year terms. Supreme Court justices are appointed by the president. Administratively, the Philippines is divided into 82 provinces, 1,486 municipalities, and 148 cities.

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declines, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and the strict enforcement of a domestic anti-terrorism law. Today, Philippine CSOs are a firmly established component of the country’s development and nation-building aspirations. See the Country Context box for a description of their operating environment.

Civil Society Overview

Civil society occupies a large and vibrant space in the Philippines. Its roots reach back to the period of colonization by Spain and the United States, when a broad concept of basic political, civil, and human rights was at the heart of the struggle for independence. During the era of Spanish rule (1565–1898), the Catholic Church introduced welfare organizations such as parochial schools, orphanages, asylums, and hospitals. Under American rule (1900–1946), a framework for Philippine democracy was established with the transfer of traditions such as free elections, the rule of law, majority rule with minority rights, freedom of speech and assembly, and the rights of the individual and disadvantaged groups. Charities such as the American Red Cross and the Anti-Tuberculosis Society began work in the country, and secular domestic organizations such as workers’ cooperatives grew in number. After World War II, institutions such as the United Nations (UN) and church-based foundations helped rebuild the country, mostly by providing aid and social welfare services.

Civil society emerged as a major force in the Philippines in the 1970s and 1980s, when massive “people power” demonstrations led to the removal from office of President Ferdinand Marcos, Sr. in 1986. Under the subsequent administration of President Corazon Aquino (1986–1992), a new constitution was adopted that enshrined people’s right to participate in the country’s social, economic, and political affairs and recognized the state’s responsibility to encourage the development of nongovernment organizations (NGOs). Civil society flourished as the government facilitated multiple roles for CSOs and appointed CSO leaders to key positions. Large amounts of funding from external donors and allocations from the national budget helped ensure that community development projects and other civil society initiatives were consistently implemented. As a result of this investment, the number of CSOs increased quickly from 27,000 in 1986 to 53,000 in 1992.²

Administrative reforms throughout the 1990s established mechanisms for citizen participation in public affairs and gave civil society a wide berth for engaging in social and political reform, peacebuilding, and anti-poverty programs. The government of President Fidel Ramos (1992–1998) supported dialogue with CSOs and introduced mechanisms for ensuring citizens’ participation in decentralized governance. In 1998, the National Anti-Poverty Commission was signed into law by President Joseph Ejercito Estrada and strengthened by his successor, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. The commission relied heavily on cooperation with CSOs to implement the government’s anti-poverty agenda. By the time Benigno Aquino III was elected president in 2010, CSOs were well integrated into the country’s governing structures. CSOs’ participation in social, economic, and political affairs peaked between 2010 and 2016, when they played a leading role in sectors as diverse as education, reproductive health, and anticorruption.

However, in 2013, allegations of misuse of the Priority Development Assistance Fund, a national budget allocation for legislators’ priority projects, severely impacted the CSO community. A senate investigation found that funds had been channeled to individuals through fraudulent organizations registered as CSOs. The scandal caused the government to temporarily disqualify some CSOs from receiving government funding until their legitimacy was verified. The government also introduced more stringent guidelines for determining CSOs’ eligibility to receive funding. For its part, the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), the largest CSO umbrella group in the country, introduced stronger self-regulatory mechanisms, including standards of good governance. CODE-NGO recommended that only organizations with good records for 3 years should qualify for government accreditation and funding.

CSOs have continued to cooperate with the administrations of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte (2016–2022) and President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. (elected in 2022) while seeking to secure the country’s democratic institutions. Although the COVID-19 pandemic presented manifold challenges, including decreased funding, declines in capacity, and stringent lockdown restrictions, many CSOs were quick to realign their activities to the pandemic response. After the pandemic subsided, the bulk of organizations, whether service providers, advocacy and watchdog

groups, community- and faith-based associations, or academic and research institutions, reengaged in programming activities.

Today, CSOs work across the country to represent the interests and meet the needs of disadvantaged populations. As Philippine CSOs have especially strong relationships with poor communities, they engage mainly in poverty alleviation, especially in rural areas, and the delivery of social services to women, youth, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, internally displaced persons, and other disadvantaged groups. Advocacy organizations work on national policy issues and the monitoring of government projects. International CSOs cooperate with local organizations and the government on concerns such as climate change, conflict transformation, and good governance.

As of 2022, approximately 378,500 CSOs were registered with various government agencies. This number includes 172,747 CSOs listed as nonstock, nonprofit organizations (2020), 85,833 labor organizations (2019), 66,407 workers’ associations (2019), 28,784 cooperatives (2018), and 24,693 homeowners’ associations (2022). Many other registered and unregistered groups are also active.

Legal and Regulatory Framework for Civil Society

The Philippines generally has an enabling legal, regulatory, and policy environment for CSOs. The Philippine Constitution includes a bill of rights guaranteeing citizens’ rights to free assembly, association, expression, and other fundamental freedoms. Article II, Section 23 stipulates that “the State shall encourage non-governmental, community-based, or sector organizations that promote the welfare of the nation.” Articles X and XIII emphasize the right of CSOs and civil society platforms to participate in all levels of social, political, and economic decision-making.

