



- USAID pioneered mobile banking in the Philippines, helping over 10 million Filipinos gain access to more efficient financial services.
- USAID's tuberculosis programs resulted in a 92 percent treatment success rate in USAID-assisted areas.
- USAID programs resulted in the protection and conservation of more than 4.2 million acres of forest lands and coastal areas — an area larger than the state of Connecticut.
- USAID programs have provided clean water and sanitation access to more than 1.5 million Filipinos.

Photo credit: Ronald Enad / iStock Valley Bank

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, with a growth rate rivaling China's in 2012, yet roughly 42 percent of its population still lives on less than \$2 a day. The United States works with the Philippines through the Partnership for Growth — implemented in only four countries — to jointly transform the Philippines by addressing its most serious constraints to growth.

USAID, a key player in the U.S.-Philippines Partnership for Growth, works with the Government of the Philippines and U.S. Government agencies to address the most binding constraints to the Philippines' growth — weak governance, constrained public finance and weak human resources. In collaboration with the private sector and civil society organizations, we are helping to put the Philippines on an accelerated growth trajectory that benefits the majority of its population and builds a more prosperous, stable and well-governed nation.

OUR WORK

The Philippines has begun making substantial economic progress. In the first half of 2013, its economy grew at 7.6 percent, one of the fastest rates of growth in the Asia-Pacific and across emerging markets globally. In 2012, GDP growth was 6.8 percent. The country's economic competitiveness ranking has jumped 26 places in three years and has moved the country to the top 40 percent worldwide. But with many Filipinos still living in poverty, and pervasive corruption inhibiting development, much remains to be done to create a more prosperous, stable and well-governed nation.

USAID's programs focus on accelerating and sustaining broad-based and inclusive economic growth through U.S.-Philippines Partnership for Growth activities; fostering peace and stability in six conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, the Philippines' second largest and southernmost island; enhancing the country's environmental resilience through programs that mitigate the impact of natural disasters and improve environmental and natural resource management; improving the quality of education; and increasing access to quality health services, especially for poor and marginalized communities.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE

USAID activities under the U.S.-Philippines PFG promote trade and investment, greater competition, increased transparency, and improved fiscal policy and management. USAID also supports efforts of second-tier cities to become effective engines of growth that improves the quality of life. The Philippines has made great progress in making its regulatory environment more business friendly, ranking in this area as the world's fourth top reformer in the World Bank and IFC's *Doing Business 2014* report.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

USAID supports measures to improve corporate governance and prevention of corruption. Under Partnership for Growth, USAID strengthens the rule of law through a more efficient court system and promotes a more transparent legal and regulatory regime. USAID is helping to reduce the estimated 600,000 pending court cases by half by the end of 2016. USAID improves local governance and delivery of basic services in Mindanao's conflict-affected areas, while promoting civic engagement and developing youth leaders. USAID also strengthens efforts against human trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

EDUCATION

USAID improves reading skills for 1 million children, strengthens local governance to improve education outcomes, and addresses gender disparities, particularly the high male dropout rate, as well as the needs of 19,000 out-of-school youth in conflict-affected areas. USAID improves research capacity and faculty development; supports science, research and technology partnerships to enhance innovation and entrepreneurship; and strengthens linkages with industry to ready students for jobs.

HEALTH

USAID supports the Philippines' goal to increase access and quality of health care to improve the lives of all Filipinos, especially the poor and marginalized communities. USAID improves access to maternal and child health care, family planning information and services, and tuberculosis prevention and control services using innovative approaches to promote healthy behaviors, such as through social media. USAID health programs cover 45 provinces and 25 cities with an estimated population of 74 million potential beneficiaries, representing approximately 80 percent of the country's population.

ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

As one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, the Philippines typically loses up to \$5 billion each year to natural disaster-related causes. USAID provides emergency relief and early recovery and rehabilitation support. USAID also reduces the risks of disasters, strengthens local natural resource management and biodiversity conservation, and improves the capability of local governments to implement low-emission development strategies and climate-change mitigation measures.

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USAID enables students to connect to modern education technologies through renewable energy sources. Photo credit: Allyson Banga-an, USAID/AMORE



USAID helps Filipino women of reproductive age access health information and family health services. Photo credit: USAID/HealthPRO