



USAID's Philippine Anti-Trafficking Campaign: A US Pivot to Asia Strategy

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Abstract

This study looks into how the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) strengthens the Philippine campaign against human trafficking, acts as a smart power projection tool of the United States and reinforces the US Pivot to Asia.

This is a descriptive study on the USAID based on qualitative interviews conducted on four USAID-funded non-governmental organizations (NGO). This study's respondents include: Children's Legal Bureau, Inc. (CLB), Bidlisiw Foundation, Inc. (BIDLISIW), Tambayan Center for Children's Rights, Inc. (TAMBAYAN), and The Peoples Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance (PREDA) Foundation. Moreover, this study uses the theory of smart power by Joseph Nye, as its theoretical framework, and applies Braun and Clarke's method of thematic analysis in interpreting and analyzing data.

This study has found that first, USAID-funded NGOs are provided both financial and technical assistance for GO-NGO partnership, governmental capacity development, human trafficking prevention, and service provision for human trafficking victims. Second, the USAID, as a smart power projection tool, exhibits both hard power and soft power components as it forces the Philippines to comply with US minimum standards, non-coercively attracts Philippine cooperation and improves US-Philippine bilateral relationship. Finally, the USAID, as a smart power projection tool for US' Pivot to Asia Policy, is able to strengthen US' alliance with the Philippines, establish its presence in Asia, and uphold the Pivot to Asia policy on human rights.

This case study concludes that the USAID is an effective tool for strengthening the Philippine campaign against human trafficking and reinforcing US smart power projection through the “Pivot to Asia Policy.” Therefore, the USAID is a beneficial agency not only to the foreign aid recipient, the Philippines, but also to the foreign aid provider-the US.

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Ad Majorem dei Gloriam; For the greater glory of God.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Background of Study

Approximately 600,000-800,000 men, women, and children had been reported to be victims of human trafficking every year, and 50% percent of these victims were minors (US Department of State 2007). Human trafficking is a global issue addressed by numerous countries today, and the most active leader in this global campaign is the United States of America.

The US Department of State released their first Trafficking In Persons (TIP) report in 2001. According to the US State Department, the TIP report is the primary diplomatic tool that the US uses to generate cooperation among foreign governments against human trafficking. Moreover, the US TIP report provides information about the efforts that each country in the world does against human trafficking. The information in this report is then used by the US to help countries around the world to focus their attention on improving human trafficking prevention, protection, and prosecution programs through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In addition, the US TIP report ranks countries into different tiers depending on their compliance with the US minimum standards against human trafficking. Using these rankings, the US then determines which countries it shall provide or deprive help in terms of USAID assistance. Moreover, using these rankings, the US determines which countries to provide or deny US support of economic loans in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or in other international banks.

Along with the TIP report, in 2001, the US also launched its Anti-Trafficking against person's campaign through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The USAID was first created by former US President John F. Kennedy to assist in the development of "Third World" countries after the war; and to counter the expansion of the Soviet Influence around the world. However, after the Cold War, other priorities have been the focus of the USAID. "[T]ransnational and humanitarian issues, sustainable development, and democracy and "transformational aid"(Rosati & Scott, 2014, p.143)" are the broad areas to which USAID has prioritized since the end of the Cold War. Among these areas include the specific USAID campaign against human trafficking. In order to combat human trafficking, the USAID provides both financial and technical assistance to different countries all over the world.

One of the countries supported and helped by the US through the USAID Anti-human trafficking campaign is the Philippines. The US considers the Philippines as one of its closest strategic allies both politically and economically. In fact, last January 12, 2016, US Secretary of Defense Ash Carter has mentioned in his speech at the Washington D.C. that the Philippines, as a critical ally, plays a central role in US' re-balancing of the Asia Pacific region. Hence, based on this relationship, the US, through the USAID, has been providing assistance to the Philippines on various issues including human trafficking.

Before 2002, there existed no specific anti-human trafficking law in the Philippines. Moreover, only minimal human trafficking cases were reported, and most

of the Filipinos knew almost nothing about human trafficking. The US TIP report on the situation of human trafficking in the Philippines stated that there were only minimal convictions of human trafficking suspects due to the overall ineffectiveness of the Philippine judicial system. It was only in 2002 when the US started providing help to the Philippines against human trafficking. From 2002 until 2013, the US appropriated its aid through the Asia Foundation fund. Romero (2005) states that USAID funds used to come in the form of financial aid and technical aid to various government agencies such as the Department of Foreign Affairs, Philippine National Police, and Armed Forces of the Philippines. However, it was only in 2013 when the USAID established a close partnership with the Philippines through the Philippine-American (Phil-Am) Fund in order to appropriate its funds to four Philippine NGOs on the issue of human trafficking. These NGOs are located all over the Philippines, namely, People's Recovery Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation, Inc. or PREDA in Luzon, Children's Legal Bureau, Inc. or CLB and Bidlisiw Foundation Inc. in Visayas, and Tambayan Center for Children's Rights, Inc. in Mindanao. Since 2013, the Philippines has been improving its stand against human trafficking. In 2016 the Philippines became the only USAID-funded Asian country to have recently upgraded its rank to tier 1 in the 2016 US TIP report.

In 2013, USAID's shift to a closer relationship with the Philippines in the fight against human trafficking has been brought about by the recently signed Partnership for Growth (PFG) principles between the US and the Philippines last 2012. Through this PFG, the two countries have agreed to form stronger ties with each other

as they work to address the challenges in Philippine economic growth and development. This PFG, which led to a closer USAID Anti-human trafficking campaign, is an example of how the US is strengthening its presence, not just in the Philippines, but also in Asia as it fulfills one of its foreign policy agenda on the US Pivot to Asia.

“Pivot” in Pivot to Asia means engagement and integration to adjust to the changing patterns in the international arena, and the US Pivot to Asia is the shift of US foreign policy towards a greater emphasis on the countries in Asia. Pivot to Asia is due to the rationale that the growing concerns of the 21st century are centered in Asia. Moreover, the growing rise of China and the US’ security relations with them is of utmost importance for the stability of the international arena. Hence, the US works for the strengthening of US relations with its key allies Japan, South Korea, Australia, Philippines, and Thailand which are, according to former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (2011), “the fulcrum for our strategic turn to the Asia-Pacific.”

Research Objectives

This research study presents an in-depth research and analysis on the US-Philippine bilateral efforts to combat human trafficking through the USAID. Specifically, this study aims to address the following questions:

1. How does the USAID, as a tool for smart power projection, strengthen the Philippine campaign against human trafficking?
2. How does the USAID sustain the smart power of the United States of America?
3. How does the USAID reinforce the Pivot to Asia policy of the United States of America?

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the theoretical concept of smart power by Joseph Nye. Nye first introduced smart power in his book, *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics* (2004), as the combination of both hard power and soft power approaches. Nye further explains in his book that the use of either soft or hard power alone is not enough to achieve success in the world politics. It is best to apply a harmonious combination of both hard and soft powers.

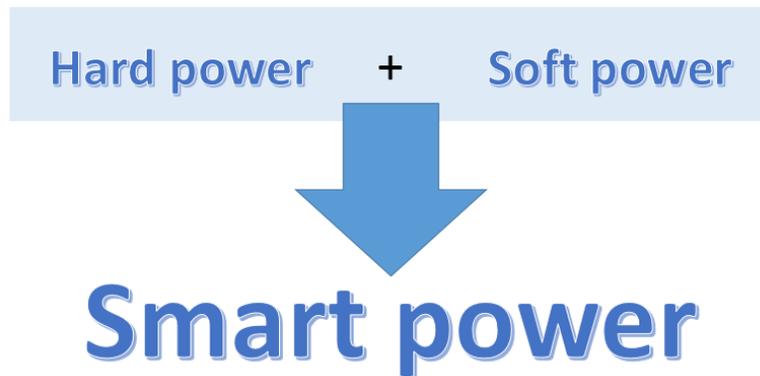


Figure 1.1. smart power

Nye (2004) defines hard power as “the ability to use the carrots and sticks of economic and military might to make others follow your will.” This means that Nye looks at hard power as the ability of a country to use its military and economic preponderance to force countries to cooperate to its will. Moreover, George (2004) mentions that the threat of either military or economic force is considered as the exercise of hard power. He further mentions that this “coercive diplomacy” is evident when one country backs its demands with threats or punishments for noncompliance. An example of this hard power is reflected in the annually released US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. The US TIP report ranks countries into different tiers, based on their compliance with minimum standards set by the US through its federal statute, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). Countries which do not comply with the set standards are ranked in the lowest tier, tier 3, and are given punishments through foreign aid cessation and other economic sanctions.

Soft power, as defined by Joseph Nye, is the ability to achieve preferred results through non-coercive ways like persuasion or attraction. Soft power is reflected through various factors such as culture, policies, and values such as democracy pro-

motion and the propagation of human rights. Jones (2016) mentions that a classic example of Nye's soft power is the US Marshall Plan. The US Marshall Plan, or the European recovery program, included numerous humanitarian aid to Europe during the end of the Second World War. Other examples include Obama's educational exchange programs in different countries and other US assistance to numerous beneficiary countries through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

In his article, Nye (2009) quotes the US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton as she mentions the use of smart power in America. Clinton says in one of her confirmation hearings "America cannot solve the most pressing problems on our own, and the world cannot solve them without America. . . We must use what has been called 'smart power,' the full range of tools at our disposal." Nye specifically uses the United States as an example of a nation that exercises smart power in its foreign policy application. He mentions that the US has the ability to exercise hard power and force other countries to comply with its will through US military and economic preponderance. Nye further explains that the country is also able to project soft power through propagating its culture, principles, values, and through providing US grants and aid. However, Nye explains in his book, *The Future of power* (2011), that the use of power has been changing throughout the years. It is not enough for the US to merely employ hard power or soft power alone. Hence, the evolving global situation has caused US Foreign policy strategies to improve and become more comprehensive strategies

in using power through the combination of both US hard and soft power, as reflected in the idea of smart power.

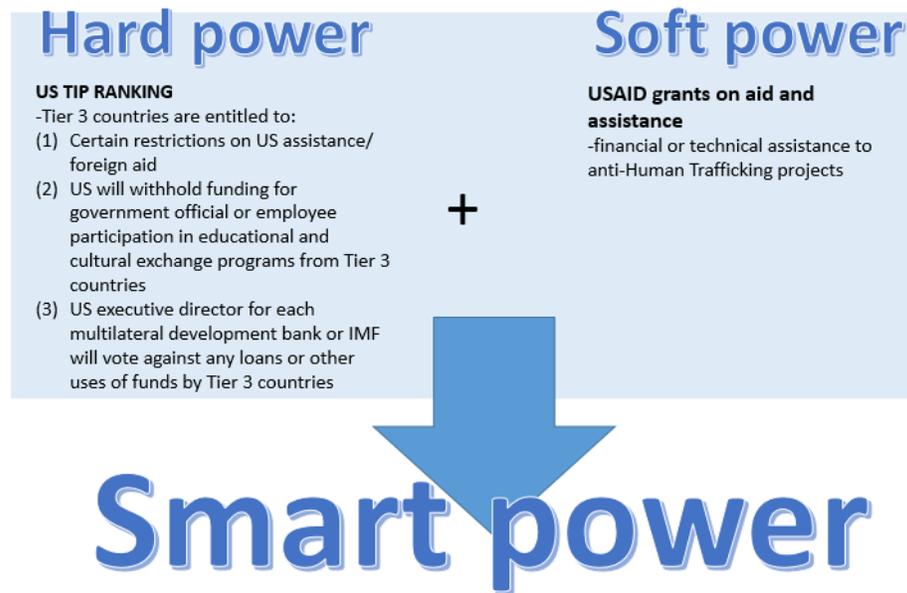


Figure 1.2. Smart Power Application

This research study focuses on US' smart power projection as shown on Figure 1.2. Specifically, in terms of soft power, this study focuses on how the US projects soft power through the USAID grants on aid and assistance in combating the specific issue of human trafficking in the Philippines. Moreover, in terms of hard power, this study discussed how the country supports and complements the USAID through its exercise of hard power- which is reflected in the foreign aid cessation and economic sanctions that the US TIP report and ranking entails.

In terms of research application, Joseph Nye's smart power served as the core and basis for this research endeavor. This research study revolved around the idea of US' smart power projection in combating human trafficking in the Philippines

through USAID. In a general sense, Joseph Nye’s smart power is reflected in the analysis and interpretation of this research study. The data gathered through the interviews conducted with the four USAID-funded NGOs were subjected to analysis and interpretation, and this analysis follows a framework that was based mainly on Joseph Nye’s theoretical concept of smart power. In this study’s analysis, the researchers looked at how the USAID acts as a smart power projection tool of the US. Moreover, this study analyzes how the USAID reinforces the US Pivot to Asia policy as a smart power projection tool.

Operational Framework

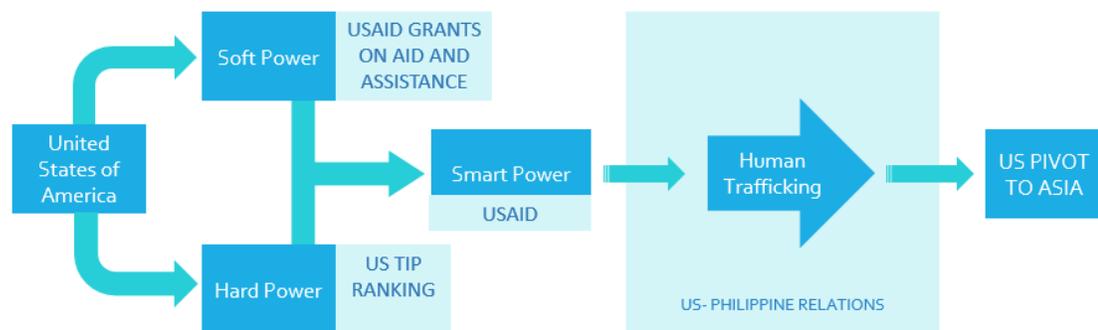


Figure 1.3 Operational Framework

This research study revolves around its conceptual framework, as seen on figure 1.3. Such framework begins with the United States of America and how it projects

two types of power: soft power and hard power, which if combined, and used simultaneously, will project what Joseph Nye (2004) defines as “smart power.”

First, this study focuses on USAID and the issue of human trafficking in the Philippines. Hence, in Chapter 3, this study discusses how the USAID strengthens the Philippine campaign against human trafficking.

Moreover, in terms of the USAID being a smart power projection tool, this study looks at the hard power and soft power components of the US-Philippine bilateral relations against human trafficking. Specifically, this study looked at US’ projection of hard power in the US TIP report and ranking which works together with the USAID in forcing countries to comply with the US minimum standards against human trafficking or risk experiencing foreign aid and economic sanctions from the US. Furthermore, this study looks at US’ projection of soft power in the economic grants and technical assistance provided by the USAID to its four NGO beneficiaries in the Philippines. Hence, in Chapter 4, this study discusses how the USAID acts as a smart power projection tool of the US in the Philippines.

Finally, since the USAID is a tool for US smart power projection, this study discusses how the USAID is able to reinforce one of US’ current foreign policy agenda, the US Pivot to Asia policy. Hence, in Chapter 5, this study discusses how the USAID reinforces it.