The importance of citizen engagement in local governance is stressed in the Local Government Code of 1991, policies and guidelines of the Department of Budget and Management and the Commission on Audit, and the annual General Appropriations Act. Recognition of civil society’s role in development is expressed in several laws, including the Batas Pambansa Bilang 68, or Corporation Code, which governs nonstock, nonprofit organizations; Presidential Decree No. 442, or the Labor Code, which governs labor organizations and workers’ associations; Republic Act No. 9520, or the Cooperative Code, which governs cooperatives; and Republic Act No. 9904, which governs homeowners’ and community-based associations.

The registration process for all types of organizations is generally straightforward, although it differs depending on the type of organization. While it is not illegal for organizations to operate without registering, CSOs must register to obtain legal personality, which allows them to enter into contracts, open bank accounts, receive any type of funding, and qualify for tax exemptions. Most CSOs register with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as nonstock, nonprofit corporations formed for charitable, religious, educational, professional, cultural, fraternal, literary, scientific, social, civic service,

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or similar purposes. NGOs register as nonstock, nonprofit organizations operating exclusively for scientific, educational, character-building, youth and sports development, health, social welfare, cultural, or charitable purposes. NGOs are usually larger development organizations working on behalf of disadvantaged individuals who are not necessarily their members. Foundations, which are established mainly to raise funds or extend grants or endowments, similarly register as nonstock, nonprofit corporations. People’s organizations, which are grassroots or community-based organizations established by volunteers, may either register as nonprofits with the SEC or apply for accreditation from local government units (LGUs), which gives them eligibility to engage in local projects.

To register with the SEC, organizations must submit application forms along with documents such as bylaws, lists of members and officers, and tax identification numbers. In addition, they must request accreditation from the ministries responsible for the areas in which they will work. Registration is renewed annually and may be accomplished online through the Electronic Simplified Processing of Application for Registration of Company portal. Labor unions and workers’ associations, cooperatives, and community-based groups register in a similar manner. International CSOs wishing to operate in the country are not required to register or seek accreditation from the government but must abide by national labor laws, tax laws, and statutes applicable to their fields of work. Other types of organizations are licensed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Agriculture, Insurance Commission, Department of Education, or Department of Health.

Under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, NGOs and foundations are eligible for exemption from tax on income from donations, grants, and gifts, provided such income is used to further their stated purposes rather than benefit shareholders or private individuals. NGOs and foundations may also be accredited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue as “donee” institutions qualified for tax-deductible contributions and donations. To obtain accreditation, organizations must be certified by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC), an initiative of six of the country’s largest national NGO networks. The PCNC evaluates applicant organizations for legal compliance, good governance, financial stewardship, and operational transparency and accountability. Depending on the results of the evaluation, PCNC certification is good for 1, 3, or 5 years. Private sector organizations that donate to CSOs registered as donee institutions qualify for a deduction of up to 5% from their taxable income, and individuals may deduct up to 10%. Accredited NGOs may devote no more than 30% of their total expenses for the taxable year on administrative costs. CSOs operating as microfinance institutions pay a preferential 2% tax on gross receipts. CSOs may also apply for exemption from customs duties on imported goods provided the goods are distributed to beneficiaries free of charge.

To meet its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the government updated its guidelines for accrediting CSOs at the local level in 2022. Memorandum Circular No. 2022-083 of the Department of the Interior and Local Government mandates all LGUs to accredit CSOs operating in their localities. To obtain accreditation, CSOs must meet specified criteria such as proven technical expertise and good track records with all government agencies with which they have partnered or had funding relationships. Accredited CSOs are eligible to become members of local special bodies such as health boards, school boards, peace and order councils, and planning and development councils. As members of these special bodies, CSOs participate in local decision-making and are eligible for government funding for projects in their mission areas.

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5 LGUs are the lowest level of elected territorial organization within a state. LGUs were created by the 1987 Constitution to provide local public services and implement policies that promote national welfare. LGUs create local special bodies for consultative budget allocation and the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programs within their jurisdiction.

Government–Civil Society Relations

The Philippine government and CSOs have traditionally worked together well, finding common ground in their desire to improve the lives of poor and marginalized populations. The government also looks to CSOs to serve as watchdogs to prevent abuses of power, corruption, and ineptness. For example, in 1996, the Office of the Ombudsman created the Junior Graftwatch Program, which mobilizes youth organizations and students to promote public trust and protect public funds. The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting has partnered with the Commission on Elections to advocate for clean, honest, and peaceful elections since 1991.

However, in recent years, the government’s relationship with some advocacy CSOs has been under stress due to its strict implementation of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020, which allows the government to surveil and freeze the assets of organizations with suspected terrorist links. In 2021, several CSOs filed court cases over the implementation of the act, which they feared would stifle legitimate opposition to the government and infringe on civil rights. In April 2022, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of the law. Many CSOs continue to express dissatisfaction with what they see as law enforcement agencies’ unfounded branding of individuals and organizations as affiliated with terrorists or communists.

