

Nonviolent **Peaceforce**

A photograph of a woman wearing a brown hijab and a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, smiling and holding two young children. The child on the left is a boy with short dark hair, wearing a brown t-shirt. The child in the center is a girl with long dark hair, wearing a brown dress with a yellow floral pattern. They are standing in front of a simple wooden structure, possibly a house or a fence, in a rural or village setting. The background shows some trees and a dirt path.

**Transforming the**  
**world's response**  
**to conflict.**





# Transforming Communities, Sustaining Peace

Centring on those most impacted by violence, NP champions the unarmed civilian protection (UCP) using encouragement and deterrence, rather than violence and fear. As fully committed partners, NP teams strategically remain in areas experiencing violence for a sustained time, as it has been tested through time how active nonviolence deescalates the rekindling of conflicts, one at a time. For people living in conflict-afflicted areas, nonviolence can change everything.



## Reimagining Security

We work alongside communities to interrupt and prevent violence using unarmed civilian protection (UCP).



## Transforming Communities

We expand access to life-saving, evidence-based peace strategies that are civilian-led – giving communities an actionable way forward to a new reality.



## Sustaining Peace

We enhance existing strengths so communities are equipped to protect themselves and sustain peace--creating opportunities to thrive.

## Our Mission

To protect civilians in violent conflicts through unarmed strategies, build peace side-by-side with local communities, and advocate for the wider adoption of these approaches to safeguard human lives and dignity. NP envisions a worldwide culture of peace in which conflicts within and between communities and countries are managed through nonviolent means. We are guided by principles of nonviolence, non-partisanship, primacy of local actors, and civilian-to-civilian action.



# Nonviolent Peaceforce Philippines

NP is one of the international NGOs with presence and access to conflict-torn areas all across Mindanao. NP first set foot in the island as early as 2007 by invitation of various CSOs to assess the situation on the ground and introduce unarmed strategies in the protection of civilians affected by the Moro conflict. Since 2009, NP has been a long standing CSO partner of the Philippine government in its peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) being the first international NGO to become a member of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) under its Civilian Protection Component (CPC). Recently, NP was able to attain the official recognition of the Joint Normalization Committee (JNC) to participate in supporting and complimenting the Bangsamoro Normalization processes on the ground. Moreover, NP has received a plaque of appreciation from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU), affirming NP's significant impact in its partnership with the Government of the Philippines (GPH) - MILF Peace Process, and its roles during the Marawi Siege.

## Our Presence in Mindanao

NP is a supporting and accompanying organization of the ongoing peace process between the MILF and the Philippine Government. Our mandates for the implementing the peace process include:

- Monitoring and reporting individuals' concerns about safety.
- Protective accompaniment for civilians and organizations in areas of conflict, including NP team members accompanying hostage survivors to reunite with their families.
- NP supports the monitoring of the compliance and noncompliance of GPH-MILF to the ceasefire agreement.
- NP creates safe spaces for peaceful dialogue between different stakeholders in the country, including local institutions, for community-based conflict prevention and conflict resolution.
- Training local leaders and organizations in UCP methodologies for monitoring, unarmed peacekeeping, and civilian protection.