Operational Definition of Terms

1. **Governmental Organizations (GO)**- A governmental organization is an administrative unit of government, appointed for a specific or specialized task. (WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection, n.d.) This research study will focus only on specific governmental organizations that have been recipients of USAID, through the four USAID-funded NGOs, with regards in to the issue of human trafficking in the Philippines. This research study will refer only to the following governmental organizations: USAID, IACAT (Inter-agency Council Against Trafficking), Department of Justice, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other Local Government Units (LGU).
2. **Hard power** – is the use of force, coercion, or intimidation of one community towards another in order to acquire resources that they need. It relies on the orders and commands of a hegemon or superpower in the international sphere to control the actions and behaviors of other countries especially in decision making (Pallaver, 2011). However, in this study, hard power is limited to US’ exercise of hard power through the economic sanctions and aid cessations that it imposes to tier 3 countries in the US TIP report.
3. **Human Trafficking** – as defined by the Philippine Republic Act 10364 or the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012, Section 3 (a), and as used in this research study, “refers to the recruitment, obtaining, hiring, providing, offering, transportation, transfer, maintaining, harboring, or receipt of persons with or

without the victim's consent or knowledge, within or across national borders by means of threat, or use of force, or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of position, taking advantage of the vulnerability of the person, or, the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation which includes at a minimum, the exploitation or the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery, servitude or the removal or sale of organs." (Fifteenth Congress Third Regular Session, 2012).

4. **Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)** – is any non-profit voluntary citizen's group which operates on a local, national, or international level. These organizations perform various services and humanitarian aid. Some of them function through specific issues like human rights, education, and health. They have also played significant roles in democracy building, conflict resolution, human rights advocacy, cultural preservation, environmental activism, policy analysis, research and information provision (Lewis, 2009). However, this research study will focus only on specific non-governmental organizations that have been recipients of the USAID with regards to the issue of human trafficking in the Philippines. This research study will refer only to the following governmental organizations: Bidlisiw Foundation, Inc. and Children's Legal Bureau in Cebu, People's Recovery Empowerment and Development Assistance (PREDA)

Foundation, Inc. in Olongapo and Tambayan Center for Children's Rights, Inc. in Davao City.

5. **Smart power** – smart power, as defined by Joseph Nye and as used in this research study, is the combination or balance of both the hard power and soft power (Joseph Nye on “The Future of power”, 2011).
6. **Soft power** – refers to an instrument of one party to influence another through less violent means. It aims to practice peaceful methods of attracting the cooperation of other countries by providing economic aid, diplomacy, and propaganda (Michael Klare, 2015). However, in this study soft power refers to the non-coercive strategy of attraction by the United States as manifested through USAID’s foreign aid and assistance to the Philippines’s campaign against human trafficking.
7. **US-Philippine Bilateral Relations** – is based on the shared history between the United States and the Philippines. It also includes the commitment of both countries to democratic principles, as well as on economic and military ties. The Philippines followed the governmental institutions of the United States and continues to have the same views on democracy and human rights (DFA Fact Sheet: U.S.-Philippine Relations, 2014). However, this research study will focus its definition of US-Philippine bilateral relations to the partnership of the United States and the Philippines to combat human trafficking cases through the US-AID.

Significance of the Study

This study is relevant in understanding three themes. First, this study discusses how the USAID strengthens the Philippine campaign against human trafficking. Moreover, this study adds to the pool of literature discussing Joseph Nye's idea of smart power. Finally, this study adds to the studies conducted to analyze the US Pivot to Asia policy.

First, this study discusses how the USAID strengthens the Philippine campaign against human trafficking. The Philippines is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children who are victims of both forced labor and sex trafficking. The Philippines has long been exerting its efforts to improve its stand against human trafficking. Since 2002, the Philippines has successfully passed and expanded its Anti-Trafficking Persons Act. Moreover, the Philippines has been creating and strengthening government offices and units, such as the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT). However, in 2002 until 2012 the Philippines has been retaining its tier 2 ranking in the US TIP report despite its efforts to improve its stand. It was only in 2013 when the USAID created a closer tie with Philippine NGOs that the Philippines was able to truly improve its campaign against human trafficking as manifested by its upgraded ranking to tier 1 this 2016. This study discusses the role of the USAID in the Philippine tier rank upgrade. Though there have been studies discussing the Philippine government's efforts against human trafficking such as Kistof Impe's "*People for Sale: The Need for a Multidisciplinary Approach towards human trafficking*", there has been none that looks at the perspective of how the US, through

the USAID, has helped assist the Philippine campaign against human trafficking. Hence, this study dwells on the aid and assistance provided by the USAID to Philippine NGO's and how such assistance has helped the Philippine campaign against human trafficking.

Second, this study adds to the pool of literature discussing Joseph Nye's idea of smart power. No study has ever linked Joseph Nye's theory of smart power to the USAID. This study discusses how the USAID, as the leading US agency for international development, has coercively and non-coercively attracted Philippine cooperation against human trafficking.

Finally, this study adds to the studies conducted to analyze the US Pivot to Asia policy. With the growing rise of China's influence in the Asian region, different studies discussing US' strategies to strengthen its presence and influence in Asia have been released. However, no study has ever looked at the USAID's campaign against human trafficking as a strategy for US Pivot to Asia Policy. Hence, this study brings light to the USAID in a new perspective. This study discusses the USAID as more than just an agency for international development. It discusses USAID as a strategy for international influence specifically in Asia.

Scope and Limitations

This study focuses on how the USAID strengthened the Philippine campaign against human trafficking, sustained the smart power of the United States in the Philippines, and reinforced the US Pivot to Asia policy.

This study is limited only to the bilateral relations between the United States and the Philippines, through the USAID. Moreover, this study limits its discussion on USAID's Anti-Trafficking in Persons campaign.

NGOs who have Anti-Trafficking project proposals submit their applications and proposals to the USAID. The USAID then chooses among the submitted projects the best projects that they wish to fund. Hence, this study only includes NGOs which were chosen to be recipients of USAID support. The selection of these NGOs, for inclusion in this research study, was based on the provided list of USAID Anti-Trafficking in Persons grant in their official Website, as of the year 2015. The first NGO is the Bidlisiw Foundation Inc. with their project: Withdrawing and Preventing Children and Young People from Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation in a Post-Disaster (Yolanda) Area. The second USAID-funded NGO is the Children's Legal Bureau with their project: Empowering Communities and Building Partnerships for Anti-Trafficking in Persons. Third, is the People's Recovery Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation, Inc. or PREDA with their project: Rescuing Girls and Boys from Trafficking and Providing Healing, Education and Legal Assistance to Victims. Finally, there is the Tambayan Center for Children's Rights, Inc. with their

project: Countering Trafficking-in-Persons by Sharing Information, Advocacy, Training, Education, and Responsive Local Governance (COUNTER/TIPSTER).

In addition, this study's scope starts from 2013 when the USAID strengthened its partnership with the Philippines by partnering with the Philippine American fund (PHILAM fund) and the Gerry Roxas Foundation. Finally, this study's scope is limited only to June 2016 before the funding of the two new USAID-funded NGOs.

Methodology

In this section, the researchers highlight the research design, the unit of analysis, the data collection procedure and the data analysis strategy necessary for this research endeavor.

Research Design

This research study is descriptive in design and qualitative in paradigm. This study is descriptive in design for it collects information in order to provide a description of the USAID's characteristics as a US agency for international development. Moreover, this study is qualitative in paradigm for it uses an inquiry process of understanding the USAID through complex, holistic, and open-ended interviews with the respondents of this study.

Unit of Analysis

The researchers gathered data by interviewing four USAID funded non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The selection of these NGOs was based on the provided list of USAID Anti-Trafficking in Persons grant in their official website as of

the year 2015. Moreover, the selection was specific only to the NGOs that have conducted programs or projects with the assistance of the USAID for over a year now.

The first NGO is the Bidlisiw Foundation Inc. with their project: Withdrawing and Preventing Children and Young People from Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation in a Post-Disaster (Yolanda) Area. The second USAID-funded NGO is the Children's Legal Bureau with their project: Empowering Communities and Building Partnerships for Anti-Trafficking in Persons. Third, is the People's Recovery Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation, Inc. or PREDA with their project: Rescuing Girls and Boys from Trafficking and Providing Healing, Education and Legal Assistance to Victims. Finally, the Tambayan Center for Children's Rights, Inc. with their project: Countering Trafficking-in-Persons by Sharing Information, Advocacy, Training, Education, and Responsive Local Governance (COUNTER/TIP-STER).

Data Collection Procedure

The researchers conducted in-depth personal and virtual interviews with the four USAID funded NGOs. The researchers contacted these NGOs by writing a letter of request and scheduling an appointment for a virtual or personal interview. The interviews were conducted with at least one representative from each NGO. These representatives were equipped with wide knowledge about the human trafficking situation in their area and the assistance of the USAID to their NGO. The researchers formulated and provided these key informants with an in-depth interview guide that consisted of open-ended and probing questions.

For supplementary data, this research study referred to the official websites of the USAID Philippines and the official websites of the USAID-funded NGOs. Moreover, this study referred to speeches of US government officials regarding their Pivot to Asia Policy. Finally, this study referred to the official documents and reports provided by the USAID and the US Department of State.

Data Analysis Strategy

After rigorous research and collection of data, the responses gathered from the interviews of the four USAID-funded NGOs were then analyzed by the researchers using the Braun and Clarke method of thematic analysis. First, the researchers familiarized themselves with the data collected through transcribing the interviews. Then, the researchers extracted general concepts within the responses of the participants and translated such concepts to formulate common themes in each interview question. These themes were then used to answer the research objectives set by this research study. This method, according to Braun and Clarke, is a data analysis strategy which helps move analysis from a broad reading of data towards discovering patterns and mounting themes (Braun & Clarke, 2013). In general, this study used a specific paradigm of thematic analysis that is deeply rooted within six phases namely familiarizing the data itself, coding, searching for what themes will be used, reviewing these themes, analyzing and interpreting them, and most importantly, writing up the study.

Chapter 2

Review of Related Literature

This chapter presents related literatures that highlight the five major themes of this study. The first two themes will highlight US' global anti-trafficking campaign and the Philippines' anti-trafficking campaign. The third theme will look into articles related to the USAID as an agency for international development. The fourth theme will tackle US' foreign policy in Asia through the Pivot to Asia policy. Finally, the last theme will look at literatures concerning Joseph Nye's smart power projection.

United States of America's Anti-Trafficking Campaign

The literatures in this section discuss the situation and the initiatives of the US regarding the issue of human trafficking. Throughout the years, there has been a steady increase in the negative implications that corresponds with the advancements brought about by globalization. Several criminal activities have been linked to the changes that have occurred in the passing years. One particular crime is human trafficking, which can also be regarded as a modern form of slavery. This crime affects women, men, children, migrants, and other minorities in all corners of the world.

Mark P. Lagon, Ph.D. (2011), one of the scholars studying human trafficking, is the Ambassador- and Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State since 2007. He stated that human trafficking preys mainly on the marginalized sector in society, especially in this globalized world. Based on one of his published work, 'The Global Abolition of

Human Trafficking,' there is an estimated 1.8 people out of 1,000 who are victims of human trafficking globally, which is based on an estimate of 12.3 million victims by the International Labor Organization. He further explained that the US became one of the most important countries that battle human trafficking and is the leading entity in the campaign because of its efforts through the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). According to him, these two initiatives, have been the primary global tools in addressing the problem on human trafficking. He explained that the TVPA provides for US' standards of state action against human trafficking. He also talked about the TIP report which ranks countries into three tiers. Tier 1, being the highest, includes countries which have fully complied with US' minimum standards against human trafficking. Tier 2 includes countries that have not fully complied with US' standards but are doing significant effort to do so. Finally, Tier 3 includes countries that are not making significant efforts to comply with US minimum standards against human trafficking. He said that the United States, as a superpower, has the capability, resource, and influence to encourage action inside and outside its borders. However, he also stated that although these instruments have been a big step to overcoming human trafficking, these are not enough to make a full "transformational change." There are still areas that the United States and the entire global arena need to address. He stated that the US needs to pay closer attention to the states and the sectors that are the most vulnerable and susceptible to human trafficking. In his study, he mainly focused on the idea that the US is the leading power that addresses the issue of human trafficking. He focused on how it has

been the only country that has truly exerted all necessary efforts and all necessary resources to tackle the problem. Furthermore, his study also discussed on how the country wants to engage other countries around the world in US' global campaign against human trafficking. Through his study, he discussed the authority that the US possesses and exercises to influence other nations to comply to its global campaign against human trafficking. However, his study also expressed that there are discrepancies in the ways done by the US. The author has noticed that the country could do more in the anti-trafficking campaign if it practices what it preaches. This means that the US has been observed as good in commanding orders, but not really following them. It should do more than giving out commands to other nations.

His study is relevant in this research study since it discusses the role of the US in the fight against human trafficking. His study also stated the necessary adjustments that it should make to improve the efforts that it provides for other governments. However, his study was not able to elaborate the purpose behind US' initiative against human trafficking. Lagon has substantially elaborated on US' capabilities in its global campaign against human trafficking. However, he failed to discuss what the rationale is behind this US initiative. Hence, this research study complements his article, for this study, explains another perspective behind US' Anti-Trafficking campaign through the USAID. This study elaborates how the US uses the USAID to project its smart power among countries like the Philippines through anti-trafficking campaigns. Moreover, this study looks at how the US uses its anti-trafficking campaign to fulfill its foreign policy agenda in Asia.

Moshoula Capous Pallaver, Ph.D. (2007) is a renowned scholar at a faculty at California State University in Social Work and Social Research from Portland University in the year 2010. She specializes in feminist theories, anti-oppression, social justice, sex work and immigration among others. In one of her works, “A Critique of the Global Trafficking and Global Policy,” she talks about the features that the TVPA emphasizes, which are prevention, protection, and prosecution or the three Ps. She focused on the feature of prevention where she discusses how the US demands from other countries to make preventive actions to end human trafficking. Furthermore, she discussed that the US observed and assessed the countries on their respective human trafficking campaigns. These assessments are then published annually through their TIP report. She further stated that these assessments are ranked into a Tier system, which significantly shows the effectiveness of the strategies that the various nations have taken up. Also, she discusses that these rankings highlight the US as an imperialist and a hegemonic power not just with the issue of human trafficking but, in other areas as well. This is highlighted especially on the trend that the countries placed on the Tier 3 ranking of the TIP report are those that have fewer interactions or are not in “good terms” with the country. From her study, it is clear that the US is the dominant power in the international sphere. She mentions that it regulates the activities of other countries especially if it affects their own security or self-interest. Hence the US invests itself in issues like human trafficking. Hence, she states that the US uses its power to encourage countries to follow US interests. Countries, on the other hand, are obliged to follow the mandates of the US out of fear of the consequences that may

follow if they do not comply. Furthermore, she discusses that the ranking system shows some sign of biases. Those that have been known to be important allies of the US are mainly placed on the Tier 1 and Tier 2 rankings, while those that are not in favor with the superpower are placed in the lower ranking. For example, she mentions that Venezuela, North Korea, Iran, and Russia are countries which have ill relations with the US and are ranked at Tier 3 in the TIP report.