International CSOs work directly with government agencies, LGUs, and local CSOs to implement programs funded by international donors. For instance, the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services, Nonviolent Peaceforce, Fondation Suisse de Déminalage, Philippine Red Cross, and Spanish Red Cross are implementing components of the Mindanao Peace and Development Program–Peace and Development in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. This is a joint initiative of the European Union and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity. Oxfam’s Fair Finance Asia is working with the Philippine central bank, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, to craft a sustainable framework for financial inclusion.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP), a multisector, global initiative that the Philippines helped found in 2011, engages CSOs in shaping and overseeing government actions at the national level. The Philippine OGP has helped CSOs, especially people’s organizations, interact directly with government leaders and strengthen their engagement with LGUs. For instance, the government’s audit mechanism now invites citizens to take part in its work, and the Department of Budget and Management has established a CSO desk to address citizens’ concerns. These innovations are recognized internationally as best practices for promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in governance. In December 2019, the Philippine OGP launched its Fifth National Action Plan, which aims to help resolve pressing public problems, achieve the efficient delivery of public services, and build a peaceful and inclusive society. Implementation of the plan was halted during the COVID-19 pandemic but resumed in 2022.

CSOs currently serve on policy-making bodies such as the Cooperative Development Authority, National Anti-Poverty Commission, and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. CSOs also work directly with national government agencies to implement their programs. For example, the Department of Social Welfare and Development partners with CSOs on its Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) for poverty reduction and the Department of Agriculture cooperates with CSOs on the Kadiwa program, which seeks to reduce the cost of basic goods by delivering agricultural products directly to consumers.

▲ Women and children are the heart of the village. Beneficiaries of the Philippines’ 4Ps conditional cash transfer program in Barangay Salvacion, Pilar, Surigao del Norte (photo by ADB).
People’s organizations enjoy institutionalized partnerships with LGUs through local people’s councils, which are created by locally accredited CSOs to ensure that citizens can participate in decision-making and monitor project implementation. People’s councils tend to be diverse and inclusive, with members ranging from youth, women, single parents, and senior citizens to people with disabilities; internally displaced persons; and members of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities. In Quezon City, part of greater Metro Manila, a 2022 local ordinance created a people’s council in which more than 4,000 locally accredited CSOs now take part.

Funding of Civil Society Organizations

Philippine CSOs face no legal obstacles in obtaining financial support from domestic and international sources. Although declining in recent years, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral and multilateral funding has long been the most important source of support for CSOs. International aid received as official development assistance supports projects that are implemented by national government agencies in partnership with lead international CSOs selected by donors. Local organizations often align their programs with the Sustainable Development Goals and development assistance frameworks of donors and international partner organizations so they can engage in such projects as implementing partners or contractors. Among current funding programs, the United States Agency for International Development has allocated approximately $5 million to CSOs to implement biodiversity conservation projects across the archipelago under the Partnership for Biodiversity Conservation program, and Australia is helping CSOs improve early-grades education in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region with its $60 million Education Pathways to Peace in Mindanao program.

Domestic sources of income for CSOs include national government agencies and LGUs. CSOs contract to implement many national government programs, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services program, one of the main community empowerment and poverty alleviation programs. Numerous projects of the Department of Agriculture and Department of Agrarian Reform also involve CSOs as local partners.

Larger corporations often have foundations or corporate social responsibility programs that offer funding to CSOs in the localities in which they operate. Such programs include the Cebu A-Park project of the Aboitiz Foundation, which seeks to rehabilitate the forest cover of the Buhisan Watershed Forest Reserve, and the Ayala Museum funded by the Ayala Foundation, which makes art, history, and culture accessible to the public and provides grants to local art circles.

Some CSOs establish income-generating projects to support their programs. For example, women’s cooperatives in the Davao region sell handicrafts, and small farmers’ associations in Nueva Ecija sell produce from communal vegetable farms. CSOs may also rely on donations from members and stakeholders to support small projects such as food, hospitalization, or burial assistance for poor community members. Individual givers often channel their assistance through foundations, particularly for educational and health care purposes. For example, the Gerry Roxas Foundation solicits donations from individuals and companies for scholarship grants to students from low-income families.
Capacity of Civil Society Organizations

Philippine civil society has a strong capacity for networking and coalition building, and Philippine CSOs generally have an in-depth understanding of local development issues. They offer firsthand experience in addressing social and environmental concerns and have an established presence in hard-to-reach communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, larger CSOs became a lifeline for many communities by realigning their programs and budgets to provide relief and social welfare services. Many smaller CSOs, on the other hand, had to suspend operations because of scant financial resources and their inability to adapt to internet-based work.