# Our Presence in Mindanao

  
WOMEN  
Women- **IMPACT** Project



**Bridges Project**



**STRIVE Project**



**STEP Project**



Funded by the  
European Union

**ATTAIN Project**



**Main Office**

Cotabato City



**Central and South Eastern Mindanao Field Team**

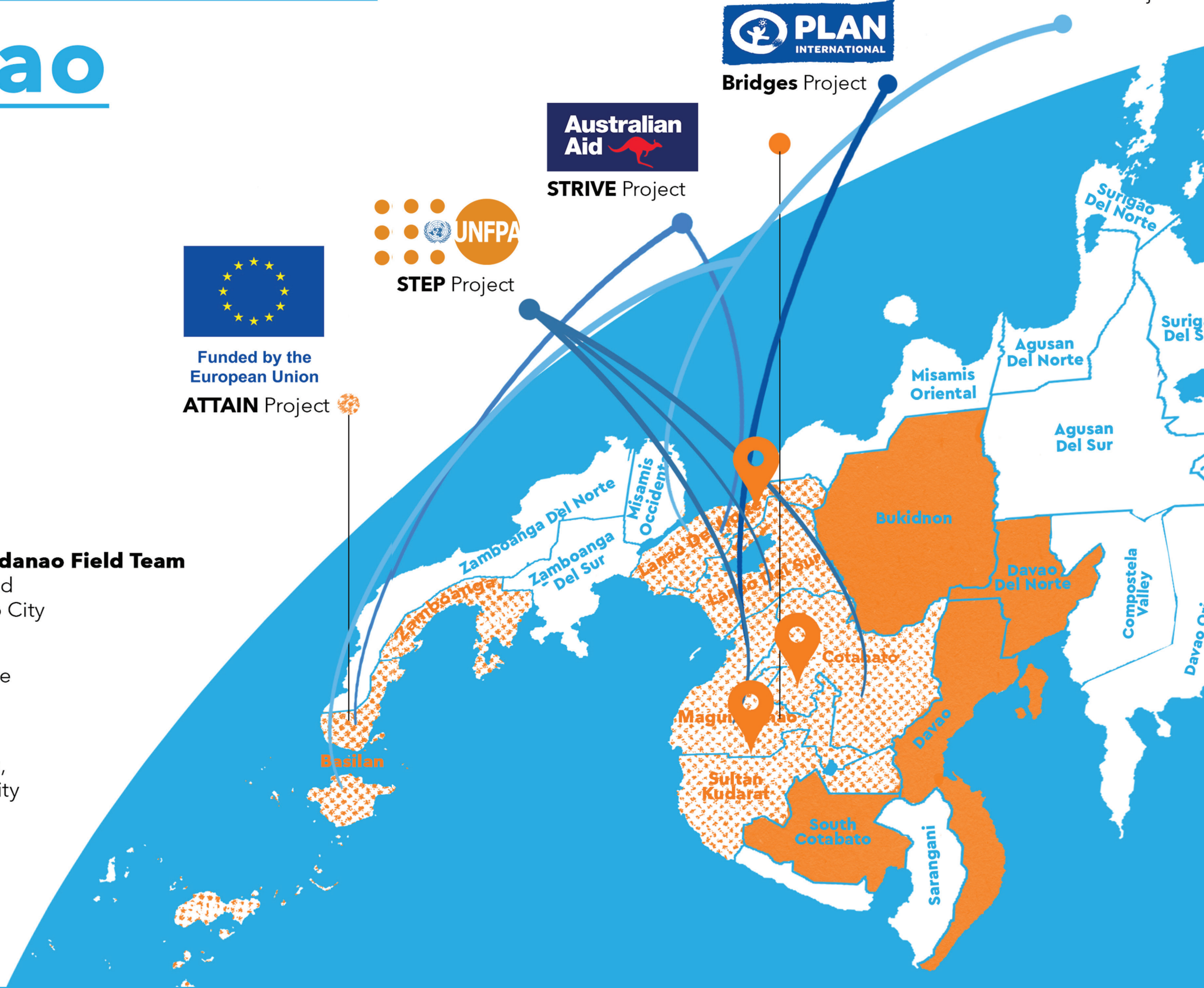
Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and  
Sultan Kudarat including Cotabato City

**Lanao Field Team**

Lanao Del Sur and Lanao Del Norte  
including Iligan and Marawi City

**Zambasulta Field Team**

Zamboanga Sibugay, Basilan, Sulu,  
Tawi-tawi including Zamboanga City





# UNARMED CIVILIAN PROTECTION

NP is globally recognized for its Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) strategies in preventing violence, increasing safety and security of civilians, and strengthening local peace infrastructures across its programme locations. NP’s expertise in UCP application is best illustrated in the wheel below:



UCP refers to the engagement of unarmed civilians working to reduce cycles of violence and increase the safety and security of civilians impacted by violent conflict. It prioritizes direct physical protection to immediate threats of violence, even as we work to interrupt systemic violence. UCP is guided by principles of nonviolence, non-partisanship, primacy of local actors, and civilian-to-civilian action.