Her study is relevant to this research study for it discusses US' authority in coercively attracting cooperation among countries. Moreover, she discusses how the US often politicizes its TIP ranking in order to give its allies a higher TIP rank and therefore favors more the United States. However, she failed to discuss more on how the US uses such authority to uphold its other interests. She failed to elaborate on how it uses its human trafficking efforts to uphold its foreign policy in regions around the world. Moreover, she was not able to bring her discussion into the state level of analysis; she failed to discuss how the US specifically imposes its human trafficking in a state, and how such US intervention affects that particular receiving state. This research study supplements her discussion by presenting another perspective on how the US uses its global human trafficking campaign as its foreign policy, especially in Asia. Moreover, this study presents a state level discussion and analysis on how the US goes about with its human trafficking campaign in a particular receiving state, the Philippines, and how such campaign has affected the Philippine human trafficking situation in general.

Situating the Literatures: United States of America's Anti-Trafficking Campaign

This section discusses two articles. The first article highlights the US' role in the fight against human trafficking. The second article discusses US' authority in coercively attracting cooperation among countries, and US' use of its human trafficking campaign to give political favors to certain countries. Similarly, both articles have discussed and critiqued US' global campaign against human trafficking. However, both articles have failed to discuss the rationale behind US' global campaign against human trafficking. The articles have failed to analyze that the US global campaign against human trafficking may not just be a global campaign to protect human rights, but it may also be a campaign to uphold US interests all over the world. Moreover, both articles fail to provide a state level discussion and analysis on how the US global campaign against human trafficking is being implemented in a state, and how such global campaign affects that receiving state's human trafficking situation. Hence, this study supplements the literatures by looking at the political rationale behind US' global campaign against human trafficking. Moreover, this study discusses the US global campaign against human trafficking through the USAID as a global campaign to uphold one of US' foreign policy agenda, the US Pivot to Asia policy. Finally, this study provides a state-level discussion and analysis on the US global campaign against human trafficking.

Human Trafficking in the Philippines

In this part of the study, the literatures show the human trafficking situation in the Philippines and the government's measures to combat the problem. The Philippines is not exempted from the criminal activities happening in the world, particularly human trafficking. As it was defined in the previous chapter, human trafficking in the Philippines is the transfer or removal of one person from one place to another without the consent or knowledge of the said person. This is also for the purpose of exploitation may it be for sexual, labor, or slavery. (Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012). For instance, this is done under the pretense of a job opportunity abroad with many benefits and a sufficient amount of salary.

Kimberly Mehlman-Orozco (2014), who has a Ph.D. in Criminology, Law and Society from George Mason University and an expert in human trafficking, stated in her study entitled "Human Trafficking in the Philippines: A Blemish on Economic Growth" that the Philippines has one of the highest economic growths in Asia, but the benefits of this success cannot be accessed by the majority of Filipinos who live in poverty. She explains that based on the estimations of the World Bank, 26.5 percent of the Filipino population continues to live in poverty, which would lead many of the Filipinos into dangerous human trafficking situations. She explains that the Philippines continues to be one of the leading source country of sex trafficking and forced labor cases in the entire world. Furthermore, she explains that in the 2013 TIP Report, Filipino victims of human trafficking has been identified in over 37 countries across five continents of the world. She also says that children are not exempted from this

crime as it was estimated that there are 60,000 to 100,000 children forced into prostitution inside and outside the country where “sex tourists” that come from Northeast Asia, Australia, Europe and many more are prevalent and continue to enter the country and engage in sexual activities with children. Women can also be forced into prostitution, sexual slavery or domestic service, which mostly occurs in countries like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and more. Men can also be trafficked into forced labor or debt bondage most especially in plantations, construction sites, factories and the like. She further emphasized that these people fall victim into these types of situations because of financial crises, lapses on economic opportunities, and problems in family dynamics, making them vulnerable and gullible.

Even though the Philippine government has laws and follows international treaties that address human trafficking, it is still not enough to eradicate the problem in the country. From the 227 cases for prosecution that were filed in the Department of Justice in the year 2012, only 24 were convicted of human trafficking, which goes to show the lack of resources and capabilities of the government to penalize those that commit the crime and protect those that fall victim to it. Based on her study it is clear that in the Philippines, more and more people have become victims of this heinous crime regardless of age and gender, and the author emphasizes that majority of the victims come from the sector who live in poverty. She explains that those who have less in life tend to lean towards dangerous solutions to alleviate their situation because they have nothing else to lose. She explains how poverty becomes a determin-

ing factor for Filipinos to be trafficked because of their desire to earn money and make a living.

Mehlman-Orozco (2014) discusses how the Philippine government alone has not been able to address the issue on human trafficking because it does not have enough resources in the country to handle it. Her study elaborates on the lapses of the Philippines in addressing its human trafficking situation. However, her study was not able to discuss and elaborate on the improvements that the Philippines has achieved throughout the years. Moreover, this discussion focuses only on the Philippines, and what the Philippine government has been doing to improve the Philippine human trafficking campaign. Hence, this study was not able to consider other factors such as the USAID, which is a leading benefactor in the strengthening the Philippine human trafficking campaign. However, this research study will be able to supplement her discussion by expanding on the improvements in the Philippine anti-trafficking campaign throughout the years. Moreover, this study will add another perspective in her study by discussing how factors like the US' help, through the USAID, has improved the Philippine situation throughout the years.

In addition, an article by Lisa Curtis, a senior research fellow regarding South Asia in The Heritage Foundation's Asia Studies Center focusing on US national security and regional geopolitics, and Olivia Enos (2015), a research associate specializing in human rights and transnational criminal issue in the Asian Studies Center at the Heritage Foundation, discusses that the Philippines has made quite an improvement in its status regarding human trafficking. They explain in their study that the government

began to make serious changes in its policies so that it could accommodate the growing number cases of human trafficking. They state that the Philippine government has even created an agency, the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), which is a domestic anti-human trafficking force that cooperates and coordinates with other NGOs to combat human trafficking in the country. According to them, another significant change in the Philippine human trafficking context came with the Aquino administration. During the term of President Benigno Aquino III term from 2010-2016, the government has been able to prosecute and convict traffickers, and help victims more than the previous administrations. Moreover, the Aquino administration has been able to mobilize various resources in the government like law enforcement training, legal and judicial changes, and victim restitution. The government has also provided enough security to contain the criminal activities at different ports in the country, where most cases of human trafficking occur.

From the study of Curtis and Enos (2015), it can be understood that there have been great improvements in the status of the Philippines regarding human trafficking cases in the past years. They have explained that the government has been more active in the fight against human trafficking and has encouraged better action in addressing it. Moreover, according to them, more and more cases have been filed and more victims are being rescued. It can be seen that the term of President Benigno Aquino III has proved to be productive since the traffickers are brought to justice because of the changes in the policy-making functions of the government, and the help of other agencies and organizations that want to address the issue as well. However,

the article was not able to look at the international perspective in the improvement of the Philippine's Anti-human trafficking campaign. They failed to discuss how external factors have been contributing to the Philippines' campaign against human trafficking. The study was not able to discuss how the USAID, as a leading benefactor of the Philippines in the issue of human trafficking, has become a factor in the strengthening in the Philippine campaign against human trafficking. Hence, this research study would be able to further elaborate their discussion on the improvement of the Philippine anti-human trafficking campaign. This study provides research on the international level or the external factors contributing to the Philippine anti-human trafficking campaign. Specifically, this research study discusses the cooperation between the Philippines and the United States in strengthening the Philippine campaign against human trafficking. This research study looks at how the US, through the USAID, has helped strengthen the Philippine campaign against human trafficking.

Situating the Literatures: Human Trafficking in the Philippines

This section discussed two articles. The first article highlights how the Philippine government alone has not been able to effectively address the issue on human trafficking because it does not have enough resources in the country to handle it. The second article discusses the improvements in Philippines' campaign against human trafficking throughout the years. Similarly, both articles discuss about the human trafficking situation in the Philippines. However, both articles fail to discuss the international perspective in the Philippine campaign against human trafficking. Both articles did not elaborate on how the US, through the USAID, has played a role in the

Philippine's campaign against human trafficking. Hence, this study is able to supplement and improve the literatures presented by discussing the relevance of external factors such as US' global anti-trafficking campaign in the Philippines' own domestic campaign against human trafficking.

USAID Criticisms: The Criticisms of their Afghan Project

There have been minimal literatures studying about the USAID as an agency for US international development. Most of the scholarly articles that discuss about the USAID are coming from the USAID published for more than 11 years prior to date, or are assessment or impact studies that evaluate its effectiveness. However, the researchers have found that the only scholarly existing literature about the USAID discusses about USAID criticisms regarding their Afghan Project. Hence, the literature discussed in this particular section talks about a study that criticizes the USAID's program in Afghanistan.

The USAID is known to provide financial assistances to developing countries like Afghanistan. Kredo (2013), a political and public affairs expert, discusses how the USAID signed a \$236 million contract with the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in 2008 which provides, among other things, immunizations, prenatal exams, hospital equipment and salaries in 13 Afghan provinces. He elaborated that most of the services are delivered through local nonprofit groups, reaching hundreds to thousands of people who have little means to pay for them. However, since then it has been scrutinized as to how the American aid group has exercised little oversight over the taxpayer dollars despite warnings there is a "high risk" that the Afghan agency is

engaging in “waste, fraud, and abuse” on the financial aid given to them. How did they find out about the anomaly in the system? The author explains that it was discovered by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) John Sopko who provides “independent and objective oversight of Afghanistan reconstruction projects and activities.” The author stated that despite financial management deficiencies at the Afghan Ministry of Public Health, the USAID continues to provide millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars in direct assistance with little assurance that the Ministry of Public Health is using these funds as intended. USAID is known to filter their recipients thoroughly before they provide assistances, yet with this program, it was seen that there might have been a lapse on their judgments resulting to a very big problem causing USAID to be scrutinized and criticized by many. Moreover, the author is skeptical if such case is merely a weakness in the system brought about by poor management skills on the part of the USAID or is a political agenda in the form of US financial distribution. However, the author explains that there is still not enough evidence to support his hypothesis.

Situating the Literature: USAID Criticisms and the Criticisms of their Afghan Project

Kredo’s (2013) study is relevant to this study since it discusses the criticisms and the negative sides of USAID. His study discusses the weaknesses of USAID’s implementation in Afghan. Although he provided an extensive study regarding the issue, the author failed to discuss how the issue was resolved. Moreover, he failed to include in his discussion the explanation of the USAID to such criticisms. More im-

portantly, he was not able to discuss USAID's overall system of providing funds to Afghan. He did not discuss how the USAID provides help to Afghan and at which area specifically in the USAID fund appropriation system has the USAID failed. However, this research study is able to better explain and bring light to the authors' study. This research study discusses the USAID fund appropriation system to another Asian country, the Philippines. This study elaborates specifically, how the USAID provides funds to the Philippines, to which programs are such funds appropriated to, and how has such USAID help strengthened the Philippines' stand against the specific issue of human trafficking. Hence, this research study can complement or serve as a comparison to the author's discussion of USAID efforts in Afghan.

The U.S. Foreign Policy: The Pivot to Asia

The literatures discussed in this particular section are related to US' foreign policy agenda on rebalancing in the Asian region, the US Pivot to Asia. This section talks about the priorities or goals of the Pivot to Asia policy of the US.

Campbell (2013), a former US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs states in his study that "Asia, should be placed more centrally in the formulation and execution of American foreign policy." He explains how the United States is building extensive diplomatic, economic, development, people-to-people and security ties with the region. Given the region's vital importance to America's future, President Obama's team, along with other agencies and departments must implement six key efforts to develop and implement the Pivot to Asia policy. First is through alliances. The author discusses that this priority to strengthen the US alliances is the

foundation of engagement in the region. He explains that alliances provide the pillars upon which the region's sustained peace and security rest. In partnership with its allies, the United States should strive to create a stable security order that builds strategic confidence within the region, and it should provide the context for states to build closer ties with each other. Second is improving its relationship with emerging powers. The author explains that once the US accomplishes the first pillar, they can easily embark on this second priority. Third is economic statecraft. The author states that the US should recognize the Asia-Pacific region as a rising driver of global economic growth. The author explains that this approach elevates the importance of economic statecraft as a core element of US foreign policy in order to fuel the economic recovery. The fourth pillar is the implementation of a new and innovative element of US regional policy which is increased engagement with the Asia-Pacific's maturing multilateral institutions. The author claims that these bodies, while relatively young, have the potential to help build and reinforce a system of rules and responsibilities in order to address complex transnational challenges and promote cooperation. The fifth pillar, according to the author, is threaded throughout all US diplomatic engagements in the Asia-Pacific region, a steadfast support and advocacy for universal values, including human rights and democracy. The sixth and final element of the rebalance has been the development of a geographically dispersed, politically sustainable force posture in the region.

Indeed, Campbell's (2013) article provides the US' six priorities in its Pivot to Asia policy. However, Campbell was not able to elaborate on how the US will be able

to pursue these priorities. What diplomatic tools shall it use in order to pursue this policy? He was not able to present or suggest an effective method or an existing method that the country should follow to achieve its goals. Moreover, the author was not able to discuss how the US can utilize and maximize its power in the pursuit of its Pivot to Asia policy. However, this research study is able to supplement the author's discussion by discussing about how the country employs its smart power, the combination of its hard power and soft power, to achieve its Pivot to Asia policy. Hence, this research study adds to the author's discussion by providing an existing system on how the US makes use of its available diplomatic tools to advance its interests.

Hillary Clinton (2011), the former US Secretary of state, discusses in one of her released US State Department official documents about the strengthening of US relations with its key allies. She discusses the importance of cultivating strong US relations with countries like Japan, South Korea, Australia, Philippines, and Thailand which are “the fulcrum for our strategic turn to the Asia-Pacific.” She also writes about the importance of investing on the establishment of the US presence in Asia– in terms of diplomatic, economic, strategic, and otherwise.

In her article, Clinton (2011) discusses one of US' Pivot to Asia policy aims. She elaborates that in such policy, the US must work to establish and strengthen its relations with its key allies. However, Clinton has failed to elaborate just how it will be able to use its diplomatic tools, its power, and its authority to establish itself in Asia. Hence, this research study supplements Clinton's discussion by presenting a

method of US smart power projection in Asia through the USAID. This study is able to discuss one strategy for the country to establish its presence in Asia.

Situating the Literatures: The U.S. Foreign Policy's Pivot to Asia

This section discussed two articles. The first article provides the the US' priorities in its foreign policy agenda on the US Pivot to Asia policy, according to a study by Campbell (2013). The second article also provides a discussion of US' Pivot to Asia policy as a policy of strengthening US' relations with key allies in Asia. Similarly, both articles discuss and elaborate the policy's emphasis on strengthening alliances in Asia, and creating a greater presence for the US in Asia. However, both studies fail to discuss the method that it shall use in implementing its Pivot to Asia policy. The articles fail to discuss how the country will use its power and resources to achieve its foreign policy agenda. Hence, this research study expands the presented literature by discussing a strategy that it may use to achieve its foreign policy agenda goals. This study elaborates on US' strategy of smart power projection in Asia through the US-AID.

Joseph Nye's smart power projection

The researchers have found that there are a scarcity on scholarly literatures and research endeavors that utilized Joseph Nye's theory of Smart Power projection. However, this section will be discussing one study that criticizes Nye's theory and presents negative implications of smart power.

