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Strengthening Urban Resilience for Growth with Equity (SURGE)

Performance Evaluation

The United States Agency for International Development/Philippines (USAID/PH) tasked the Collaboration, Learning, and Adaptation for Improved Development (CLAimDev), an activity implemented by the Panagora Group, to harvest the lessons learned from Strengthening Urban Resilience for Growth with Equity (SURGE) Activity through a third-party performance evaluation. The evaluation covers the original duration of SURGE and part of its extension (six years from July 25, 2015 to December 31, 2021) across the eight Cities Development Initiatives (CDI) cities of Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, Iloilo, Legazpi, Puerto Princesa, Tagbilaran, and Zamboanga, plus Marawi City.

SURGE is central to the CDI, a key element of the U.S.-Philippines Partnership for Growth and a core component of the Country Development Cooperation Strategy.

The evaluation informs us that:

1. SURGE was relevant, effective, and sustainable.
2. SURGE interventions were aligned with the needs of the local government units.
3. SURGE's demand-driven approach had many benefits, but also led to partner cities having different directions, depths of interventions, and levels of achievements within the scope of the project.
4. SURGE adjusted some performance indicators set at the start of the activity to the unique conditions of cities. Hence, at the end, there was difficulty in integrating and measuring overall project achievements.
5. With CDI partner cities' strong commitment and partners' willingness to fund activities, achievements through SURGE are likely to be sustained.