Large and established CSOs tend to have paid staff and sophisticated internal management systems, including detailed governance, human resources, financial management, and fundraising policies and processes. CSOs implementing large donor-funded projects frequently outsource functions such as audits and monitoring and evaluation. Since a scandal in 2013 involving allegations of misuse of the Priority Development Assistance Fund, larger CSOs have adhered more consistently to self-regulatory mechanisms such as codes of ethics.7

Smaller CSOs and community-based organizations depend on volunteers and have more rudimentary management systems. They often rely on NGOs and umbrella organizations for financing, networking, advocacy, and training. For example, the Association of Foundations, CODE-NGO, National Confederation of Cooperatives, and other umbrella organizations nurture their members’ capacities in areas such as project management and organizational development. Their funding partners also offer capacity building to smaller local organizations, both to manage risk and to ensure that projects are implemented successfully. Larger CSOs serve as intermediaries between the government and sector- or community-based associations, which provide services to disadvantaged individuals such as internally displaced persons or survivors of domestic violence.

Several training institutes, including the Asian Institute of Management and the Center for Leadership, Citizenship, and Democracy, provide training to develop the professional skills of CSO leaders and members.


The Association of Foundations established the Lead to Serve Academy in 2017 to offer skills training, organizational assessments, and mentoring to CSOs. The academy’s capacity-building program has been replicated by LGUs such as the Pasig City government, which in 2022 partnered with CSOs to open the Pasig City CSO Academy, a leadership institute that strengthens the participation of CSO leaders, workers, and volunteers in governance and improves the services that they offer.

Civil Society Cooperation with the Asian Development Bank

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is helping the Government of the Philippines address a wide range of development priorities. The current country partnership strategy, 2018–2023 is based on the three pillars of accelerating infrastructure and long-term investments, promoting local economic development, and investing in people.8 ADB has embarked on groundbreaking infrastructure investments in the Philippines to boost
regional connectivity and support the government in attaining its goals of quality employment and livelihood opportunities, improved access to social services, enhanced food security, and reduced vulnerability to epidemics and disasters triggered by natural hazards.

CSO engagement is a key strategy of ADB’s work in the Philippines and has been particularly important in several recent programs.

- **Secondary Education Support Program** (approved 2019). This program supports system-wide secondary education reforms across the Philippines and is part of ADB’s support to the government’s Kindergarten to Grade 12 Basic Education program. The Philippine Business for Social Progress, a business-led NGO, co-implements the program with the Department of Education, with responsibility for local representation, coordination, awareness raising, advocacy, and capacity building.

- **Expanded Social Assistance Project** (approved 2020). ADB has supported the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) since 2010. It is implemented by the Philippines’ Department of Social Welfare and Development alongside other development partners. CSOs have helped strengthen the program by training social workers and parent facilitators on raising awareness about family development among beneficiaries. CSOs have also provided technical assistance and piloted ways to enhance the knowledge and engagement of beneficiary parents in their children’s education and health.

- **Malolos–Clark Railway Project and Improving Growth Corridors in Mindanao Road Sector Project** (approved 2019). The Malolos–Clark Railway Project supports the construction of two sections totaling 53.1 kilometers (km) of the North–South Commuter Railway, a 163 km suburban railway network connecting the regional center of Clark in Central Luzon with Metro Manila and Calamba, Laguna. The Improving Growth Corridors in Mindanao Road Sector Project will build and rehabilitate an estimated 280 km of national primary, secondary, and tertiary roads in Mindanao. CSOs are deeply involved in community relations, education, and information and communications activities during the pre-implementation phases of the projects.

- **Water District Development Sector Project** (approved 2016). This project will enable 12 water districts to expand and rehabilitate supply systems and support the construction of two pilot sanitation facilities to reduce water-related diseases resulting from unsafe drinking water and the lack of sanitation facilities. CSOs are working with implementing local water districts to mitigate the negative impact of infrastructure development on households and communities—for instance, by helping organize community assemblies and meetings with community leaders.

- **Capacity Building to Foster Competition Project** (approved 2019). This project is strengthening the institutional capacity of the Philippine Competition Commission to foster competition. Project components include establishing a

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Civil Society Cooperation with Other Development Partners

Bilateral and multilateral development agencies often work with CSOs to implement their programs. For example, Japan’s bilateral development agencies rely on CSOs to conduct social preparation activities for infrastructure projects. Financing institutions, such as the World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, turn to academic and research organizations for localized studies and data gathering. CSOs also work with UN agencies to deliver assistance to poor and vulnerable populations in remote areas of the country.

Among current projects:

• The United States awarded $690,000 to Diwata-Women in Resource Development, Inc. and Women Engineers Network of the Philippine Technological Council, Inc. in 2023 to boost women’s participation in energy resilience, innovation, and security in the Philippines. The United States is also bolstering early grade learning in a multiyear project in partnership with RTI International; The Asia Foundation; the Philippines’ Department of Education; and local implementers, including CHILDInitiative, Coalition for Bicol Development, and Knowledge Channel Foundation, Inc.

• Australia supports contributions to peacebuilding by local CSOs, academe, and media through its Peacebuilding in Conflict-Affected Mindanao program. Australia’s Coalitions for Change Phase 2 program funds The Asia Foundation’s collaboration with Philippine policy makers, government, CSOs, academics, and private sector to further inclusive economic growth and social development.