Paul Cammack (2008), Head of the Department of Politics and Philosophy at Manchester Metropolitan University, believes that there are negative implications for the use of smart power. He criticized that Nye's smart power cannot restore American leadership for America is in no position to lead at present. He explains that America is not investing in the global good and that it lacks commitment to the United Nations. It is widely seen as applying double standards; "that it has weak relationships with international and domestic partners and weakly aligned international and domestic agendas; that it lacks respect for other countries and a willingness to listen and understand; that it distributes economic rewards unequally at home and is ill-prepared for international competition."

Situating the Literature: The U.S. Foreign Policy's Pivot to Asia

Cammack's (2008) study presents a negative light to Nye's theory of smart power. The author elaborates that the US cannot pursue an effective display of smart power due to its weak relationships with international and domestic partners. However, he was not able to recognize the already existing capabilities and power of the US as a global hegemon, and how it can use such capabilities to exercise its smart power to improve its relationships with other countries. Hence, this research study brings the authors' criticisms into a deeper understanding. This research study discusses how the US is able to improve its relationships with key allies through its use of smart power projection. This research study provides a specific explanation and situation where the US uses its agency, the USAID, as a tool for smart power projection, to strengthen its relationship with the Philippines and with the Asian region.

Situating the Study in the Review of Related Literature

With the presented journals and articles provided in this chapter, six major themes and ideas were highlighted. First is the US and their anti-human trafficking campaign. Second is the human trafficking situation in the Philippines. Third is an article that presents criticisms towards the USAID, specifically their project in Afghanistan. Fourth is the shift of the U.S foreign policy redirecting their focus to Asian countries, the Pivot to Asia policy. Lastly is the negative implications of the Joseph Nye's smart power projection.

Despite the available journals and articles presented, there are still a few gaps in the pool of literature available that will be addressed by this research study. First, there has been no in- depth research study on the cooperative bilateral relations of the US and the Philippines in addressing human trafficking through the USAID. Second, despite rigorous research, the researchers could not locate any articles that looks at how the USAID sustains US' smart power projection in the Philippines. Finally, no literature exists that explains the implications of the USAID to US' Pivot to Asia policy.

Chapter 3

USAID and the Philippines Against Human Trafficking

This chapter discusses the actions that the United States, through the USAID, has done to strengthen the Philippine campaign against human trafficking. First, this study has found that the USAID provides two types of support to its NGO beneficiaries: financial assistance and technical assistance. Moreover, this study has found that the financial and technical assistance provided by the USAID is intended for the following programs: GO-NGO Partnership, Capacity Development of Government Organizations, Community Advocacy and Human Trafficking Prevention, and Service Provision for Human Trafficking victims.

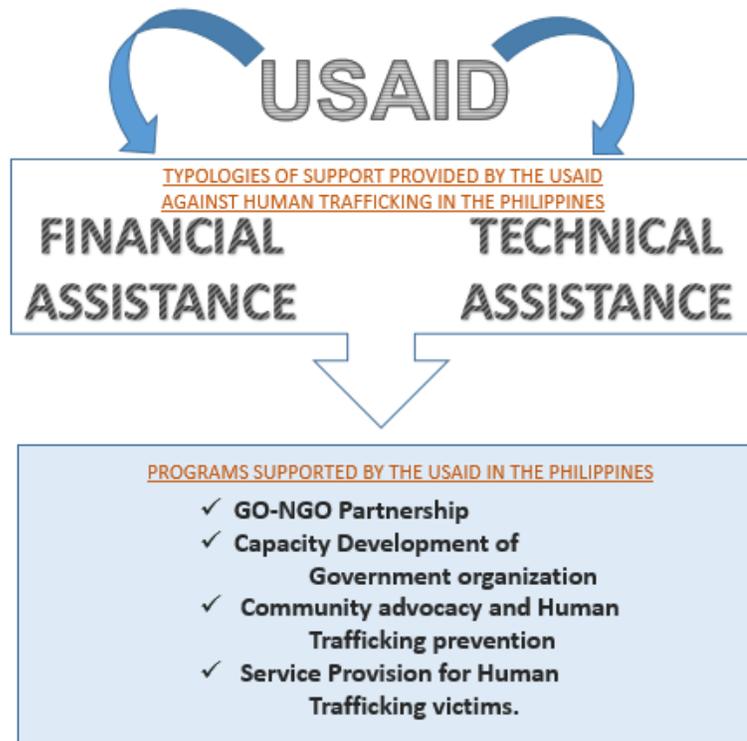


Figure 3.1
USAID Strengthening Philippine Campaign Against Human Trafficking

Typologies of Support Provided by the USAID Against Human Trafficking in the Philippines

The USAID provides assistance to support the projects of different NGOs all over the Philippines. Its assistance comes in both financial and technical assistance.

Financial Assistance

One way that the USAID provides assistance to each USAID-funded NGO is through financial assistance. Financial assistance refers to the transfer of funds from the USAID to a partner organization located in the receiving country for the implementation of USAID-funded programs and projects. The money that the USAID donates is first appropriated to the Philippine-American (Phil-Am) fund which is a grant facility in the Philippines. The money is then managed by the Gerry Roxas Foundation (GRF) to make sure that the USAID's money is provided only to certain NGOs gradually through the duration of their project.

All NGOs received financial support from the USAID through the Phil-Am fund. NGOs which seek funding has to undergo a rigorous process. The respondents in this study unanimously agree to the rigorous process. Tambayan Center for Children's Rights, Inc. (TAMBAYAN) explained the way that the USAID appropriated funds to their NGO. They explained that there is a thorough process in terms of financial appropriation to the NGOs. They said that before giving the funds, the GRF should check, together with its institutional partner, the SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV & Co.), whether the NGO qualifies for the USAID's set standards. Moreover, similar to TAMBAYAN's stand, CLB also explained about the USAID's strict distrib-

ution, monitoring, and evaluation of its funds by explaining the meticulous USAID financial aid allocation to the NGOs. They explained that no excess amount is given to each NGO and that the USAID only appropriates the exact funds that are needed for each activity or program. This means that the USAID does not directly provide NGOs with money, but the USAID uses a partner funding organization that allows it to effectively transfer funds to these organizations. Through this method, the US provides financial assistance to the Philippines in order to non-coercively generate cooperation against human trafficking.

Furthermore, in terms of allocating these funds, TAMBAYAN mentioned that the USAID granted 11 million pesos for the fulfillment of their projects in a two-year duration. TAMBAYAN explained that they do not directly provide hard cash to the people in their community. TAMBAYAN uses the money to fund programs, trainings, and seminars to attain the fulfillment of their objectives. TAMBAYAN also uses the money sent by the USAID to conduct street plays and other educational programs that promote their anti-human trafficking advocacies. However, in certain cases, TAMBAYAN appropriates expenses for food, legal filing, temporary shelter and medical expenses.

Aside from TAMBAYAN, the Children's Legal Bureau, Inc. (CLB), also receives 9 million pesos from the USAID for their anti-trafficking efforts on training, capacitating barangays and organizing seminars regarding trafficking or simply prevention and awareness of trafficking. CLB stated that the financial funds that they receive from the USAID are appropriated to different trainings that they conduct on

ordinance making, law enforcement, and protocol manual. Moreover, some of their financial funds are also allocated to capacitating barangays through different orientations, trainings, and seminars in order to capacitate these sectors to improve the Philippine campaign against human trafficking. Moreover, the Bidlisiw Foundation, Inc. (BIDLISIW) received 10 million pesos from the USAID for 2 years which are appropriated for community engagement, training, therapy sessions and family development. They mention that their project started last September 2015, and is given a 2-year time frame. Furthermore, BIDLISIW stated that the USAID financial assistance of 10 million pesos is appropriated for engagement programs in their community. These programs include therapy sessions and family development programs for the families affected by the Yolanda typhoon. In addition, the financial assistance that BIDLISIW receives is also appropriated for conducting human trafficking awareness campaigns that can make their community aware of the issue of human trafficking. Therefore, financial assistances provided by the USAID are appropriated not merely to the NGOs alone, but to the anti-human trafficking campaign projects that the NGOs submit to the USAID. Through this method, the US is providing financial assistance to fund anti-human trafficking projects in the Philippines in order to strengthen the Philippines' campaign against human trafficking, and is improving US' global campaign against it.

Financial assistance, as a non-coercive way of attracting the cooperation of countries like the Philippines, is a clear manifestation of what Nye refers to as soft power. In terms of attracting cooperation, financial assistance entails the dependence

of the recipient country (Philippines) to the help of the donor country (US). This financial dependence may be rooted from the incapacities of the Philippine government in financing the campaign against human trafficking in the country. This incapacity then causes it to favor other sources of help, as manifested by the US through the USAID. In the long run, this financial dependence can lead to a sense of gratitude and trust from the Philippines to the United States, thereby improving the relations between both countries as they continue to cooperate in the fight against human trafficking.

Technical Assistance: Personnel Trainings, Seminars, and Workshops

Technical assistance includes those assistances from USAID personnel that are in the form of personnel trainings, seminars, and workshops that can foster a more strengthened and concrete approach against human trafficking. Technical assistance also includes those materials and equipment provided for the NGOs' use.

According to the interviewed NGOs, the USAID provides technical assistances to them by providing seminars, trainings, and workshops to the NGO staff that can equip these members with sufficient knowledge and expertise regarding the issue of human trafficking. The NGO staff members are immersed in rigorous training for them to be competent and capable enough to share their acquired knowledge and skills to their respective communities. Moreover, BIDLISIW said that the staff members who were trained personally by the USAID are then sent to different locations, to which the organization is assigned to, and are tasked to share and apply their acquired knowledge and skills. Aside from the BIDLISIW, organizations like PREDA Founda-

tion, Inc. (PREDA), CLB, TAMBAYAN, and others have also received trainings, seminars, and other activities from the USAID. Similarly, after receiving their training from the USAID, these organizations share their acquired knowledge to important sectors in their community. For example, CLB has mentioned that the USAID has provided both technical and financial assistance for the organizations' project. CLB stated that they inculcate their acquired knowledge to the responsible authorities, such as barangay officials and police officers, of their area, so that these authorities know how to use their capability and authority to properly address cases of human trafficking. Hence, CLB also works with the authorities of their community in order to further expand the information drive on the issue of human trafficking. Therefore, through the USAID trainings, seminars, and workshops, the United States is able to spread and inculcate among the Philippine NGOs their means and ways of combatting human trafficking, and non-coercively generate support and cooperation from the Philippines against human trafficking.

Aside from providing trainings and seminars to NGO employees, BIDLISIW stated that USAID also provides for the materials and equipment used to implement the projects of the NGOs against human trafficking. For example, during the researchers' interview with TAMBAYAN, the projector that TAMBAYAN used to present information about their organization was provided to them by the USAID, as signified by the sticker on the projector. This means that through providing the Philippines with the necessary tools and equipment, the USAID is able to encourage the Philippines' cooperation in the US-led global campaign against human trafficking.

Technical assistance in the form of trainings and seminars is a projection of soft power by the USAID. As the USAID provides knowledge and information to the Philippine NGOs, it is at the same time manifesting the ideas, values, and even expertise of the US to the Philippines. It can be recalled that Joseph Nye defines soft power as the non-coercive way of influencing and persuading countries through the spread of ideas, values, and culture. Hence, as the USAID trains and educates Philippine NGOs, the USAID is at the same time inculcating US perspective, ideas, values, and goals to the Philippine NGOs, and in turn, to the Philippines. It thereby molds the perspectives of these NGOs to follow the means and ways that the US wants them to - leading such NGOs to more likely cooperate with US' global campaign against human trafficking.

Programs supported by the USAID in the Philippines

The USAID has been providing both financial and technical assistance to the four approved USAID-funded NGO projects. First is BIDLISIW's "Withdrawing and Preventing Children and Young People from Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation in a Post-Disaster (Yolanda) Area." Second is CLB's "Empowering Communities and Building Partnerships for Anti-trafficking in Persons." Third is PRE-DA's "Rescuing Girls and Boys from Trafficking and Providing Healing, Education and Legal Assistance to Victims." Lastly, it has TAMBAYAN with their program "Countering Trafficking-in-Persons by Sharing Information, Advocacy, Training, Education, and Responsive Local Governance" or "COUNTER/TIPSTER."

In general, this study has found that these projects have been addressing the following areas: GO-NGO partnership, governmental capacity development, community advocacy and human trafficking prevention, and service provision for human trafficking victims.

GO-NGO Partnership

GO-NGO Partnership refers to the cooperation and collaboration of the US-AID-funded NGOs with the Philippine governmental agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs) against human trafficking in the Philippines. All the NGO respondents express that they work closely with different Philippine governmental organizations. Moreover, the NGOs explained that they coordinate with the different local government units in areas or places that lack government services on the particular issue of human trafficking.

All the NGO respondents expressed that they work closely with different Philippine governmental organizations and Philippine LGUs. For example, BIDLISIW works in cooperation with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) in their fight against human trafficking. In addition, BIDLISIW stated that they also coordinate with LGUs or barangays to get the necessary data for their projects. Aside from BIDLISIW, TAMBAYAN also talked about their partnerships with local government units by saying that the activities in their proposed project include working closely with provincial and municipal LGUs in terms of improving ordinances and budgets to strengthen local prevention and protection efforts. Furthermore, in order to strengthen the implementation of

TAMBAYAN's USAID-funded project, the COUNTER-TIPSTER project, TAMBAYAN coordinates with LGUs through the filing of community ordinances and budget to improve their community's stand against human trafficking. Specifically, TAMBAYAN mentioned that they work closely with the PNP, DOJ, DSWD, and DOTC personnel. In fact, according to the target beneficiaries of their project, TAMBAYAN aims to work with at least 330 LGU officials and personnel, and 145 (National Government Agencies) NGA officials and personnel. This implies that GO-NGO partnership allows the US to create a link or connection between the USAID-funded NGOs and the Philippine government. Through this link, the US can use the USAID-funded NGOs to influence or to generate cooperation from the Philippine governmental units.

Moreover, the NGOs explained that they coordinate with the different government units in areas or places that lack government services on the particular issue of human trafficking. BIDLISIW stated that they contact the local authorities in their area and cooperates with them to address the human trafficking issue. For example, TAMBAYAN explained that they complement the work of the government by reaching out to areas that cannot be provided government attention. Similarly, CLB explained that they coordinate closely with the Local Council Against Trafficking (LCAT) for data collection and data referral. CLB obtains information from the LCAT regarding which areas in Visayas have low government response when it comes to the issue of human trafficking. This way, CLB can complement their local government in their fight against human trafficking through focusing on areas that the LCAT cannot

focus on. At the same time, CLB also submits cases of human trafficking to the government officials. CLB stated that the work of their organization complements the work of the local government in a way that each structure, both the CLB and the LGUs, can focus on more communities that need help on the issue of human trafficking. This, then, allows the GO and NGOs in the Philippines to address more human trafficking cases, and save more victims of human trafficking.

