

ABOUT US

The Regulatory Reform Support Program for National Development (RESPOND) aims to assist the Philippine government improve its regulatory quality and competitiveness to attain higher levels of trade and investment, inclusive growth, and self-reliance. On this account, the project provides technical assistance to enhance market competition and strengthen regulatory capacity and governance. The project also seeks to expand citizen engagement and civil society participation in advocating for a fair, open and better business environment in the country.

Started in 2019, RESPOND is an eight-year project made possible through a Cooperative Agreement between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Philippines and the University of the Philippines Public Administration Research and Extension Services Foundation, Inc. (UPPAF) with a budget of USD15.2 million.



OUR OBJECTIVES

RESPOND supports reforms that will advance market competition and reduce barriers to entry, through:

- Easing legal restrictions on business ownership
- Restraining abuse of market dominance
- Easing performance requirements of investments
- Reducing tariff and non-tariff constraints

RESPOND reinforces reforms in the reduction of regulatory burdens and transaction costs for business, through:

- Reduction of steps, time and costs of compliance
- Standardized setting of regulation fees
- Review, update and/or repeal of outdated, conflicting and redundant regulations

RESPOND extends technical assistance to enhance the regulatory oversight, transparency and accountability mechanisms of national agencies and local government units for the establishment and implementation of quality regulations, through:

- Strengthening regulatory charters
- Expanding the privatization of non-core services
- Improving the regulatory and administrative performance of regulatory agencies
- Strengthening in-house technical capacity
- Improving open access to information on regulatory decisions
- Expanding the use of Regulatory Impact Assessment

Additionally, RESPOND seeks to expand citizen engagement and the participation of civil society organizations in advocating for a more open regulation and better business environment through:

- Developing and bolstering reform coalitions
- Strengthening consumer participation

WHAT WE DO

Now on its sixth year, RESPOND extends its technical assistance to national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and private sector partners towards the following objectives:

Legend	✓ Completed	• Ongoing
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Policy Formulation / Reform and Advocacy

- Advocate for priority legislation that improve regulatory quality and governance toward generating local and foreign direct investment, and employment
 - ✓ Amendments of Public Service Act (PSA), Foreign Investment Act (FIA), Retail Trade Liberalization Act (RTLA) and Constructors License Law
 - ✓ With DTI: Passage of Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (EVIDA) and Philippine Creative Industries Development Act (PCIDA)
 - ✓ With DTI: Drafting of implementing rules and regulations (IRRs) for PSA, PCIDA, EVIDA, Philippine Quality Awards, and One Town, One Product (OTOP) Law

- With SEC: Passage of Revised Warehouse Receipt bill
- With DOF: Passage of Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH EITI) bill
- With CIC: Amendment of Credit Information System (CISA) Act
- Passage of National Land Use bill, International Maritime Competitiveness Act, Mining Industry Development Act
- Amendment of Philippine Ports Authority and Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines charters
- Creation of the Philippine Transport Safety Board
- With DTI: Drafting of IRRs for the Go Negosyo Act and Tatak Pinoy Act
- With PPP Center: Drafting IRR for new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code
- Drafting of the Joint Administrative Order, DTI Administrative Order, and Code of Conduct for the implementation of the Internet Transactions Act

- Integrate innovative tools such as the Anti-Red Tape Dashboard and the ARTA Citizen's Services Application (CSA Mobile App) in the development of an Electronic Case Management System (E-CMS)
- Provide policy inputs and studies for sectoral streamlining initiatives of ARTA in energy, telecommunications, transport logistics, food and pharma, housing and construction, and mining

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)

- ✓ Development of the Philippine Online Dispute Resolution System (PODRS) to address online complaints arising from online consumer purchases/transactions
- ✓ Crafting of the National Program for Competitiveness Agenda-Setting
- ✓ Upgrading of DTI's e-Presyo System to enhance data collection and reporting of basic and prime commodities' prices to consumers
- ✓ Development of transport logistics model for canned sardines and pork industries
- Formulation of National Logistics Strategy (NLS) including the National Logistics Infrastructure Program (NLIP)
- Preparation of the business case for the Multi-Modal Facility and Infrastructure Plan in Clark
- Technical support for Green Minerals initiative (increased investments in minerals processing (value-adding))