• The International Organization for Migration supports the efforts of local CSOs in conflict-prone and conflict-affected areas to develop preparedness, reduce risk, help with adaptation to climate change, and develop resilience to epidemics.

• The United Nations Development Programme works with civil society in many of its programs—such as strengthening the ability of CSOs, faith-based groups, academe, and the private sector to monitor and review government activities through governance hubs, which provide analytical and technical support to communities, local institutions, and local governments.

• The European Union’s 5-year, $22 million Bangsamoro Agri-Enterprise Program will improve the quality and diversity of local agricultural production in Bangsamoro in partnership with international organizations, local technical institutes, universities, the private sector, and locally based CSOs and cooperatives.

Key Civil Society Organizations

Below are some of the most prominent CSOs operating in the Philippines. For their contact information and a more comprehensive list of organizations, please refer to Appendix: Directory of Major Civil Society Organizations in the Philippines.

International CSOs

• Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP)

ANSA-EAP is a networking and learning facility for networks in East Asia and the Pacific region that
promotes citizen monitoring of public service delivery and the transparency of public transactions.

- **Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)**
  ANGOC is a regional association of 20 national and regional NGO networks in 14 Asian countries. It implements programs in food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, participatory governance, and rural development.

### Umbrella Organizations, Networks, and Coordinating Bodies

- **Association of Foundations (AF)**
  Association of Foundations is the oldest and largest heterogenous NGO network in the Philippines. The foundation seeks to enhance the capacities of its more than 200 geographically dispersed member organizations for good governance and social impact.

- **Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE–NGO)**
  CODE–NGO is an umbrella organization of 12 national and regional networks representing 1,600 CSOs. Since its inception in 1990, CODE-NGO has influenced public policy, provided leadership in the CSO sector, and increased the effectiveness of social development work.

- **National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)**
  NATCCO is the country's largest federation of cooperatives, with 812 organizational members representing approximately 5.1 million individuals. NATCCO provides its members with financial services along with other services such as education, training, and consultations.

- **Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)**
  PBSP's more than 230 member corporations work on strengthening corporate involvement in social development activities. PBSP operates at the nexus of corporate citizenship, sustainable development, and poverty reduction.

- **Philippine Council for NGO Certification, Inc. (PCNC)**
  PCNC is a self-regulatory body for CSOs. As the designated accrediting entity for NGOs and foundations, PCNC ensures that organizations meet regulatory requirements and standards of good governance and management.

- **Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRA)**
  PhilDHRA is a national network of NGOs that builds the capacity of its members to act as relevant, self-reliant contributors to agrarian reform and rural development.

### Sector-Based Organizations

- **The Climate Reality Project Philippines**
  The Climate Reality Project Philippines provides capacity development services that empower more than 1,800 “Pinoy climate reality leaders” from the public, private, and youth sectors to champion renewable energy, sustainable urban mobility, and other development approaches to climate resilience.

- **Federation of Free Farmers (FFF)**
  FFF is one of the largest CSOs representing rural workers in the Philippines. It focuses on agrarian reform and rural development, landownership and decent livelihoods for tillers, and the meaningful participation of rural workers in government decision-making and implementation.

- **National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP)**
  NCWP supports its 252 member women's organizations in areas such as cooperative planning, social mobilization, consciousness raising, and stronger leadership roles for women.

- **National Federation of Transport Cooperatives (NFTC)**
  One of the country's largest transport organizations, NFTC promotes the welfare of transport stakeholders by engaging in policy advocacy and pushing for fair and equitable implementation of reforms in the transport sector.

- **Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV)**
  PPCRV is a church-based, independent election watchdog that engages in voter's education, poll watching, and an unofficial parallel count of votes under the automated election system.

- **Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU)**
  PACU fosters collaboration and partnerships to help colleges and universities address contemporary challenges and contribute to nation building.

- **Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)**
  PCCI is the country's largest business organization, with almost 2,000 corporations, small and medium-sized enterprises, industry associations, and local chambers of commerce and industry as members. It seeks to foster a healthy economy and improve the viability of businesses in communities.
• **Philippine Medical Association (PMA)**

  PMA is the Philippines’ primary medical association, with 67,500 members from around the country. It encourages continuing education and research in medical knowledge and skills and promotes the healing ministrations of physicians delivering health care to patients.

• **Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)**

  Established in 1952, PRRM is one of the oldest CSOs in the country. It aims to enhance the capacity of rural communities to plan, advocate, and implement sustainable development through an integrated program focused on education, livelihood, health, habitat, environment, and self-governance.