## PROJECT COLLABORATIONS

Our advocacy efforts are dedicated to interrupting cycles of violence and enhancing nonviolent responses to conflict;

From teams in the field supporting civilians to directly advocate for their needs, to direct engagement in advocacy with parties to a conflict, to high-level political advocacy in key international fora.





# ATTAIN Project

Accompanying the Transition, Transformation of conflict, and Advocacy on social cohesion In the Normalization of Bangsamoro



European Union

Donor: European Union

Duration: November 2020- October 2022

Project Participation: Youth & Women, Decommissioned MILF combatants & their families, Community-based EWER groups, Partner CSOs, JPST members & JNC bodies, Communities and LGUs within MILF areas

Covered Regions: BARMM, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, SOCCSKSARGEN

After decades of war, the ratification of Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) early of 2019 marked the culmination of a 22-year peace talk between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) paved the creation of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Complementary to BOL is the implementation of normalisation which encompasses programmes on security—including the decommissioning of MILF's armed forces, socio-economic development, confidence-building measures, and transitional justice and reconciliation.

While this constitutes a major milestone for the peace process in Mindanao, Nonviolence Peaceforce (NP) recognises the challenges ahead in sustaining the gains of Bangsamoro peace process and increasing the capacity and response of local actors towards community-wide peace dividend amidst the COVID-19 pandemic situation. With funding support from EU, NP initiated the ATTAIN Project to strategically complement the civilian protection component of confidence-building and security measures under the normalisation process and broaden the practice of unarmed strategies in conflict

transformation and social cohesion in wider Mindanao.

Specifically, ATTAIN complements the transition and normalisation through the following:

- Fostering confidence- building and accompaniment to JPST and other JNC bodies in their mandates.
- Continuous support in the monitoring of GPH-MILF signed agreements through TMPT.
- Support to the mandates of EU IHL & HR expert and CPC component of GPH-MILF peace panels.
- Leveraging the capacity of local actors and institutions towards conflict transformation and social cohesion.



## Outcomes and Outputs:

**1.** Confidence-building, peace and security gains of the Bangsamoro peace process are sustained.

**1.1.** Fostered confidence-building measures in MILF communities

**1.2.** Provided accompaniment to JPST.

**1.3.** Supported the monitoring of GPH-MILF signed peace agreements

**2.** Capacities and initiatives of actors and institutions on conflict transformation and social cohesion are strengthened and institutionalized.

**2.1.** Enhanced capacities of local stakeholders in conflict-prevention, conflict resolution, and conflict management

**2.2.** Increased engagement of LGUs and communities in the normalisation process and promotion of peace

## Impact:

**“Peaceful, cohesive, secure, and inclusively developed Mindanao”**

## Third Party Organizations:







# STEP Project

Supporting Conflict Transformation  
Towards Effective Peacebuilding  
in the Bangsamoro Region



Donor: United Nations Populations Fund

Duration: June 2020- September 2022

Project Participants: Former Women Combatants, LGU, PNP, Communities

Covered Province: North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Lanao Del Sur

## Project Goals:

1. Fortify reintegration efforts for former women combatants by empowering them to engage and support peacebuilding;
2. Support conflict understanding and prevention by promoting gender-responsive, inclusive, and culturally-sensitive legislation, policies and programmes.
3. Build the resilience of communities in conflict hotspots through collaborative socio-economic activities and inclusive community-based reconciliation mechanisms.

## Outcomes and Outputs:

1. Women former combatants are empowered to engage in and support peacebuilding in communities in the process of reintegration under UNFPA /NP.
  - 1.1. Women former combatants are empowered to engage in and support peacebuilding in communities in the process of reintegration.
2. Gender-responsive, locally-inclusive and culturally sensitive approaches to conflict prevention are mainstreamed into BARMM legislation, policies and programmes.
  - 2.1. BARMM institutions and CSOs have access to participatory action research, local conflict analysis and peacebuilding modelling
  - 2.2: Members of different identity groups are provided with spaces and mechanisms for policy dialogue on conflict prevention.
  - 2.3. Women-led CSOs, including the BIWAB CBAs, are empowered to roll-out policy advocacy campaigns to strengthen local protection and peacebuilding mechanisms
  - 2.4. BARMM institutions and CSOs have improved understanding of local dynamics and technical capacity to develop gender-responsive policy.



