
PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is a lower middle-income country in transition to middle-income status with an important exception—the region of Mindanao. This region is experiencing a high degree of fragility, security challenges and significant poverty.

Despite almost a decade of strong economic growth, there remains a significant issue of inequitable distribution of wealth. In 2016, over 25 million Filipinos were living below the national poverty line (24% of the population). In fact, 12 million people were living in extreme poverty (12.5% of the population).

Canada's Philippines program is focused on improving opportunities for sustainable and inclusive economic growth for poor women and men in the Philippines. This includes improving the enabling environment for all businesses. There is a specific focus on supporting women micro, small and medium-sized entrepreneurs with financial literacy and links to markets. The program has also worked to help youth improve their chances of landing their first jobs by assisting in life skills training and a job placement program.

Since 2015, the program has helped those affected by 2013's Typhoon Haiyan to rebuild their livelihoods. This has included the introduction of climate-smart agriculture, value chain development and other climate adaptation efforts. The Philippines has a well-developed women's rights and gender equity network that will play a key role in future programming to fight poverty and inequality in the Philippines. Recent programming has also focused on growth that works for everyone.



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