Indeed, the USAID has been providing both technical and financial assistance in strengthening the partnerships between the USAID-funded NGOs and the Philippine government agencies. First, GO-NGO partnership allows the US to create a link or connection between the USAID-funded NGOs and the Philippine government. Through this link, the US can use the USAID-funded NGOs to influence or to generate cooperation from the Philippine governmental units. Moreover, partnering with the GOs is a sustainable move for the USAID. Through this set-up, the NGOs help the GOs on areas which the GOs cannot focus on. Hence, the Philippine anti-trafficking campaign is strengthened and extended to other areas in the Philippines. This is a clear manifestation of the effects of USAID's soft power. Hence, through USAID's soft power, the US has acquired the capacity to influence and generate cooperation in the Philippines without the use of coercion.

Government Organizations: Capacity Development

The four USAID-funded NGOs also work to capacitate and develop the Philippine government's agencies and units in their fight against human trafficking. This capacity development is brought about by the incapacities of the Philippine gov-

ernment in addressing the issue of human trafficking throughout the Philippines. Hence, the USAID-funded NGOs use their anti-human trafficking projects to help capacitate the Philippine local governments.

All of the NGOs expressed that they are helping the Philippine LGUs because of the LGU's incapacity to properly combat human trafficking in their respective areas. For example, one of the NGOs, TAMBAYAN, stated that

“[a]ng weakness kasi ng LGUs is... Walang referral system, walang procedure, walang policy, wala lahat.” (TAMBAYAN)

English translation:

[t]he weakness of the LGUs is their lack of referral system. They have no correct procedures and no proper policies for human trafficking cases. (TAMBAYAN)

TAMBAYAN expressed that LGUs have a very weak referral system which then affects their response to the human trafficking victims in a lot of regions, especially in remote areas where human trafficking is most prevalent. Moreover, TAMBAYAN explained that LGUs often lack the capacity to handle the issue of human trafficking because of the following reasons: they lack the appropriate knowledge regarding the issue; they lack the budget to implement programs and projects to address human trafficking in their area, or they are busy with other issues or concerns. Because of these reasons, the Philippine LGUs often neglect the issue of human trafficking. Based on this data, one can understand that the Philippine government is unable to stand on its own when it comes to the issue of human trafficking. Hence, it needs support from external sources that specialize or are interested in addressing and improving the human trafficking situation in the Philippines, such as the USAID.

Hence, the USAID-funded NGOs use their anti-human trafficking projects to help capacitate the Philippine LGUs and improve the overall Philippine campaign against human trafficking. TAMBAYAN capacitates LGUs through their USAID-funded project entitled: COUNTER-TIPSTER project. This project aims to mobilize the community and improve the referral system, procedure, and policy of the government. The main focus of their project is to increase the number of people who have their knowledge about human trafficking. This way, more people in Davao City, Digos City, and General Santos City are able to report human trafficking cases. Moreover, BIDLISIW stated that they capacitate LGUs by providing them with seminars in order to equip them with the knowledge regarding human trafficking. Aside from that, BIDLISIW also explained that on situations when a human trafficking case is reported to their organization, BIDLISIW contacts the local authorities of their area and cooperates with them to address the case. This, then, capacitates the government to address more human trafficking cases and save more victims of human trafficking. Furthermore, PREDA also stated that they conduct workshops and seminars for barangay officials and government officials in their city hall. PREDA provides government employees in their area with the necessary workshops, trainings, and seminars on how to properly address cases on human trafficking. Specifically, PREDA includes in their target audiences the following: barangay officials, guidance counselors, police officers, and social workers. Moreover, like the other NGOs, CLB also provides trainings to capacitate LGUs. CLB explained that they provide both skill and educational trainings, seminars, and workshops to government officials in order for

these officials to be aware of the crime of human trafficking, be informed on how to prevent human trafficking, and be educated on how to properly address cases of such issue in their area. Hence, through their respective anti-trafficking projects, the USAID-funded NGOs are able to capacitate the Philippine LGUs. Based on this data, one can understand that the USAID-funded NGOs are providing substantial and relevant help to the Philippines through capacitating the Philippine government. Hence, without these USAID-funded NGOs, the Philippine government, over the same period of time, would not have been capacitated enough to improve the Philippine's stand against human trafficking. This, then, shows a sense of dependence from the Philippine LGUs to the USAID-funded NGOs for their acquired knowledge and expertise regarding the issue of human trafficking.

Indeed, because of the incapacities of the Philippine LGUs, the USAID-funded NGOs use their projects to help the Philippine LGUs. This capacity development, through the spread of USAID ideas and knowledge to the Philippine government officials, is an example of how the USAID, as a US smart power projection tool, exercises its soft power component. Through the USAID-funded NGOs, US ideas, knowledge, and values are being inculcated to the Philippine government units and officials. This capacity development then allows for Philippine LGUs to cooperate with the US in the global fight against human trafficking. Moreover, it is clear from the presented data that the USAID provided help to the Philippine government because of their incapacity to effectively combat human trafficking. This just means that the improvement of knowledge and expertise that the Philippine government has acquired in the

past years since 2013 can be attributed to the four USAID-funded NGOs capacity development to the Philippine LGUs.

Community Advocacy and Human Trafficking Prevention

The USAID-funded NGOs also work to prevent human trafficking by inculcating their advocacy inside the communities of the Philippines. This is manifested in the various programs and prevention education, and awareness campaigns by the USAID-funded NGOs.

The USAID-funded NGOs implement various programs and projects intended for spreading prevention education and awareness campaigns throughout the Philippines. For example, BIDLISIW's main USAID-funded project: "Withdrawing and Preventing Children and Young People From Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation in a Post-Disaster (Yolanda) Area" aims to combat human trafficking through the provision of education. In fact, they stated that based on their project description, they plan activities to prevent human trafficking in their community. Their employees consist of trained and educated peer mentors that are deployed to their target communities in order to conduct hangout sessions with the kids and their families and to teach about human trafficking. Aside from BIDLISIW, TAMBAYAN, through their main project, the "COUNTER-TIPSTER," also raises awareness about human trafficking in their area. Similarly, their organization conducts trainings and seminars to the members of their community in order to gather 'TIPSTERS.' TAMBAYAN explained that each one beneficiary who have undergone their services would become a TIPSTER, thus he or she can report or give TAMBAYAN information about human

trafficking cases in his or her area. This means that each TAMBAYAN beneficiary who have become a TIPSTER knows where and how to report human trafficking. TAMBAYAN explained that they are creating not only a network of TIPSTERS who are educated about human trafficking, but they are also creating a network of TIPSTERS that are able to respond and help against possible cases of human trafficking. Moreover, TAMBAYAN explained that aside from providing trainings and seminars for community education, their organization also explores the use of street theater plays, where the children in the community are encouraged to both join and watch. TAMBAYAN explained that through their street theater plays, they are able to spread awareness to the viewers of their show, and at the same time, are able to educate the children involved in the play itself about the issue of human trafficking. In addition, TAMBAYAN utilizes “TIP infomercials,” video clips played on buses/bus terminals, air/sea ports, and passenger ships which spread awareness on the issue of human trafficking to most of Mindanao. Aside from TAMBAYAN and BIDLISIW, PREDA also mentioned about their human trafficking prevention campaign through the use of social media. PREDA stated that they work to provide human trafficking prevention education for almost four to five days every week. Moreover, PREDA stated that their way of promoting anti-human trafficking causes is through the use of YouTube and through promoting movies such as “The Raid” that exemplifies the sad reality of women today as sex slaves. This means that aside from the trainings that they provide to their communities, PREDA also extends their campaign in social media in order to reach an even bigger audience. Indeed, the USAID-funded NGOs are spreading the

anti-human trafficking campaign all over the Philippines. PREDA spreads the information in Luzon, BIDLISIW and CLB in Visayas, and TAMBAYAN in Mindanao. Hence, it is clear that the USAID influence does not merely stop with the USAID-funded Philippine NGOs, for the NGOs disseminate the expertise and knowledge that they acquired from the US to the whole Philippines.

Indeed, the USAID-funded NGOs also work to prevent human trafficking by inculcating their advocacy inside the communities of the Philippines. Through these advocacy campaigns, the US' soft power goes beyond the USAID-funded NGOs, for US' ideas, are disseminated throughout the communities in the Philippines. Hence, the ideas and values promoted by the USAID are not only attracting cooperation from Philippine NGOs, but also the whole Philippines.

Service Provision for Human Trafficking Victims

Human trafficking victim services include the rescue, rehabilitation, and therapy programs that are needed to reintegrate human trafficking victims to the community. The USAID, through its USAID-funded NGOs, assist in the rescue operations of human trafficking victims. Moreover, the USAID-funded NGOs also provide healing services, reintegration services, education, legal assistance, and other rehabilitation services to human trafficking victims.

All of the USAID-funded NGOs express that they are doing their part in assisting in the rescue operations of human trafficking victims. For example, in terms of rescue operations, PREDA explained that their goal on their anti-human trafficking project is “to make sure that the victims are healed and empowered to achieve justice

and rebuild their lives in a holistic manner.” Hence, PREDA uses their funds, provided by the USAID, to recover children who were trafficked, and provide them education, emotional release, and legal assistance. PREDA works closely with social workers from the DSWD to provide the vulnerable children who were victims of human trafficking, rescue from the circumstances that they are in. Moreover, PREDA mentioned that their official website features Marlin Carpio, a leading social worker, who contacts and persuades children, who are victims of human trafficking, to accept help from their organization to relieve them of their circumstances. Furthermore, CLB’s “Rescuing Girls and Boys from Trafficking and Providing Healing, Education, and Legal Assistance to Victims” project allocates a large portion of their received USAID funds for the rescue operations of the children who are trafficked in their area, specifically in communities in Cebu, namely Bogo, Talisay City and Cordova. This means that the US, through the USAID, plays a role in the rescue of Filipino victims of human trafficking. Hence, this help from the US to rescue and relieve Filipinos of their negative circumstances may inculcate in them a good image of the US to these rescued victims and to their families, friends, and other constituents. Hence, through helping Filipino victims, the United States, through the USAID, is able to foster a better image for itself among the Filipinos.

Moreover, human trafficking victim services include healing services, reintegration services, education, legal assistance, and other rehabilitation services. All USAID-funded NGOs expressed that they have programs in their project allotted for the healing, education and legal assistance to the human trafficking victims. For ex-

ample, according to BIDLISIW, one of the main goals of their project is for the “healing, recovery, and reintegration services for trafficking survivors and their families.” Through the aid that they have received from the USAID, the organization is able to allocate their expenses to cater the victims of human trafficking. BIDLISIW mentioned that there was a deficiency in the shelter facilities that focus on the needs of the human trafficking survivors in their area, hence to address this deficiency, BIDLISIW implemented family-based interventions to promote safe havens for the human trafficking survivors. In addition, the staff members of BIDLISIW, who were previously provided technical assistance by the USAID, were able to apply their acquired knowledge by helping human trafficking victims through conducting trainings and seminars how to properly handle and take care of human trafficking victims and survivors. After having been equipped with the knowledge and skills in handling human trafficking cases, the members of the organization are then ready to conduct therapy sessions with human trafficking survivors for physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual recovery. Moreover, the members also conduct family developmental support to help both the victim and the family of the victim to recover. In addition, TAMBAYAN explained that the organization assists in rehabilitation programs to help human trafficking victims in their area. TAMBAYAN’s project is all about a victim-helping-victim process wherein the human trafficking victim-beneficiaries of their project, who are also called TIPSTERS, help their fellow victims recover. This way, the victims are being assisted by people who have similar experiences with them. Moreover, through this method, the victims can find inspiration in these TIP-

STERS and can find hope that their lives can go back to normal again. Indeed, the USAID provides human trafficking victims with rehabilitation services. Through this, the USAID campaign against human trafficking may lead to the creation of a good US image to the Filipinos. Through the USAID victim services to human trafficking victims, an image of the United States as the protector and upholder of human rights is cultivated among the victims and the people who know about such US aid.

With USAID funding, the various NGO beneficiaries are able to provide rescue and rehabilitation services to human trafficking victims. With the help of the USAID, the human rights and human dignities of these Filipino human trafficking victims are saved from the crime of human trafficking. Hence, this provision of USAID assistance can serve to improve the image of the US in the Philippines. Through this assistance, Filipinos may look towards the US, through the USAID, as a righteous protector of human rights. This is a clear manifestation of how the USAID, as a smart power projection tool, uses its soft power component as it helps improve the image of the US to the Filipinos and encourage cooperation from the Philippines.

Conclusion

How did the USAID strengthen the Philippine campaign against human trafficking?

This study has found that the USAID funds four non-governmental organizations in the Philippines: BIDLISIW Foundation Inc., People's Recovery Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation, Inc. or PREDA, Children's Legal Bureau (CLB) and the TAMBAYAN Center for Children's Rights, Inc. Through these organizations, the USAID has strengthened the Philippine campaign against human

trafficking through providing both financial and technical assistance. These funds are then appropriated to the following programs: GO-NGO Partnership, Capacity Development of Government Organizations, Community Advocacy and Human Trafficking Prevention, and Service Provision for Human Trafficking Victims.

Chapter 4

USAID as a US Smart Power Projection Tool

This chapter discusses how the USAID acts as a US smart power projection tool. First, this chapter discusses the USAID's hard power component through the US TIP report. Second, this chapter discusses on USAID's soft power component. Finally, this chapter discusses how the USAID fulfills its role as a smart power projection tool of the US in the Philippines.

USAID'S Hard Power Component: US TIP Report

When the US TIP report was launched in 2001, USAID's campaign against human trafficking was launched as well; hence, both the TIP report and the USAID work together to engage foreign governments in the fight against human trafficking. The US TIP report is an annually released document that provides information about the human trafficking efforts of countries all over the world. Moreover, the US TIP report includes tier rankings that provide "sticks" or consequences to countries that do not cooperate with US' global campaign against human trafficking. In addition, the US tier ranking also provides "carrots" or rewards to countries that fully comply and cooperate with US' minimum standards against human trafficking.

According to most of the NGOs that we have interviewed, the United States is the dominant and most active country in the fight against human trafficking. They claim that this statement is based on the fact that, since 2001, the US has created its own mechanisms to attract the cooperation of different countries, like the Philippines, to combat human trafficking through the annually published TIP report.