**Selected Resources for Further Reading**


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# Appendix: Directory of Major Civil Society Organizations in the Philippines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International and Regional Organizations</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affiliated Network for Social Accountability in East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP)</td>
<td>Pacifico Ortiz Hall, Fr. Arrupe Rd, Social Development Complex, Ateno de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Katipunan Ave, Quezon City 1105, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://ansa-eap.net/">https://ansa-eap.net/</a></td>
<td>Connects networks in East Asia and the Pacific region that promote constructive engagement with and citizen monitoring of public service delivery and the transparency of public transactions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)</td>
<td>33 Mapagsangguni St, Sikatuna Village, Diliman, Quezon City 1101, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://angoc.org/">https://angoc.org/</a></td>
<td>As a regional association of 20 nongovernment organization (NGO) networks from 14 Asian countries, focuses on food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture, participatory governance, and rural development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBON International</td>
<td>3rd Floor, IBON Center, 114 Timog Ave, Quezon City 1103, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://iboninternational.org/">https://iboninternational.org/</a></td>
<td>Works with a broad range of civil society organizations (CSOs), directly and through networks and partnerships, to build consensus on development issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Alert</td>
<td>1 Pickle Mews, London SW9 0FJ, United Kingdom</td>
<td><a href="https://www.international-alert.org/locations/philippines/">https://www.international-alert.org/locations/philippines/</a></td>
<td>Addresses rebellion-related and community-level conflict in Mindanao through research and analyses, advocacy, capacity building, and multi-stakeholder processes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL)</td>
<td>1126 16th St NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036, USA</td>
<td><a href="https://www.icnl.org/">https://www.icnl.org/</a></td>
<td>Works to improve the legal environment for civil society, philanthropy, and public participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)</td>
<td>Km. 39 Aguinaldo Highway, IIRR Y.C. James Yen Center, Biga 2 Silang, Cavite 4118, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://iirr.org/philippines/">https://iirr.org/philippines/</a></td>
<td>Empowers rural communities to take charge of their own success through programs in health, education, the environment, and livelihoods.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO Forum on ADB</td>
<td>Unit J, La Residencia Bldg, 114 Maginhawa St, Teachers Village East, Quezon City, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="http://www.forum-adb.org/">http://www.forum-adb.org/</a></td>
<td>Connects 20 NGOs from 16 countries to ensure the Asian Development Bank is responsible and accountable for the impact of its projects and policies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Umbrella Organizations and Networks</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Association of Foundations (AF)</td>
<td>3/F Cyberpark Tower 1, Cnr Gen. Aguinaldo &amp; Gen. McArthur Aves, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City 1109, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="http://afonline.org">http://afonline.org</a></td>
<td>As the country’s largest network of more than 200 member organizations, works to achieve equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)</td>
<td>146-B B. Gonzales St, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://code-ngo.org">https://code-ngo.org</a></td>
<td>Represents 1,600 CSOs through 12 national and regional network organizations to influence public policy, provide civil society leadership, and increase the effectiveness of social development work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal Commission on Social Action, Justice and Peace/Caritas Philippines</td>
<td>Saidi Bldg, Manila City, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://caritasph.org/">https://caritasph.org/</a></td>
<td>As the social justice arm of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines, fosters poverty alleviation, sustainable agriculture, women’s and children’s empowerment, and ecology protection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>League of Corporate Foundations (LCF)</td>
<td>Unit 6F Raha Sulayman, 108 Benavidez St, Legazpi Village, Makati, Metro Manila 1226, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lcf.org.ph/">http://www.lcf.org.ph/</a></td>
<td>Promotes corporate social responsibility among more than 70 member foundations and the broader business community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Council of Social Development Foundation of the Philippines, Inc (NCSD)</td>
<td>2nd Floor, United Methodist Church Bldg, 900 United Nations Ave, Ermita, Manila City 1000, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://www.facebook.com/ncsdphils">https://www.facebook.com/ncsdphils</a></td>
<td>As the Philippines’ first social development network, seeks to build the capacity of member organizations to better serve beneficiaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO)</td>
<td>227 J. P. Rizal St, Project 4, Quezon City 1109, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="http://www.natcco.coop/">http://www.natcco.coop/</a></td>
<td>With 812 member organizations representing 5.1 million people, offers financial support and capacity development to cooperatives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies (PHILSSA)</td>
<td>Ground Floor Hoffner Bldg, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="mailto:philssa.info@gmail.com">philssa.info@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Addresses urban concerns, including training and empowerment for slum dwellers, formal and informal workers, youth, women, and children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)</td>
<td>Unit 1, 7th Floor, Citynet Central, Sultan St, Brgy Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://www.pbsp.org.ph/">https://www.pbsp.org.ph/</a></td>
<td>Aims to strengthen corporate involvement in social development activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare, Inc. (PNGOC)</td>
<td>2F Torres Bldg, Brgy 91, 2442 Park Ave, Pasay City 1302, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://pngoc.org/">https://pngoc.org/</a></td>
<td>Represents nearly 100 NGOs offering family planning and women’s health programs, especially among marginalized groups and communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA)</td>
<td>59 C. Salvador St, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://www.facebook.com/phildhrrra.nationalsecretariat">https://www.facebook.com/phildhrra.nationalsecretariat</a></td>
<td>Represents 65 NGOs committed to agrarian reform and rural development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Watch Philippines (SWP)</td>
<td>Unit 606, D’Condo Place, 129 Maginhawa St, Teachers Village East, Quezon City 1101, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://socialwatchphilippines.weebly.com/">https://socialwatchphilippines.weebly.com/</a></td>
<td>Monitors the government’s social development commitments and influences policy decisions through participatory public finance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Local Organizations**

**Agriculture and Rural Development**

- **Federation of Free Farmers (FFF)**
  - Address: 30F, 6th Ave, Socorro Cubao, Quezon City 1109, Philippines
  - Website: [https://www.freefarm.org/](https://www.freefarm.org/)
  - Description: Pushes for agrarian and rural development.