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

- ✓ Streamlining business permit and licensing systems (BPLS) in Pasig City, Manila, and Quezon City as part of the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Act for ARTA
- ✓ Development of BPLS Re-engineering Manual for LGUs
- Conduct RIA Training for select LGUs

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (DICT)

- ✓ Crafting of Spectrum Management Guidebook to rationalize and optimize the use of radio frequencies spectrum
- ✓ Development of system process-flow design and provision of 300 e-tablets for the Vaccine Information Management System (VIMS)

Improvement of Regulatory Governance/Institution Building

ANTI-RED TAPE AUTHORITY (ARTA)

- ✓ Formulation of the National Policy on Regulatory Management System (NPRMS)
- ✓ Co-development of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Manual
- ✓ Co-development of RIA Training Modules with ARTA and UP National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) – Center for Policy and Executive Development (CPED)
- ✓ Conduct of pilot RIA Training Program in partnership with ARTA and UP NCPAG-CPED
- Develop Executive Program on Regulatory Management System (RMS) for government officials to be conducted by UP NCPAG CPED
- ✓ Establishment of ARTA-led Unified Logistics Pass (ULP) to facilitate movement of goods/cargoes carried by truckers and other logistics service providers
- Development of the Philippine Business Regulations Information System (PBRIS) 2.0 and Anti-Red Tape Enterprise Management Information System (ARTEMIS)
- Conduct Privacy Impact Assessment for ARTA in compliance with Data Privacy Act (DPA)

- ✓ Advocate for policies on Open Access in Data Transmission and Government Cloud Procurement
- ✓ Conduct of DICT Digital Infrastructure Planning Sessions for the preparation of the ICT Roadmap
- ✓ Drafting of Circulars on spectrum management, construction of telecoms antenna in buildings; expansion of internet services through inclusive access to satellite services (EO 129), guidelines on procurement of water, electricity, telecommunications, and internet service providers

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – OFFICE FOR COMPETITION (DOJ-OFC)

- Co-organize series of regional fora on competition-related challenges and issues
- Provide technical inputs on the assessment of the regulatory and economic competition landscape in the Philippines

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTR)

- ✓ Preparation of the Right-of-Way Acquisition (ROWA) Manual

NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA)

- ✓ Develop the Supply Chain Analytics (SCAN) 1.0 mobile app and dashboard to facilitate a more seamless movement of passengers and cargoes during the height of COVID-19 pandemic
- Preparing book on Post-Pandemic Policy on Food Security and Agribusiness
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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF)

- ✓ Co-organized Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (PH EITI) 10th Year Anniversary: Extractive Transparency Week 2023
- Technical assistance for mining sector tax regime

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA)

- ✓ Provided RIA Training to Food Safety Bureaus
- ✓ Development of Administrative Order 08-2022 requiring the conduct of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in both new and existing regulations

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR)

- Conduct of RIA

PHILIPPINE COMPETITION COMMISSION (PCC)

- ✓ Completed competition-related studies on the Philippine Pharmaceutical Industry
- ✓ Prepared sectoral papers on e-commerce, pharma, water, and food and agriculture for refinement of the Competition Impact Assessment (CIA) framework
- ✓ Organized Pharma Policy Advisory Group which produced five (5) policy notes
- ✓ Provided training, guidelines and hardware equipment for the use, analysis and electronic storage of big data for competition-related economic policy research

TARIFF COMMISSION (TC)

- ✓ Co-organized with TC conferences and webinars on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) that limit trade and domestic production
- ✓ Provided joint RESPOND-ERIA-TC Training on Quantitative Methods for Calculating Ad Valorem Equivalents
- ✓ Conducted organizational review, design, and competency modeling of the Tariff Commission
- ✓ Preparation of the NTMs Roadmap

