



URBAN CONNECT FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

USAID’s five-year (2023-2028), \$11 million Urban Connect activity promotes resilient economic growth across nine USAID Cities Development Initiative (CDI) partner cities and surrounding localities¹ by promoting economic development and supporting improved public service delivery. CDI’s purpose is to advance the development of cities outside Metro Manila as resilient engines of growth that are environmentally sustainable. USAID provides a range of technical assistance, drawing from resources in economic growth, health, energy, environment, governance, and education.

Urban Connect builds on previous USAID projects to bolster local economic development by improving the regulatory environment for private investment and enterprise growth and strengthening local government coordination. The project improves public service delivery by strengthening financial management, advancing e-government solutions, and enhancing the delivery of health and education services. USAID provides demand-driven, customized, and mutually reinforcing technical assistance to help partner cities become thriving economic hubs. Urban Connect is implemented by WSP USA Solutions, Inc. and aligns with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.

GOALS

ENHANCE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The project will assist CDI cities to become catalysts for economic growth in their respective regions by

¹ Batangas, Legazpi, and Puerto Princesa in Luzon; Iloilo, Tacloban, and Tagbilaran in Visayas; and Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, and Zamboanga in Mindanao

improving the business enabling environment to generate more private investments and enable local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to thrive and expand. Urban Connect will also support partner cities to address institutional and regulatory constraints and implement strategies to attract new investments. The project will help deepen collaboration with surrounding municipalities to address common development challenges and maximize the benefits of agglomeration and economies of scale.

IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

Urban Connect will help CDI cities improve revenue streams, maximize e-government solutions, and enhance delivery of basic services. The project will enhance the revenue plans of CDI cities, improve asset management, and maximize the contribution of local public enterprises to the city treasury. Urban Connect will explore public-private partnerships and fiscal improvement interventions and review how e-services and online platforms may be more widely adopted and used by citizens, businesses, and other government entities. Project interventions will help increase resource allocation to the health and education sectors and make those services more responsive to the needs of cities.

KEY RESULTS

- Assisted four cities with the Anti-Red Tape Authority's (ARTA) electronic One-Stop Shop (eBOSS) requirement and trained four cities on Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) processes.
- Developed eight revenue enhancement plans to update cities' public financial management roadmaps and increase tax and non-tax own-source revenue.
- Developed eight service improvement plans to modernize online processes including business permitting, licensing, and real property tax payments.
- Facilitated four partnership agreements between the Public-Private Partnership Center (PPP) and city governments and equipped nine cities with the knowledge and skills to navigate the new PPP code and implement high-impact projects.
- Developed six sector reform reports to improve the delivery of health and education services.
- Trained over 400 participants in digital governance, city transformation, and cybersecurity.
- Supported five cities in updating tourism development and investment promotion plans.
- Assisted six cities with value chain development and developed four industry-focused action plans that benefited more than 200 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- Promoted inter-local cooperation by facilitating the development of an economic development roadmap and an inter-chamber partnership.
- Supported a provincial roadshow on the Philippine Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to foster dialogue between governments, communities and indigenous peoples.

PROJECT DETAILS

Implementing Partner: WSP USA SOLUTIONS INC.
Implementation Period: 2023-2028
Total Estimated Investment: \$11 million
Geographic scope: See above

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