- **Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (National Confederation of Family Farmer Organizations, PAKISAMA)**
  - Address: Room 207, Partnership Center, 59 C. Salvador St, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Philippines
  - Website: [http://www.pakisama.com/](http://www.pakisama.com/)
  - Description: Brings together small farmers’, fishers’, indigenous people, rural women, and youth organizations dedicated to building resilient rural communities.

- **Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture (PPSA)**
  - Address: Unit 10-B Six/Neo Bldg, 5th Ave, Corner 26th St, Bonifacio Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634, Philippines
  - Website: [https://www.ppsa-ph.org/](https://www.ppsa-ph.org/)
  - Description: Helps more than 80 organizations develop projects aligned with the national Rural Development Project.

- **Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)**
  - Address: 56 Mother Ignacia Ave, Dr Lascano St, Quezon City 1103, Philippines
  - Website: [https://www.prrm.org/](https://www.prrm.org/)
  - Description: Enhances the capacity of rural communities to plan, advocate for, and implement sustainable development.

**Climate Change/Environment/Disaster Risk Management**

- **Business for Sustainable Development**
  - Address: 2804 Jollibee Plaza Bldg, Ortigas Jr. Rd, Ortigas Center, Pasig, Philippines
  - Website: [https://bsdph.org/](https://bsdph.org/)
  - Description: Provides platform for companies to work together on key societal challenges that impact business.
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Forest Foundation Philippines</td>
<td>2F Valderrama Bldg, 107 Esteban St, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila 1229, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://www.forestfoundation.ph/">https://www.forestfoundation.ph/</a></td>
<td>Provides grants to support conservation projects in critical forest landscapes as well as small islands, mangroves, critical habitats, and urban forests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE)</td>
<td>77 Matahimik St, Teachers’ Village, Quezon City 1100, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://www.fpe.ph/">https://www.fpe.ph/</a></td>
<td>Offers grants for projects on the environment and sustainable development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources</td>
<td>18 Scout Gandia, Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City 1103, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://hariban.org.ph/">https://hariban.org.ph/</a></td>
<td>Works with community-based organizations on environmental protection and sustainable resource management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Climate Reality Project Philippines</td>
<td>95B Scout Castor Street, Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1103</td>
<td><a href="https://climatereality.ph/">https://climatereality.ph/</a></td>
<td>A nature conservation membership organization dedicated to advancing participatory sustainable solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP)</td>
<td>7 Road 16, Brgy Bagong Pag-asas St, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1105, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://www.ceap.org.ph/">https://www.ceap.org.ph/</a></td>
<td>Responds to social, political, moral, and other issues based on consultations with different regions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU)</td>
<td>601 Richmond Plaza, Cnr San Miguel Ave &amp; Lourdes Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pacu.org.ph/">http://www.pacu.org.ph/</a></td>
<td>Fosters collaboration and partnerships to help colleges and universities address current challenges and contribute to nation building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippine Energy Efficiency Alliance</td>
<td>19/F Philippine AXA Life Center, Sen Gil Puyat Ave, Cnr Tindalo St, Makati City, Metro Manila 1200, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://www.pe2.org">https://www.pe2.org</a></td>
<td>Promotes projects in energy efficiency, energy conservation, renewable energy, emission reduction, and increased energy security.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Electricity Suppliers Association</td>
<td>10th Floor, Office Fort Legend Towers 3rd Ave, cnr 31st St, BGC Taguig, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://resaph.com/">https://resaph.com/</a></td>
<td>Represents the interests of suppliers, end users, and other players in the power industry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Financial Sector and Trade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federation of Philippine Industries</td>
<td>Units 701 and 702, Atlanta Centre Condominium, #31 Annapolis St, Greenhills, San Juan City, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fpi.ph/">http://www.fpi.ph/</a></td>
<td>Serves as “voice of Philippine industry” and partner of the government in fostering globally competitive Philippine industries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>3F Commerce &amp; Industry Plaza Bldg, 1030 Campus Ave, cnr Park Ave, McKinley Town Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="http://www.philippinechamber.com/">http://www.philippinechamber.com/</a></td>
<td>With almost 2,000 private sector members, fosters a healthy economy and improved viability of business in the community.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gender and Youth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Childhope Philippines Foundation, Inc.</td>
<td>1210 Peñafrancia St, Paco, Manila 1807, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://childhope.org.ph/">https://childhope.org.ph/</a></td>
<td>Promotes the welfare and protects the rights of children, particularly those in street situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP)</td>
<td>Suite 1709, Sunset View Towers, Roxas Blvd, Pasay City 1300, Philippines</td>
<td></td>
<td>Supports 252 member women’s organizations in cooperative planning, social mobilization, consciousness raising, and women's leadership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Engaged In People Projects Foundation, Inc. (PEPPI)</td>
<td>4th Floor, Culmat Bldg, 1330 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave, Brgy Mariana, Quezon City, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://peppi.ph/">https://peppi.ph/</a></td>
<td>Prepares leaders by imparting values education and skills training to various sectors of society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDSN Philippines Youth</td>
<td>Penthouse, 102 V. Luna Avenue Ext., Quezon City, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://www.sdsnyouth.org/">https://www.sdsnyouth.org/</a></td>
<td>As a program of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, addresses key sustainability issues, including family planning, human rights, and poverty alleviation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Governance/Public Financial Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freedom from Debt Coalition</td>
<td>13 Mabait St, Teachers Village, East Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://fdcphilsh.org/">https://fdcphilsh.org/</a></td>
<td>As a network of 250 organizations, promotes a comprehensive economic development framework seeking radical social change, particularly in the role of women.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL)

