

# COALITIONS FOR CHANGE



## HOW CfC WORKS

*The Coalitions for Change (CfC) is a centerpiece program of the partnership between the Australian Embassy and The Asia Foundation in the Philippines. CfC focuses on key policy reforms to improve lives of Filipinos and promote their economic well-being. CfC encourages civil society, private sector, academe, and government to work together and bring about public policies that contribute to development reform priorities for the Philippines.*

## HOW WE WORK

Coalitions for Change supports key policy reforms that will make a difference in the lives of Filipinos, especially the poor and marginalized. CfC is focused on the whole policy cycle – identifying obstacles and gaps, improving how policies are developed, implemented, and enforced, and monitoring the impacts policy changes create. CfC measures success by looking at the impact of policy reforms and how these lead to sustainable and scalable social or economic outcomes.

CfC seeks *technically sound and politically feasible solutions* to promote equity and improved service delivery. It acknowledges the importance of context-specific initiatives and fosters ownership of solutions by local stakeholders to increase the likelihood of sustaining reforms.

CfC creates spaces for collaboration and brings together motivated groups, organizations and individuals – whether they be politicians, scholars, reform advocates or civil society members – to build the demand for better governance. With the right people, sound evidence, and valuable connections, these coalitions and networks are well-positioned to successfully influence policies.

CfC is designed to be flexible, opportunistic, and nimble. It recognizes that reform work in political spaces is dynamic and that there is not one best solution for complex governance challenges.

# WHAT WE DO

The CfC program works on development concerns that are consistent with the government's agenda: promoting economic growth, reducing vulnerabilities, improving education outcomes, and advocating for effective governance.

CfC achieves its objectives through:

- Engaging experienced local experts
- Strengthening evidence and analysis to inform policies
- Building the capacity of coalitions and organisations for policy dialogue
- Creating avenues to improve policy discourse
- Generating and communicating lessons in building coalitions, thinking and working politically, and developing policy

*CfC is seen as a highly innovative and successful program. An independent review in December 2013 deemed the program highly relevant to the Philippines and Australia's aid objectives - "It is the right thing to be doing, in the right place, and the right time."*

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# OUR KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2012, CfC has successfully brokered and contributed to a number of policy reforms in partnership with civil society, private sector, academe, and the government:



Tobacco and Alcohol Excise Tax Reform Law (aka Sin Tax), gaining an unprecedented 130 percent increase in the health budget, or Php 122.63 billion (AUD 2.99 billion) to support accessible health services for about 45 million Filipinos from 2014.



A local participatory and evidence-based process that led to a cumulative public investment of Php 98.2 billion (AUD 2.39 billion) for 298 strategic road networks and other infrastructure priorities in 15 provinces. The process increased funding for priority roads by more than 66 percent in 2016 from 2015.



A procurement process that allowed the Department of Education (DepEd) to purchase land for new school buildings that will help decongest public schools in urban areas.



New rules that allowed the titling of public schools in donated and public lands. By 2016, close to 5,000 public school sites have been titled and are now protected from adverse claims of ownership and appropriation.



A revised set of implementing rules for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management (NDRRM) Fund, unlocking Php 23 billion (AUD 560 million) for disaster response and supporting pre-disaster mitigation measures in poor and vulnerable local governments.



Voting guidelines and the setting up of 6,211 Accessible Polling Places which increased access for people with disability who voted in the 2016 national elections.



Electoral Service Reform Act (ESRA) of 2016, which will allow teachers to opt out of mandatory service and offer improved benefits for those who will carry out election duties. ESRA creates avenues for broader citizen participation in support of clean, fair, and honest elections.

CfC's non-linear and iterative approach is considered cutting edge in thinking and working politically. Reform champions develop and use their understanding of the drivers of change and use their social networks and political capital to navigate through the political nuances of reform work.