USAID & | HARD US TIP REPORT | POWER

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ More USAID Assistance | x Restrictions on Assistance from USAID |
| ✓ Funding for educational and cultural exchange programs will not be withheld | x Withhold funding for educational and cultural exchanges |
| ✓ Loans might not be voted against | x Vote against multilateral development banks and International Monetary fund for tier country loans |

Figure 4.1 USAID & US TIP Report as Hard Power

Moreover, the US TIP report includes tier rankings that provide “sticks” or consequences to countries that do not cooperate with US’ global campaign against human trafficking. One of the USAID-funded non-governmental organizations, PREDA, mentioned that the US TIP report does not only present information but also uses such information in order to categorize countries into tiers. These tiers are divided into three: tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 and BIDLISIW mentioned that this ranking is based on the effectivity of each country’s performance against human trafficking. For example, the Philippines in 2015 was ranked in tier 2 because the Philippines have not yet fully met the minimum requirements set by the US in combating human trafficking. However, in 2016, for the first time, the Philippines has met the minimum standards set by the US and has upgraded its rank to tier 1 in the US TIP report. Furthermore, the USAID-funded NGOs explained that the TIP report is not just a simple non-binding document. The NGOs explain that despite the fact that most countries

ranked in the TIP report have not agreed to such document, their ranking in the aforementioned report may still bring about certain sanctions or rewards to them. For example, the Philippines' rank in the TIP report may affect the Philippines' economic stand and the amount of aid and assistance that the country receives from the US through the USAID. TAMBAYAN explained that there are certain implications or consequences to countries that are listed in the tier 3 group of the TIP report. PREDA mentioned these consequences by saying that:

“Less assistance will also be given if we will fall on the tier 3 of the TIP report, not just for the issue of human trafficking but also with other issues such as biodiversity conservation, disaster relief, education, governance etc.” (PREDA)

PREDA explained that when a country, for example, the Philippines, falls under the tier 3 group of the TIP report, the Philippines will lose a big amount of assistance that it receives from the US through the USAID. This assistance is not limited to those under human trafficking but also to assistance supposedly appropriated to other areas of concern as well. In addition, CLB and TAMBAYAN mentioned the importance of the TIP report to the government transactions of the Philippines and the US. CLB mentioned that:

“... Isa siguro ni ngano nagatarong na ang gobyerno sa pakig coordinate sa among mga NGO kay importante man gud na makapasa ang Philippines sa standard sa US when it comes sa human trafficking kay naa man nay mga implications ... like for example, basig maka affect pud sa pag tan-aw nila sa Pilipinas kung dili ta nakaabot sa ilang standard... or makaffect sa ma receive nato nga aid, kay before man tagaan ug aid tan-awon man sad ang sustainability sa project didto nga lugar – if dili ta kaabot sa standard dako pud ni siya ug effect sa atua siguro.” (CLB)

English translation:

One of the reasons why the Philippine government is working hard in coordinating with NGOs is because they know that it is important for the Philippines to pass the US standards when it comes to human trafficking. This is because of the implications that the TIP rankings have. For example, the Philippine image to the US might be affected when we cannot achieve their

standards, or it might affect the aid that the Philippines will receive from the US. Before the USAID gives aid to a country they must first look at the sustainability of their aid in that country and if a country, like the Philippines, cannot achieve their standards in combating human trafficking, I think it will have a big effect on the aid that they will give us. (CLB)

CLB stated that one of the reasons why the government agencies are working in close partnership with USAID-funded NGOs is because they want to achieve the standard that the US is trying to promote in their TIP report. This way, the Philippine government can have better relations with the United States, and the Philippines can continue receiving aid from the USAID. Moreover, aside from CLB, TAMBAYAN explained that the tier ranking in the US TIP report is important for the Philippine government. TAMBAYAN stated that the Philippine partnership with the USAID is a government to government transaction and the tier rank of the Philippines is important in sustaining this transaction. This means that if the Philippines stops cooperating with the USAID and falls into the tier 3 group, it will experience restrictions on US assistance. Aside from the loss in terms of US assistance, PREDA and TAMBAYAN explained that when the Philippines falls under the tier 3 ranking, it might affect the Philippines' economic relations with the US. PREDA and TAMBAYAN are referring to the fact that when countries fall to the tier 3 ranking their applications for grants and/or loans from international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral development banks will be voted against by the US. Hence, all the NGOs expressed that it would be very bad for the Philippines to downgrade to the tier 3 ranking. This tier ranking system of the US TIP report is a manifestation of the hard power component of the USAID, as a smart power projection tool. This means

that the US is coercively threatening non-complying countries to cooperate with US' global campaign against human trafficking or lose US support in foreign aid and in international economic institutions.

In addition, the US tier ranking also provides “carrots” or rewards to countries that fully comply and cooperate with US' minimum standards against human trafficking. TAMBAYAN shared that currently, the Philippines is now in the tier 1 of the TIP Report. This means that the Philippines has met the minimum standards of the US against human trafficking. TAMBAYAN continued by explaining that a good ranking in the US TIP report leads to good implications for the Philippines. Due to the recent tier upgrade of the Philippines, TAMBAYAN mentions that the USAID Anti-Trafficking program has added two new NGO beneficiaries: Fellowship for Organizing Endeavors, Inc. (FORGE Inc.) in Cebu City and BALAOD MINDANAW in Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental. This means that the USAID is funding more projects against human trafficking, in light of the recent Philippine tier upgrade in the TIP report. Because of the Philippines' compliance with the US, it is now providing the Philippines with “carrots” or rewards to recognize its cooperation. This is a manifestation of hard power as it is a reflection of US' coercive methods of providing either “carrots” (rewards) or “sticks” (punishments) to complying and non-complying countries.

The US TIP report provides information about the human trafficking campaigns of different countries all over the globe. Moreover, it ranks countries into different tiers depending on their compliance with US' minimum standards against human trafficking. Hence, the US TIP report has set the agenda of human trafficking as

a global concern to the international arena. Countries, all over the world, strive to improve their anti-human trafficking campaigns and achieve good rankings in the US TIP report in order to acquire “carrots” rather than “sticks” from the US. Hence, countries are coercively threatened to address the problem of human trafficking in their area in order to avoid risking sanctions from the US. For example, Cuba has long been in the tier 3 ranking of the US and for many years Cuba’s applications to the IMF or other multilateral banks such as the World Bank has faced great opposition from the US. Moreover, for many years, Cuba has not received any aid from the USAID in areas beyond human trafficking, making it very difficult for Cuba to improve and develop.

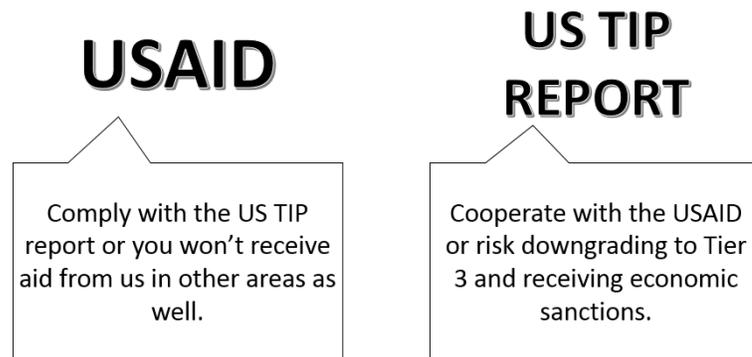


Figure 4.2 USAID and US TIP report work hand in hand

Moreover, both the US TIP report and the USAID legitimize each other in order to promote US’ Anti-Trafficking campaign and generate cooperation among states. The US TIP report legitimates the USAID as an agency. The US proposes that if countries cooperate with the US, through the USAID, they will be able to improve their TIP ranking. Through their improved ranking, countries will be spared from the consequences of tier 3. On the other hand, the USAID also acts to legitimize the US

TIP report. The USAID is the leading US agency for foreign aid. Hence, tier 3 countries would find themselves receiving no aid from the USAID because of their rank. It has been mentioned that the US TIP ranking determines the amount of foreign aid and assistance that the US provides through the USAID. This means that countries that comply with the US TIP report may receive more aid from the USAID and countries that fail to comply with the US TIP report may experience less USAID assistance.

USAID’S Soft Power Component

USAID, as a smart power projection tool of the US, is also a tool for US soft power projection. First, the USAID has fulfilled US’ soft power projection through the promotion of “US prosperity and generosity” in the Philippines. Moreover, the USAID has fulfilled US’ soft power projection through the cultivation of financial dependence from the Philippines to the US.

First, the USAID has fulfilled US’ soft power projection through the promotion of “US prosperity and generosity” in the Philippines. The four USAID-funded NGOs agree that the USAID is one of the largest economies today. BIDLISIW stated that since the US has the capability in addressing human trafficking, then they are capable of helping the Philippines to combat human trafficking. BIDLISIW explained that US citizens have a lot of money gathered from their tax, which is the primary source of the US budget. A portion of these taxes is then allocated, through the annual budget planning, for the USAID’s programs and projects to help developing countries like the Philippines in resolving different issues. Moreover, one of the reasons why PREDA believes that the USAID is an effective tool in combating human trafficking

in the Philippines is because “[t]hey, [the US], have enough money to help other countries most especially here in the Philippines.” TAMBAYAN also agrees that the US is an effective tool for combating human trafficking due to its economic capability. This economic capability of the US in assisting with the concerns of developing countries can also be observed in other areas according to TAMBAYAN. For example, here in the Philippines, USAID funds for human trafficking, education, disaster relief, health and other areas of Philippine concern. Specifically, for human trafficking, TAMBAYAN stated that they received a minimum of 11 million pesos for their 2-year project as approved by the USAID. In addition, BIDLISIW claimed that they received at least 10 million pesos to implement their project as well. In addition, CLB stated that the USAID is a very generous benefactor to countries in Asia like the Philippines as it funds projects that are for the good of the people. This is because the United States, as an economic power, has the resources or the capability to influence and affect other countries through the provision of foreign aid. Indeed, all the respondents have shown great favor to the capability of the USAID, as an economic power, in providing financial aid to the Philippines in combating human trafficking. The responses and statements of the respondents clearly show their belief in US’ “prosperity and generosity.” Through the cultivation of this positive US image, the Philippines is non-coercively attracted and persuaded to cooperate with US’ global campaign against human trafficking.

Moreover, the USAID has fulfilled US’ soft power projection through the cultivation of financial dependence from the Philippines to the US. All of the NGO re-

spondents agree that the Philippines cannot significantly improve its human trafficking campaign without the help of the US, through the USAID. BIDLISIW stated that without the USAID, the Philippines would return to the old days when reported cases of human trafficking were very low. The organization further stated that there might be lower rescue operations for human trafficking victims and perhaps most authorities will not be able to provide help, due to the lack of knowledge on how to properly handle human trafficking cases. PREDA also stated that without the USAID, there might have been no significant changes on the effectiveness of LGUs against human trafficking. TAMBAYAN adds that the USAID is a big help to the LGUs because organizations like TAMBAYAN, and other USAID-funded organizations fighting against human trafficking, work closely to help capacitate the LGUs of the Philippines and without the USAID, it would be difficult for the LGUs to sustain their anti-human trafficking campaign due to the incapacity of the Philippine government to spearhead an effective campaign against human trafficking. Moreover, this study has found that USAID's projection of soft power which leads to a relationship based on financial dependence cultivates a sense of gratitude from the Philippine USAID-funded NGOs to the USAID and to the United States in general. One organization, CLB mentioned that:

"Ilahang help is very much appreciated kay makatabang gyud sa pag address sa ma concerns sa mga tawu diri ug makatabang man pud sa LGU ug sa human trafficking diri sa among area. Pasalamat pud ta siguro kay musupport sila sa atua economically kay kinahanglan jud sa Pilipinas para kalihok tag ato kay kwarta." (CLB)

English translation:

Their help is very much appreciated since it helps a lot in addressing the concerns of the people in our community, and it helps in capacitating the LGUs in our community to combat human trafficking. (CLB)

This means that USAID's help is truly appreciated by CLB for it has helped support the government of the Philippines in their fight against human trafficking. In fact, all the respondents mentioned their gratefulness to the help of the USAID to their organization. Hence, the Philippines' success in improving its campaign against human trafficking is largely because of the soft power of the USAID which is manifested in its provision of financial assistance to the four USAID-funded NGOs. The NGOs' statements and responses clearly explain the financial dependence of the Philippines to USAID's support in the Philippine campaign against human trafficking. Hence, the Philippines' cooperation against the global fight against human trafficking is largely attributed to the USAID's financial and technical support. Moreover, because of the help of the USAID, a sense of gratitude was cultivated among the NGOs. In this sense, the gratitude cultivated in the Philippines can be an important aspect in improving the relationship between the United States and the Philippines and increasing the likelihood of the US to influence the Philippines to pursue US interests.

First, as a leading country in the world which provides numerous amounts of aid not only in the Philippines, but to other countries as well, the US has been characterized as both a prosperous and generous country. This characterization is evident in the responses of the NGOs in this study since they have all mentioned about the power of the US and how it has the willingness to help countries like the Philippines solve issues like human trafficking. This means that if the US is characterized as both a

“prosperous and generous country,” it can create a positive image to the Philippines, thereby increasing the chances of Philippine cooperation with the country.

Second, as the US, through the USAID, provides financial assistance to help the Philippines in numerous issues, among which include human trafficking, they made the Philippines financially dependent on them for the Philippine anti-human trafficking campaign. Moreover, they have cultivated a sense of gratitude among the Philippines’ NGOs to the US. Hence, the US has cultivated a positive image in the Philippines by showing that without its help, through the USAID, the Philippines would not be able to improve its anti-human trafficking campaign. This has generated not only gratitude but also cooperation from the Philippines’ NGOs to continue cooperating with US initiatives against human trafficking.

USAID: Smart Power Tool for Improving US-Philippine Relations

One of the goals of the US in its projection of smart power, as defined by Joseph Nye, is to improve its relationship with other countries. First, the USAID as a smart power projection tool improves US-Philippine economic relations. Moreover, the USAID as a smart power projection tool improves US-Philippine political relations. Finally, the USAID helps create a “positive” image for the US in general.

First, the USAID, as a smart power projection tool, improves US-Philippine economic relations. PREDA and TAMBAYAN have mentioned that the Philippine ranking in the US TIP report affects the economic relations of the Philippines with the US. This means that if the Philippines is included in the tier 1 ranking of the TIP report, its loans and grants in different international institutions and even in the IMF is

more likely to be approved. Moreover, as previously discussed, without the help of the USAID, the Philippines might go down to the tier 3 ranking, and this can cause negative effects to US-Philippines economic relations. For example, if the Philippines becomes a tier 3 country in the TIP report, the US may fail to recognize and approve Philippine economic loans to the IMF and to other international financial institutions. If this occurs, the Philippines and the US' economic relationship, as partners for trade and development, will surely be affected. Hence, through the USAID's help with the Philippine campaign against human trafficking, the Philippines never downgraded to the tier 3 ranking in the US TIP report. Instead, the Philippines, according to TAM-BAYAN, was able to upgrade its rank to tier 1, thereby improving its economic relations with the US. This means that it is more likely to support Philippine loans and grants in economic institutions like the IMF or other international banks.

Moreover, the USAID, as a smart power projection tool, improves US-Philippine political relations. Aside from improving the economic relationship between the United States and the Philippines, the USAID also affects the relationship of both countries politically. CLB mentioned that one of the reasons why the Philippines is increasing its stand against human trafficking is because the Philippines' tier ranking is important to the Philippine government for it may have implications on how the country relates with the Philippines. In fact, TAMBAYAN mentioned that the USAID's help to the Philippines is a government to government relationship. In addition, PREDA explained that if the Philippines did not receive USAID help and ranked down to the tier 3 group, its ineffectiveness in dealing with the issue of human traf-

ficking is a form of non-compliance to the US TIP report, and this will have effects on how the US will relate to the Philippines. Hence, through the help of the USAID in improving the Philippines' stand against human trafficking, the Philippines was able to fully comply with the US' minimum standards. According to TAMBAYAN, the Philippine upgrade has improved relations with both countries significantly, in fact, the US has agreed to fund two more Anti-human trafficking projects in the Philippines for the year 2016. Moreover, the USAID works in a close relationship with the government of the Philippines. Through this partnership and cooperation between the US and the Philippines, a closer political relationship was formed. The political relationship between the Philippines and the United States has been improved by the generous donations in aid and assistance from the US government to the Philippines. In fact, all the respondents of this study believe that the relationship between the United States and the Philippines can be affected by the increase or decrease of assistance from the USAID with regards to the issue of human trafficking. PREDA mentioned that "since the US has been helping us with our issues in the Philippines, our relationship with them, I believe, is strengthened." Sharing this sentiment are TAMBAYAN, CLB, and BIDLISIW who also believed that USAID's help to the Philippines improves the relationship between the two countries.