- **Address:** Unit 601, DMG Center, Domingo M. Guevara St, Brgy Mauway, Mandaluyong City, Philippines  
- **Website:** [https://namfrel.org.ph/](https://namfrel.org.ph/)  
- **Role:** Acts as a nonpartisan election-monitoring organization with over 250,000 member-volunteers.

### Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting

- **Address:** Pope Pius XII Catholic Center, United Nations Ave, Paco, Manila 1007, Philippines  
- **Role:** Independent election watchdog offering voter education, poll watching, and an unofficial parallel count of the automated election system.

### Health

#### Health Futures Foundation, Inc.

- **Address:** Unit 6, 4/F The One Executive Bldg, 5 West Ave, Nayong Kanluran, Quezon City 1104, Philippines  
- **Website:** [https://www.healthfuturesfoundation.com/](https://www.healthfuturesfoundation.com/)  
- **Role:** Empowers marginalized families and local governments to achieve access, quality, and equity in health and social development.

#### Philippine Hospital Association (PHA)

- **Address:** PHA Building, 14 Kamias Rd, Quezon City 1102, Philippines  
- **Website:** [https://philippinehospitalassociation.org](https://philippinehospitalassociation.org)  
- **Role:** Supports nearly 2,000 member hospitals in pursuit of the nation's health agenda.

#### Philippine Medical Association (PMA)

- **Address:** 2/F PMA Bldg, North Ave, Brgy. Bagong Pags-as, Quezon City 1105, Philippines  
- **Website:** [http://www.philippinemedicalassociation.org/](http://www.philippinemedicalassociation.org/)  
- **Role:** As primary medical association of the Philippines, serves 67,500 member medical practitioners and component medical groups.

### Transport

#### National Federation of Transport Cooperatives (NDTC)

- **Address:** 24-C Matipuno St, Brgy Pinyahan Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines  
- **Website:** [http://www.facebook.com/information.nftc](http://www.facebook.com/information.nftc)  
- **Role:** Represents the interests of transport cooperatives as one of the country’s largest transport organizations.

#### Philippines Multimodal Transport and Logistics Association, Inc. (PMTLA)

- **Address:** Room 225, Sky Freight Building, NAIA Ave, Parañaque City 1700, Philippines  
- **Website:** [https://www.facebook.com/PMTLAI/](https://www.facebook.com/PMTLAI/)  
- **Role:** Represents the freight forwarding and logistics industry in the Philippines and offers capacity building and technical assistance.

### Urban Services

#### Habitat for Humanity Philippines

- **Address:** 3F Gloria Bldg, 109 Aguirre St, Legaspi Village, Makati City, 1229 Philippines  
- **Website:** [https://habitat.org.ph/](https://habitat.org.ph/)  
- **Role:** Helps provide affordable housing to 4 million families who do not have decent places to live.

#### League of Cities of the Philippines

- **Address:** 7th Floor, Unit J & K CyberOne Bldg, Eastwood City, Brgy Bagumbayan, Quezon City, 1110 Philippines  
- **Website:** [http://www.lcp.org.ph](http://www.lcp.org.ph)  
- **Role:** Implements a wide range of urban development programs to its member cities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philippine Association of Water Districts</td>
<td>Basement, LWUA Bldg, Katipunan Rd, Old Balara, Quezon City, 1101 Philippines</td>
<td><a href="http://pawd.org.ph/home">http://pawd.org.ph/home</a></td>
<td>Represents organized water districts by promoting self-reliance and advocating for pertinent policies, standards, and programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Environment Association of the Philippines, Inc.</td>
<td>Unit 1004, One Executive Office Bldg, West Ave, Nayong Kanluran, Quezon City, Philippines</td>
<td><a href="https://weap-phil.org/">https://weap-phil.org/</a></td>
<td>Provides practicing professionals with the information and tools necessary to address environmental protection in the Philippines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>