GOVERNANCE COMMISSION FOR GOCCs (GCG)

- ✓ Prepared 16 policy case studies on specific GOCCs, presented on high-level roundtable discussions
- ✓ Co-organized UPPAF RESPOND-OECD International Webinar on Competitive Neutrality and Governance (November 2021) and EROPA Conference (Sept 2022)
- Preparing book on Public Enterprise Reform Agenda

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION (SEC)

- Design of Warehouse Receipt registry system

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS (MOTC-BARMM)

- ✓ Preparation of the BARMM Transport Logistics Roadmap (PHASE 1)
- ✓ Establishment of the Cotabato-Basilan RORO Shipping Route launched in April 2023

- Coordination with MOTC-BARMM, other BARMM agencies, and other donor agencies on the implementation of proposed priority projects in the Roadmap

MINDANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MINDA)

- ✓ Completed Discussion Papers for Mindanao Development Forum 2023
- Preparation of the Mindanao Transport Logistics Plan

Cross-cutting support for Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE)

- ✓ For CIC, PCC and TC: Preparation of Gender Action Plans (GAP) and integration of WEE and gender equality and social inclusion in key policy documents
- ✓ For ARTA: Incorporation of the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (GESIIA) section in ARTA RIA Manual
- ✓ Conducted study on gender discrimination in the labor market
- ✓ Conducted gender analysis of the Ease of Doing Business policies and procedures, and of the Retail Trade Liberalization Act and proposed amendments
- ✓ For ARTA: Continuing conduct of RIA-GESIIA training to regulatory agencies
- ✓ For Philippine Commission on Women (PCW): Preparation of gender and development (GAD) checklists for the peace and security sector
- ✓ With PCW: Continuing conduct of WEE Webinar series
- With local legislators: Crafting of ordinances on unpaid care and domestic work at the city and municipal levels

Cross-cutting support for Value-Chain Sectoral Reforms in Mining

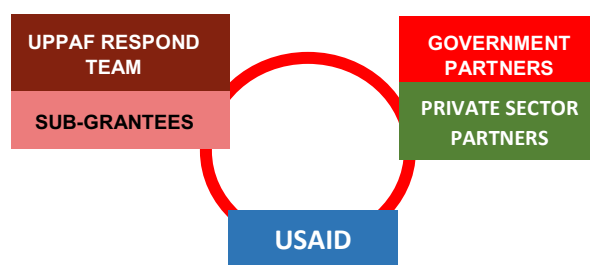
- ✓ Crafting of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DENR, DTI, DOF, DILG, ARTA, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines and Philippine Nickel Industry Association to establish a working partnership for sustainable development and investment in mineral extraction and processing that was signed in November 2023

- With ARTA and NGAs: Conducting RIA including GESSIA on government regulations on mining
- With DOF: Improving mining tax regime
- With ARTA and DILG: Conducting RIA including GESSIA on regulations in LGUs affecting mining operations

OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

RESPOND is working closely with partners from both the government and private sectors and its sub-grantees.

RESPOND COLLABORATIVE CIRCLE



UPPAF-RESPOND Sub-grantees: American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AMCHAM), REID Foundation, and Trade Advisory Group (TAG)

Government Partners: Philippine Congress (specific Committees), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Justice - Office for Competition (DOJ-OFC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Mindanao Development Authority (MINDA), Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Ministry of Transportation and Communications (BARMM MOTC), Credit Information Corporation (CIC), Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), and Tariff Commission (TC).

Local Government Partners: City of Manila, Pasig City and Quezon City

Private Sector Partners: Export Development Council (EDC), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Philippine Export Confederation, Inc. (PhilExport), US-ASEAN Business Council, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, and the Philippine Nickel Industry Association

CONTACT US

U.P. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SERVICES FOUNDATION, INC. (UPPAF)

Unit C 2/F Animat Building, 128 Maginhawa Street
Barangay Teachers Village East, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101

Telephone No. (63) 2 8534 3088