# Women- STRIVE Project

Women-Supporting the Transformation and  
Institutionalization of local Initiatives on Violent Extremism



Donor: Australian Aid (DFAT)

Duration: May 2021- August 2022

Project Participants: LGU, BIWAB, School/Madrasa representatives, Women CSO-leaders, IDPs, Youth-led organization, Intra and inter-faith groups, Former combatants and family members.

Covered Provinces: Basilan and Lanao Del Norte



In the Philippines, while the government is struggling to curb the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, violent extremism continues to flourish. In the southern island of Mindanao, clashes between soldiers and elements of Islamic State (ISIS)-linked Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) continued in multiple provinces despite the strict quarantine measures of law enforcement authorities while non-residents believed to be affiliated with ISIS were sighted in the hinterlands of Lanao del Norte. The uncertainty of ending the COVID-19 pandemic generated a growing concern about the dynamics of violent extremism and its consequences.

## Goal:

Contribute in preventing and countering violent extremism through women empowerment in local peacebuilding, community-based conflict transformation and peace

in communities of Lanao del Norte and Basilan.

## Project Outputs:

- Women-leaders trained on peace promoting governance, transformation of violent extremism, & gender-sensitive policy development
- Women and at-risk individuals in communities trained on transformation of conflict and violent extremism
- Leveraging the capacity of local actors and institutions towards





# The BRIDGES Project

**Bridges:** Promoting Peace through Community-based Conflict Resolution and Empowerment of Young People (BRIDGES Project)



**Donor:** Plan International Through The German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)  
**Duration:** January 2021- December 2023  
**Project Participants:** Children and Young People in BARMM  
**Covered Province:** Maguindanao

The Bridges Project seeks to strengthen the local capacity of communities in resolving conflict through non-violent and people-centered approaches. It also provides socioeconomic empowerment programs for the disengaged and at-risk youth of Maguindanao.

The Bridges Project is implemented by Plan International Philippines through funding from the German Cooperation.

## Goal:

Strengthen the local capacity of communities in resolving conflict through non-violent and people-centered approaches. It also provides socioeconomic empowerment programs for the disengaged and at-risk youth of Maguindanao.

## Project Focus:

- Strengthening local government capacity
- Supporting youth economic empowerment
- Fostering collaboration among various local stakeholders
- Improving the engagement and participation of children and young people—especially girls and young women—in peace-building and conflict resolution

## Consortium:



# Women- IMPACT Project

Women ex-combatants Increasing their Meaningful Participants in Advocacy and Conflict Transformation initiatives



**Donor:** The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

**Duration:** July 2022- December 2022

**Project Participation:** Former Women Combatants, LGU, Communities

**Covered Province:** BARMM, Basilan, and Lanao Del Norte

## Main Project Goals:

1. Increase meaningful participation and decision-making of women in conflict prevention processes and response specifically working with former women combatants and their communities in strengthening their engagement on women's protection and conflict prevention efforts.
2. Increase the participation of women and their networks in policy advocacy and improving their organizational capacity to advance women' role in local and peace security initiatives.



## Main Project Outcomes:

1. Strengthened the engagement of former women combatants and their communities in protecting women's rights and preventing violence and conflict affecting women.
  - 1.1. Strengthened the engagement of former women combatants and their communities in protecting women's rights and preventing violence and conflict affecting women.
  - 1.2. Strengthened local protection mechanisms to avert gender and conflict-related violence
2. Increase the participation and capacity of former women combatants and their networks in influencing policies and improving organizational structure to advance women's role in local conflict prevention and response initiatives.
  - 2.1. Supported advocacy initiatives geared towards women's increased participation in local peace and security initiatives.
  - 2.2. Strengthened transition and accompaniment to Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Brigade (BIWAB) into a civilian and women-led organization and network.







# Nonviolent Peaceforce

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**Funded by the  
European Union**