Finally, the USAID helps create a "positive" image for the US in general. TAMBAYAN and CLB have stated that the USAID fosters a positive image of the US towards the Philippines and its people, therefore improving US-Philippine relations. CLB mentioned that the help that the US has provided has showcased to the Philip-

pines their active humanitarian advocacies to address important issues such as human trafficking. TAMBAYAN also mentioned that there is a steady increase in the number of Filipinos that are pro-US inside and outside the country. The United States has been portrayed as the number one ally of the Philippines and is the country that has always been there to support the Philippines whenever it faces a certain predicament, such as that of human trafficking. This has cultivated a sense of trust among the respondents towards the US. In fact, all of the organizations that this study has interviewed, BIDLISIW, TAMBAYAN, CLB and PREDA have expressed their trust to the country in their help to the Philippines. For example, CLB stated that:

“Daghan man siguro sila ug kwarta... Dako pud bya jud sila na country. Mas dako jud ang chance na mawala ang human trafficking or kung unsa man na issue ilahang gusto mawala tungod sa mga resources na naa sila ug wala sa atoa.” (CLB)

English translation:

The United States has a lot of money... Moreover, it is a very big country and they have so much resources that they can effectively pursue to eradicate whatever issue they wish to be addressed. (CLB)

This means that TAMBAYAN trusts that the USAID can help the Philippines because of their economic capability and their mechanisms as an organization. Hence, the USAID has cultivated a “positive US image” in the Philippines, thereby generating trust and cooperation among the Philippine NGOs, and generally improving their relations with the Philippines.

The USAID, as a smart power projection tool of the US, was made for the purpose of serving the interests of the US in the international setting. It has been discussed how the USAID fulfills its goal in upholding US interests through improving US’ relations with the Philippines. In this sense, it can be said that the USAID can not

only be a tool for international development but can also be a tool for strengthening relationships with key allies. Hence, if the US expands USAID's help and support to other countries around the world, it is solving global crime and crises and is at the same time strengthening its relationships with other countries around the world.

Conclusion

How did the USAID sustain the smart power of the United States of America?

According to Joseph Nye, smart power is the combination of both hard and soft power in the exercise of foreign policy. Hence, in combatting human trafficking, the USAID, in terms of hard power, works hand in hand with the US TIP report to coerce countries to address their human trafficking issues the way the US wants them to. Moreover, in terms of soft power, the USAID provides financial aid and other benefits in order to attract the Philippines into fighting human trafficking in their area the way the US wants them to. Finally, the USAID, as a smart power projection tool, improves the US-Philippine bilateral relationship both politically and economically and is able to promote a positive US image to the Philippines.

Chapter 5

USAID for the US Pivot to Asia

This chapter discusses how the USAID reinforces the US pivot to Asia policy. First, this chapter discusses how the USAID strengthens US' alliance with one of its vital allies -the Philippines. Second, this chapter discusses how the USAID establishes US' presence in Asia. Finally, this chapter discusses how the USAID upholds one of the priorities that Pivot to Asia wishes to uphold -human rights.

Pivot to Asia Policy

- ✓ **strengthening of US relations with its key allies** namely Japan, South Korea, Australia, Philippines, and Thailand which are “the fulcrum for our strategic turn to the Asia-Pacific..”
- ✓ **US must invest on establishing their presence** – in terms of diplomatic, economic, strategic, and otherwise- in Asia.
- ✓ The Pivot to Asia is to **propagate four priorities** that the US wishes to uphold in Asia which are: **economic growth, energy, regional cooperation and human rights.**

Figure 5.1 A Pivot to Asia Policy Checklist

USAID for Strengthening US' Alliance with the Philippines

The Philippines is a crucial partner of the US in various areas such as development, trade, security, and political affairs in the Asia Pacific region. The USAID-funded NGOs believe that the USAID's underlying purpose is to strengthen US-Philippine alliance. Moreover, these NGOs express their trust to the US in this US-Philippine alliance.

The USAID-funded NGOs believe that the USAID's underlying purpose is to strengthen US-Philippine alliance. Most of the NGOs have explained why the US is helping the Philippines. PREDA stated in their interview that, "It is also an avenue for strengthening friendships between the US and the Philippines, with a common focus in combatting human trafficking." PREDA stated that the reason why the USAID is providing their organization aid is because the US is using the USAID as an avenue for strengthening friendships between the countries, through the issue of human trafficking. BIDLISIW also shared the same sentiment by saying that the USAID provides them aid to form and sustain friendships that both countries have cultivated throughout history. Moreover, TAMBAYAN mentioned that in this fight against human trafficking, two countries have joined forces, as alliances, and have been helping each other against a common enemy which is human trafficking. Hence, it can be said that the USAID, aside from acting as an agency for international development, also acts a 'token' or 'gift' from the US to improve their relationships with the Philippines. This means that aside from its objective to help the Philippines improve their human trafficking campaign, the USAID also improves US relations with the Philippines at the same time. This, then, fulfills one of US' Pivot to Asia goals on strengthening alliances with strategic allies like the Philippines.

Moreover, these NGOs express their trust to the US in this US-Philippine alliance. An integral part of an alliance between two countries is the trust between them. Through the series of questions asked during the interview, this study has found that all the respondents find themselves trusting the United States to help the Philip-

pinas. TAMBAYAN mentioned that this trust towards the US is brought about by its economic capability and their capacity to attract cooperation from the Philippine government in the campaign against human trafficking. This study also continued to ask the respondents if they trust the US in other areas as well, such as disaster relief and provision of education in the Philippines. Most of the respondents provided a positive response by saying that they do trust the US to be capable and willing to help the Philippines in such issues. Moreover, the researchers asked the respondents if they trust the US to help the Philippines in terms of Philippine security. This means allowing US military bases in the Philippines and cooperating with the US effort to assist the Philippines in the West-Philippine sea conflict. To this, most of our respondents said that they trust the US' capability and willingness to help us. PREDA mentioned that:

“Yes [we trust the US], because the US is a very powerful country, in fact they are very rich to even help countries like the Philippines, and different countries all over the world by providing assistance through the USAID. The US has done a campaign to strengthen Americans' conviction to continue [the] human rights approach. Also, because we cannot protect ourselves on our own, even with the issue of human trafficking, we need the help of the United States.” -PREDA

By saying this, PREDA explained that its trust towards the US is rooted in the prosperity and generosity of the US to different countries in the world. Moreover, PREDA stated that the country has provided substantial effort in the campaign to uphold the human rights of people all over the world. In addition, PREDA added that the Philippines would not be able to protect themselves without the US. BIDLISIW adds to this statement by saying that the United States can help the Philippines in various areas of concern because the US is powerful both politically and economically. Hence,

BIDLISIW explained that the Philippines should not isolate itself from US' help and should engage in good relationships, especially with the fact that it is helping the Philippines in a lot of areas, including the issue of human trafficking. Hence, it is clear that USAID's presence and assistance in the Philippines' struggle against human trafficking cultivates trust from the Philippines to the US. This cultivated trust may lead to better relations with the Philippines, and an increased chance to influence the Philippines itself, thereby fulfilling one of the US Pivot to Asia's goal on strengthening alliances with strategic allies like the Philippines



Figure 5.2 Philippines' Strategic Position
Source: <https://iakal.wordpress.com/2015/10/12/the-us-pivot-to-asia/>

The Philippines is considered by the United States as a vital ally in Asia, and one of US' interests is to strengthen their relationship with the Philippines. The country uses the USAID as its smart power projection tool in order to achieve this goal,

and the USAID, as a smart power projection tool, has achieved its goal in upholding one of US' interests, through improving US-Philippine relations.

The Philippines is a vital factor in the US Pivot to Asia Policy. First, The Philippines is a strategically located country between Japan, China, the Koreas, Australia, and New Zealand. This makes the Philippines a good location both economically (for trade) and militarily (for conflict). Moreover, in terms of conflict, the Philippines is a strategic area for there is no land that exists between the Philippines and the United States. Hence, it is easy to send supplies or reinforcements to the Philippines and launch these to Asia, considering the close proximity of the Philippines to Asian countries like Korea, Japan, and China. Second, the Philippines is an influential country in the Southeast Asia. Hence, Clinton (2011) states that the Philippines is an important ally of the US in its re-balance of the Asia Pacific. This is for the reason that if it influences the Philippines, there is a great chance that the Philippines can advance US interests in the Asia-Pacific region. Thus, the Philippines is a vital ally of the US, and it cannot afford to lose its influence to the Philippines. It is, therefore, important for the country to strengthen its relationship with the Philippines to uphold its Pivot to Asia policy. Fostering and strengthening an alliance entails various factors, and a country's gratitude and trust are among those important factors that cultivate and preserve a good alliance. Hence, with the USAID, a US smart power projection tool that cultivates both gratitude and trust from the Philippines to the US, it may be able to improve its alliance with the Philippines.

USAID for Establishing US Presence in Asia: Philippines as USAID Recipient

Model Country

The Philippines has achieved good effects from its partnership with the US through the USAID. All of the NGO's expressed that human trafficking was at its worst before the USAID helped the Philippines. Moreover, the NGOs explained that it was only after USAID's help in 2013 when the human trafficking situation in the Philippines significantly improved.

All of the NGO's expressed that human trafficking was at its worst before the USAID helped the Philippines. BIDLISIW stated that before the USAID-funded their project in Cebu, most of the people in their area did not know about human trafficking. Moreover, BIDLISIW mentioned that before the USAID's help, the victim count in their area was desperately high and yet the cases reported were very low because of the lack of human trafficking awareness among members of the community. Moreover, CLB stated that before the USAID, Cebu was called the "trafficking hotspot" of the Philippines due to the gravity of the human trafficking situation in the area. CLB further explained that the grave human trafficking situation was caused by the government's lack of attention to the different ports and channels that traffickers used to send and receive human trafficking victims in their area. In addition, PREDA explained that before the USAID provided help in Luzon, specifically in Olongapo City, there had been numerous cases of sex tourism and sex trafficking whose particular victims were those of the young children in the community. To add, TAMBAYAN explained that before USAID intervention in Mindanao, three targeted cities – Davao,

Digos, and General Santos – were considered hotspots for displaced persons by traffickers from conflict-affected areas in Central Mindanao. Indeed, human trafficking in the Philippines before the USAID came was definitely worse than what it is now. The situation before the USAID came was far from the situation that the Philippines experiences today as a tier 1 country in the US TIP report. The NGOs believed that this strengthening of the Philippine campaign against human trafficking would not have been possible without the help of the USAID through its funded NGOs, who in turn capacitate the government to stand a greater chance against human trafficking. This just means that the Philippine cooperation with the US, through the USAID, has brought positive effects to Philippine human trafficking crisis. Moreover, this shows that a partnership with the US, through the USAID, would be able to bring benefits to countries like the Philippines.

Moreover, the NGOs explained that it was only after USAID's help in 2013 when the human trafficking situation in the Philippines significantly improved. It was only until 2013 when the USAID began partnering with the Philippine-American (Phil-Am) Fund to appropriate USAID budget to Philippine NGOs who have relevant anti-human trafficking Projects to pursue -these include the four USAID-funded NGOs: BIDLISIW, PREDA, CLB, and TAMBAYAN. BIDLISIW explained that the USAID allows governments and NGOs to mobilize their campaign against human trafficking through the USAID-provided financial and technical assistance. BIDLISIW further stated that this mechanism by the USAID-led to the success of the organization's project on human trafficking. BIDLISIW also mentioned that they

have helped quite a lot of their target audiences. They mentioned that throughout the span of their project, they have been conducting successful healing and recovery programs, as well as education and human trafficking awareness programs. Moreover, CLB explained that the USAID has also provided a lot of help with regards to the implementation of CLB's main project against human trafficking. They mentioned that because of the USAID they have reached out to more people, through trainings, seminars, and human trafficking response workshops. Moreover, there have recently been a lot of improvements in their project. For example, their organization recently conducted programs for support services especially for the vulnerable children victims of human trafficking. Moreover, their organization has recently strengthened their partnership with the Juvenile Justice Program of the government against human trafficking cases. In addition, PREDA believes that the USAID has helped their organization in many ways, throughout the years. PREDA mentioned that the USAID's help in the organization's finances to protect the vulnerable young women in their area against trafficking has been very helpful for their community. Moreover, PREDA explained that, with the USAID's help, their project in their community is doing quite well. Even to this day, PREDA continues to work closely with their local government in the rescuing of girls and boys from human trafficking, and in the prevention of human trafficking in their area. In addition, PREDA continues to provide healing, education, and legal assistance to the victims of human trafficking in their area. TAMBAYAN also shared how the organization has developed their campaign against human trafficking through the USAID by stating that their USAID-funded project has been a big

help in strengthening their campaign against human trafficking. They mentioned that because of the technical and financial assistance provided by the USAID, their project was able to help a number of people in Mindanao, and these include the following: law enforcement, healthcare providers, educators and others. Moreover, their campaign against human trafficking, through their USAID-funded project, has reached more than 10,000 audiences due to their utilization of mass media and advertising. In addition, TAMBAYAN mentioned that their project has recently been conducting barangay project orientations to capacitate the barangays in their area on the issue of human trafficking. Moreover, recently, they have been conducting round table discussions and different anti-human trafficking activities with different city and municipal governments in Mindanao. TAMBAYAN also added that they have recently conducted their participatory action research involving 360 participants in order to enhance their knowledge regarding the human trafficking in their area. Indeed, all four of the USAID-funded NGOs claim that the USAID has indeed helped a lot in the implementation of their anti-human trafficking projects. In this sense, the NGOs believe that they would not have been able to prevent numerous cases of human trafficking without the USAID. This is a clear manifestation of the positive effects that a country gets with its cooperation with the United States, through the USAID.

According to the latest TIP report by the US Department of State, the Philippines has upgraded its tier ranking from its continuous tier 2 rank to a tier 1 rank in the year 2016. This means that the government of the Philippines fully meets the US minimum standard in the global campaign against human trafficking. This ranking is

a result of the successful implementation of each USAID-funded NGOs since 2013. The human trafficking situation in the Philippines has greatly improved throughout the years because of USAID's support. Since the Philippines' upgrade to tier 1 the Philippines has been reaping the benefits of its rank. In fact, according to the official website of the USAID last July 13, 2016, "USAID awarded seven new grants to support local organizations combating human trafficking and protecting the environment." This means that the USAID has just released new funds to extend its assistance to the Philippines in issues like human trafficking and protection of the environment. Moreover, this means that two new Philippine NGO's have been chosen to be beneficiaries of the USAID in Cagayan de Oro and Cebu City. The USAID is now funding two more projects, Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development in Mindanaw, Inc. (BALAOD Mindanaw) and Fellowship for Organizing Endeavors, Inc. (FORGE) in the fight against human trafficking.

