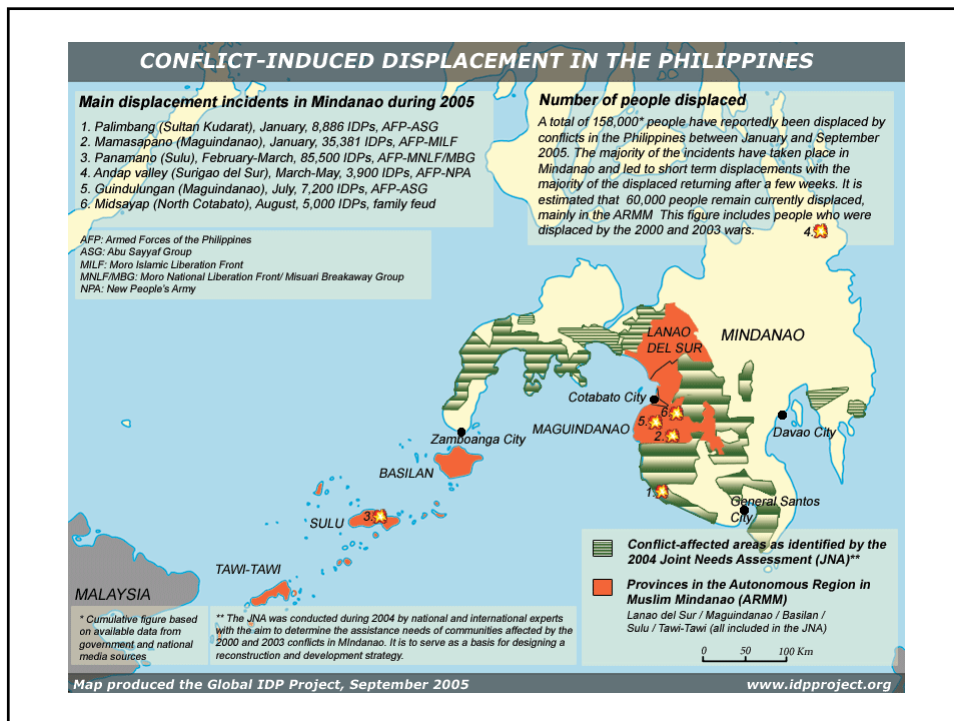


Promoting Women's Involvement in Peacebuilding (Peace and Development)



Project Objectives

1. To promote and broaden understanding and consensus-building among IP and Moro communities with regards to their ancestral domain rights and claims in Mindanao.
2. To increase understanding of the ancestral domain issue to the general public through massive information and consultation drive in communities affected by the conflict including LGUs, academe, business and other key sectors and through broadcast media.
3. To strengthen and support mechanisms for ceasefire.
4. To increase the skills, knowledge and capacity of civil society networks and community volunteers in ceasefire monitoring and documentation work, conflict prevention and peace advocacy.

Mindanao Peoples Caucus

- A grassroots interfaith alliance of Muslims, Christian settlers and indigenous peoples that seeks to strengthen peoples participation in the peace process
- composed of over 30 grassroots organizations
- Convenor of Bantay Ceasefire

We are an independent grassroots monitoring mechanism that seeks to silence the guns in Mindanao



My first problem in trying to get women involved in the peace process is that we always have to belabor with the question, WHY?

- My knee-jerk reaction almost always is, why not?
- Why do women need to prove and show convincing evidence that if we are in the peace process we can make a difference? that we are more effective – in order to convince the actors in conflict (read MEN) that yes, women should indeed participate

- What if we are not effective? We are as useless as the men? Does it mean that we can no longer participate?

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- Brief account with 2 generals
- Jamaliah

Invisibility of Women in the Peace Process

Peace Panels, technical committees and working groups

Joint Ceasefire Committee, International Monitoring Teams (IMT)

Buffer force/peacekeeping, local monitoring team

Peace and order Council

October 31, 2000 -- United Nations Security Council has issued Resolution 1325 which affirms “women’s central role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding” and stresses “the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution”

Challenges

- Cultural practices that define and limit the role of women
- Tokenism/patronizing
- Perception that Gender is “imposed” by donors – a requirement to go through
- Resistance
- HOW to participate – what women need to be able to participate?

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(which means I am not there most of the time)