Indeed, the Philippines have significantly developed its campaign against human trafficking and has been reaping the benefits of its development, due to its continuous effort and cooperation with the USAID. With this successful development, the Philippines is now a living example or model of US cooperation. The Philippines is now a USAID recipient model country in Asia. This means that other countries in Asia can refer to the development of the Philippines and see the benefits of cooperating with the US through the USAID initiatives. This will then lead other countries to look in favor towards the positive effects that the US brings to its USAID-recipient countries.

This type of effect had once occurred in the world history after the second world war when Europe was divided into two groups. The US was helping Western Europe recover from the war through the numerous aid and assistance programs that it has provided. This has then caused the Eastern Europe, which was under the control of the Soviet Union, to look in favor towards the ‘greener pasture’ which is the Western Europe under the US’ aid and assistance. Hence, when the Eastern Germans saw the better conditions of West Germany under US rule, most of East Germany’s population desired to cross the border towards the US-dominated West Germany and West Europe. This type of effect may occur in Asia as well, where Asian countries look into the situation of the Philippines and assess the benefits that they can receive from the USAID. Other countries in Asia can look at the trafficking situation before USAID help in the Philippines and can compare such situation to the current Philippine situation, after cooperating with a USAID initiative against human trafficking. These Asian countries can assess and see for themselves the benefits of collaborating with the USAID in addressing the issue of human trafficking and can decide to move to ‘greener pastures’ and improve their cooperation with the US against human trafficking. In fact, PREDA Foundation stated that the Philippines recently achieved its tier 1 status “and if we can do it, other countries can do it as well.” PREDA also mentioned:

“The USAID has done well to the Philippines, and the Philippines has reaped benefits from them, and perhaps the development in the Philippines can be shared and can also be applied to other countries in Asia.” (PREDA)

This means the USAID could help human trafficking in Asia as well. If the Asian countries want to strengthen their human trafficking campaign similar to the development of the Philippine campaign against human trafficking, Asian countries must move towards the greener pastures and must work in close cooperation and collaboration with the USAID. Thus, if these Asian countries work in close cooperation with the USAID, the US can now impose their smart power over these Asian countries through the USAID. Hence, it is not only helping other Asian countries improve their human trafficking situation, but they are also imposing their interests to these Asian countries through the USAID as a US smart power projection tool, thereby fulfilling their Pivot to Asia goal of establishing their presence in Asia.

Upholding Pivot to Asia Priority on Human Rights: USAID Against Human Trafficking

US Secretary of State John Kerry, on his speech in Hawaii last 2014, mentions that ‘human rights’ is one of the four priorities that the United States wishes to develop in Asia, and the USAID’s campaign against human trafficking fulfills that priority. Most of the NGO respondents stated that the USAID must expand its help to other countries aside from the Philippines. Considering the fact that human trafficking is a global problem that needs the initiative of the world, the USAID’s campaign is not limited to one country alone. In order to have an effective stand against human trafficking, the US must expand its scope to other countries of the world as well. For one, PREDA stated that the USAID should work on improving situations all over Asia for human trafficking is mostly concentrated in such region. Aside from the Philippines,

there are other countries especially in Asia that need help addressing the problem on human trafficking. In fact, TAMBAYAN mentioned that:

“human trafficking is a complex problem. human trafficking is a global problem. We need to cooperate *para matulungan natin ang mga victims of human trafficking in Asia.*” (TAMBAYAN)

English Translation:

Human trafficking is a complex problem. Human trafficking is a global problem. We need to cooperate so that we can help the victims of human trafficking in Asia. (TAMBAYAN)

TAMBAYAN explained that the issue of human trafficking cannot be solved alone in one country like the Philippines. They explained that human trafficking is a complex and global problem that needs the cooperation of not just the Philippines but also other countries in Asia as well. In relation to this sentiment, all of the respondents agree that the US should expand its help to other countries in Asia in order to address the complex and global problem of human trafficking. This means that the United States is able to use its global campaign against human trafficking to pursue one of its Pivot to Asia priorities on upholding human rights in Asia. Hence, being the most active leader in the global campaign against human trafficking, the country is able to expand its campaign to different countries in Asia, and at the same time expand its influence, as well, among Asian countries. In this sense, the US, through the USAID, can now use the issue of human trafficking to uphold human rights in Asia and, at the same time, expand their presence and influence throughout Asia.

Indeed, the USAID’s campaign against human trafficking should not be constricted to the Philippines but should be spread to other countries in Asia as well. Through this expansion of USAID help in Asia, USAID is able to fulfill one of the Pivot to Asia’s priority on human rights. However, aside from fulfilling this priority

of developing the human rights of the people in Asia, through its Asian campaign against human trafficking, the US can also impose their smart power to these Asian countries, through the USAID as a US' smart power projection tool. It was previously established that the USAID allows for the US to have a better relationship or alliance with the Philippines. Hence, if it expands its help towards other Asian countries, it can also cultivate good relationships with other Asian countries as well. This means that if the USAID helps other countries in Asia, similar to the scenario in the Philippines, the United States will improve its relations with these Asian countries in return for their aid. With that, the US, through the issue of human trafficking and the USAID, is able to expand and uphold the human rights of Asia and expand and strengthen its presence in Asia.

Conclusion

How did the USAID reinforce the Pivot to Asia policy of the United States of America?

This study has found that the USAID, as US' smart power projection tool, reinforces the Pivot to Asia policy. First, the USAID strengthens US' alliance with one of its vital allies -the Philippines. Second, the USAID establishes the presence of the US in Asia by providing a USAID recipient model country in the form of the Philippines. Finally, the USAID upholds one of the priorities that Pivot to Asia wishes to uphold which is human rights.

Chapter 6

Summary of Findings

This chapter consists of the findings of the data gathered by the researchers. This chapter provides a summarization of the data and data analyses in discussed in Chapters 3, 4, and 5, of this research study. Moreover, this chapter provides three implications that the researchers have found from the collected data.

Chapter 3: USAID and the Philippines against human trafficking

How does the USAID strengthen the Philippine campaign against human trafficking?

This study has found that the USAID strengthens the Philippine campaign against Human trafficking by giving assistance to four non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Philippines. These NGOs include: BIDLISIW Foundation Inc., People's Recovery Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation, Inc. or PREDA, Children's Legal Bureau (CLB) and the TAMBAYAN Center for Children's Rights, Inc. Through these organizations, the USAID has strengthened the Philippine campaign against human trafficking by providing both financial and technical assistances. These assistances are then used for the following themes: GO-NGO Partnership, Capacity Development of Government Organizations, Community Advocacy and Human Trafficking Prevention, and Service Provision for Human Trafficking Victims. Indeed, this study has found that the USAID, as a tool for US smart power projection, has strengthened the Philippines' campaign against human trafficking.

Chapter 4: USAID as a US Smart Power Projection Tool

How does the USAID sustain the smart power of the United States of America?

This study has found that the USAID, through its hard power and soft power component, sustains the smart power of the United States by improving the US-Philippine bilateral relationship both politically and economically. Specifically, the USAID, in terms of hard power, works hand in hand with the US TIP report to coerce countries to address their human trafficking issues the way the US wants them to. Moreover, in terms of soft power, the USAID provides financial aid to the Philippines in order to attract the Philippines into fighting human trafficking in their area. Therefore, the USAID, through its hard power and soft power component, sustains the smart power of the United States by improving the US-Philippine bilateral relationship both politically and economically.

Chapter 5: USAID for the US Pivot to Asia

How does the USAID reinforce the Pivot to Asia policy of the United States of America?

This study has found that the USAID reinforces the Pivot to Asia policy of the United States of America through: (1) USAID strengthens US 'alliance with one of its vital allies -the Philippines; (2) the USAID establishes the presence of the US in Asia by providing a USAID recipient model country in the form of the Philippines; and (3) the USAID upholds human rights, one of the priorities that Pivot to Asia wishes to uphold, through its campaign against human trafficking. Indeed, the USAID reinforces the Pivot to Asia policy of the United States of America by strengthening

US alliance with the Philippines, establishing US presence in Asia, and upholding the Pivot to Asia priority on human rights.

Implications of the Study

Based on the data gathered, the study on the USAID, as a smart power of the US towards the Philippine campaign against the issue of human trafficking, has implications that affect the future relations between the two countries. These implications include:

1. The Philippines should encourage more partnerships with the USAID to further improve the Philippine campaign against human trafficking.
2. The USAID, as a US smart power projection tool, can be used by the US to improve relations not just with the Philippines but with other countries as well. Using the USAID and the issue of human trafficking, the United States can pursue a less interventionist and less explicit strategy of establishing US' presence in other countries
3. With the recent change in the administration of the Philippines, and with Philippine President, President Rodrigo R. Duterte, discouraging foreign aid from the United States, the USAID's anti-trafficking campaign can be used by the US as a tool to preserve its presence and influence in the Philippines. This is because the US global campaign against human trafficking is complementary with President Duterte's domestic policy on the "war on drugs" or anti-drug trafficking.

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APPENDIX A
INTERVIEW GUIDE

QUESTION 1

What types of assistance, for human trafficking, did you receive from USAID, and, where were these assistances appropriated to?

QUESTION 2

How are you working with your other partner agencies (governmental or non-governmental) in your work against human trafficking?

QUESTION 3

What do you think are their reasons for giving your organization aid?

QUESTION 4

In what ways did the assistance help in addressing human trafficking in your area?

QUESTION 5

Why do you think the USAID is an effective tool in combating human trafficking in the Philippines?

QUESTION 6

What do you think will happen if the Philippines will not receive help from the USAID?

QUESTION 7

On which areas do you think the USAID should maintain or improve on their fight against human trafficking?

APPENDIX B
LETTERS TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

July 1, 2016

Ms. Lolita G. Ganapin
Executive Director, Bidlisiw Foundation Inc.
#3 Figueroa St, Sawang Calero 6000
Cebu City

Dear Ma'am,

Greetings of Peace!

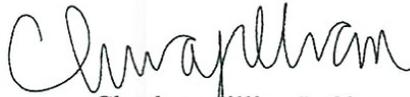
We are graduating students from the Ateneo de Davao University, taking up Bachelor of Arts in International Studies major in American Studies and we are currently conducting our thesis entitled "Combating human trafficking: A Case Study of the US-AID in the Philippines". In line with this, we would like to ask you for a virtual or personal interview to further supplement data in our study. We have chosen to interview your organization since you are one of the recipients of the USAID in addressing the issue of human trafficking here in the Philippines.

For details as to when the interview will surface, we have provided our contact details below:

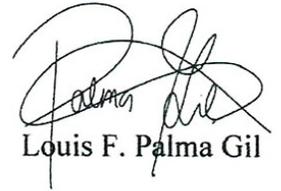
Charlene Jillian I. Chua| 09228500573| cjichua@yahoo.com
Janine Deanne A. Fulgencio| 09228789923| aninedeanne.fulgencio@gmail.com
Louis F. Palma Gil| 09483268296| louispalmagil@yahoo.com
Nico Gabriel G. Veneracion| 09304032047| nicoveneracion@gmail.com

We are looking forward for your favorable response as soon as possible. Thank you and have a nice day!

Sincerely yours,

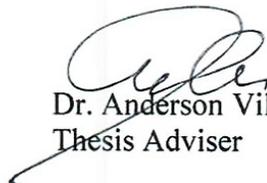

Charlene Jillian I. Chua


Janine Deanne A. Fulgencio


Louis F. Palma Gil


Nico Gabriel G. Veneracion

Noted by:


Dr. Anderson Villa
Thesis Adviser


Atty. Romeo T. Cabarde, Jr.
Thesis Mentor

June 29, 2016

Ms. Editha O. Casiple
Executive Director
Tambayan Center for Children's Rights, Inc.
#63 Artiaga Street, Davao City

Dear Ma'am,

Greetings of Peace!

We are graduating students from the Ateneo de Davao University, taking up Bachelor of Arts in International Studies major in American Studies and we are currently conducting our thesis entitled "Combating human trafficking: A Case Study of the USAID in the Philippines". In line with this, we would like to ask you for a virtual or personal interview to further supplement data in our study. We have chosen to interview your organization since you are one of the recipients of the USAID in addressing the issue of human trafficking here in the Philippines.

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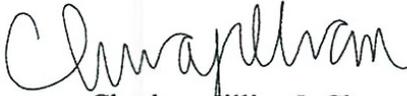
Janine Deanne A. Fulgencio| 09228789923| aninedeanne.fulgencio@gmail.com

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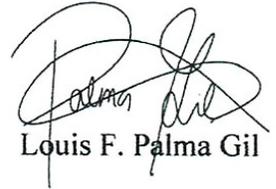
Sincerely yours,



Charlene Jillian I. Chua



Janine Deanne A. Fulgencio

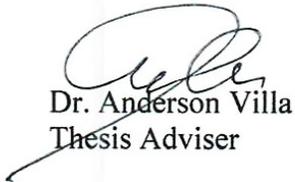


Louis F. Palma Gil



Nico Gabriel G. Veneracion

Noted by:



Dr. Anderson Villa
Thesis Adviser



Atty. Romeo T. Cabarde, Jr.
Thesis Mentor

July 1, 2016

Atty. Joan Dymphna Saniel
Executive Director, Children's Legal Bureau
#10 Queen's Road, Camputhaw
Cebu City

Dear Atty.,

Greetings of Peace!

We are graduating students from the Ateneo de Davao University, taking up Bachelor of Arts in International Studies major in American Studies and we are currently conducting our thesis entitled "Combating human trafficking: A Case Study of the US-AID in the Philippines". In line with this, we would like to ask you for a virtual or personal interview to further supplement data in our study. We have chosen to interview your organization since you are one of the recipients of the USAID in addressing the issue of human trafficking here in the Philippines.

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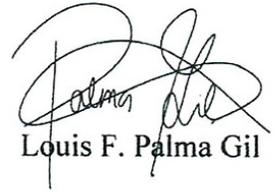
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Charlene Jillian I. Chua



Janine Deanne A. Fulgencio

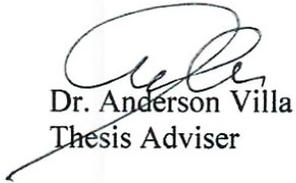


Louis F. Palma Gil



Nico Gabriel G. Veneracion

Noted by:



Dr. Anderson Villa
Thesis Adviser



Atty. Romeo T. Cabarde, Jr.
Thesis Mentor

July 1, 2016

Alex Corpus Hermoso

Programme Director

PREDA Foundation, Inc.

Olongapo City

Dear Sir,

Greetings of Peace!

We are graduating students from the Ateneo de Davao University, taking up Bachelor of Arts in International Studies major in American Studies and we are currently conducting our thesis entitled "Combating human trafficking: A Case Study of the US-AID in the Philippines". In line with this, we would like to ask you for a virtual or personal interview to further supplement data in our study. We have chosen to interview your organization since you are one of the recipients of the USAID in addressing the issue of human trafficking here in the Philippines.

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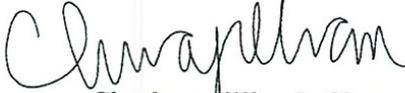
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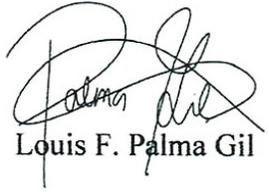
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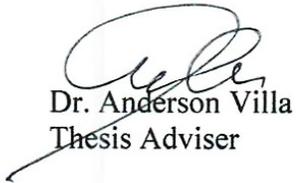

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