

Performance of Enhanced - Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) in the Context of Basilan Province

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Abstract

The Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) was initially designed as a national initiative to encourage the surrender of former rebels and members of the “milisayang bayan.” However, in Basilan province, where communist rebels are absent, security challenges persist due to the prevalence of firearms among civilians, which fuels local conflicts. This study examines how E-CLIP was adapted to address Basilan’s unique security needs and evaluates its impact on reducing conflict, promoting peace, and fostering economic development. The program’s implementation in Basilan focused on incentivizing the surrender of firearms through financial packages. Key data were collected on the number of firearms surrendered, financial assistance provided, and subsequent socioeconomic changes in the province over a specified period. Additionally, collaboration between local government units (LGUs), provincial institutions, and community groups was assessed to measure partnership effectiveness. The adapted ECLIP program significantly reduced conflict as many individuals surrendered their firearms in exchange for monetary rewards. This led to a decline in violence and improved community reintegration. Economically, the program contributed to the stabilization and growth of Basilan’s economy by fostering productive and profitable ventures. Strengthened collaboration among LGUs, institutions, and local groups further amplified the program’s impact. The successful adaptation of ECLIP in Basilan demonstrates the program’s flexibility and effectiveness in promoting long-term peace and prosperity in regions with distinct security challenges. This case study highlights the importance of tailoring national programs to local contexts and the critical role of multi-sectoral partnerships in achieving sustainable development and security.

Keywords: Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP), firearms, conflict reduction, economic development and collaboration



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INTRODUCTION

Peacebuilding is an effective strategy for achieving peace by addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting social justice. It aims to strengthen communities and create strong communities where individuals and groups can thrive economically, socially and politically, thereby reducing the risk of future harm. The main basis of peacebuilding is reconciliation and change; it emphasizes unity, dialogue and cooperation among different stakeholders to build trust and resolve grievances amicably.

Academic John Paul Lederach emphasized the importance of community leaders and community members in promoting peace, emphasizing the important role of citizens in driving change (Lederach, 1997). Peacebuilding

also includes sustainable development and human rights and is so consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 16, which emphasizes the importance of effective institutions and justice in peacebuilding (United Nations, 2015). While peace does not provide immediate security, it does not address the roots of conflict or ensure peace. Good peace, by contrast, is not merely the absence of violence but also justice, fairness and governance. It focuses on addressing the root causes of conflict, such as inequality, discrimination and lack of resources (Paris, 2004). Effective peacebuilding requires long-term efforts to promote reconciliation, build community trust and strengthen institutions that promote justice and support (Lederach, 1997). Emphasizing the importance of peace by advocating for the process of social

change and structure to prevent future violence (Lederach, 1997). This framework is based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16, which focuses on promoting peace and social inclusion (United Nations, 2015). As stated by the United Nations, peacebuilding is a long-term process that occurs after a conflict has caused serious political, social, and commercial problems and involves multi-layered interventions to heal people and prevent recurrence of violence (United Nations, 2020).

The International military form of conflict is increasing, influenced by geopolitical factors, socio-economic issues and local grievances. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said that today's conflicts have evolved from interstate wars to local and transnational conflicts. Today's conflicts often involve non-state actors such as insurgent groups, terrorist organizations and criminal organizations, making conflict resolution difficult (SIPRI Yearbook, 2023). Asia continues to be the focus of military operations. In the Middle East, ongoing conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Iraq have led to humanitarian crises, displaced millions of people and destabilized the region (International Crisis Group, 2023). In Africa, countries such as South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia are facing ethnic violence, clashes and conflicts stemming from competition for resources (International Crisis Group, 2023). These conflicts are exacerbated by groups such as Boko Haram. These organizations operate across borders, undermining state authority and complicating regional conflicts (International Crisis Group, 2023). The economic consequences of conflict are devastating, causing immediate human suffering and long-term damage to development, poverty reduction, and inequality peace (World Bank, 2023). In addition, international organizations such as United Nations and regional organizations play an important role in mediating, peacekeeping, and providing humanitarian assistance (United Nations, 2015). However, the complexity of these conflicts underscores the need for international

cooperation to address their roots causes, protect populations, and work for peace.

Basilan, the largest island in the Sulu Archipelago and part of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), is rich in natural resources and cultural diversity, with farming and fishing as primary livelihoods. Despite recent economic progress in industries like rubber and coconut, the province continues to face poverty and limited access to basic services. Historically, Basilan has struggled with instability due to violent clashes and insurgency, primarily driven by extremist groups like Abu Sayyaf, which have disrupted peace, economic growth, and social cohesion. Programs such as the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) offered hope by addressing the root causes of violence, promoting disarmament, and fostering sustainable peace and development in the region.

The Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP), launched in April 2018, is a Philippine government initiative under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of National Defense (DND) aimed at reintegrating members of the CPP-NPA-NDF and other communist groups into mainstream society. Anchored on Executive Order No. 70 signed by President Rodrigo Duterte, E-CLIP is part of the Whole-of-Nation Approach under the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). It offers former rebels financial, livelihood, educational, psychosocial, and legal assistance, coordinated through agencies like the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), LGUs, and others such as TESDA and DSWD, addressing insurgency's root causes and fostering peace.

E-CLIP has been implemented in conflict-affected areas like Basilan, Davao Region, Negros Island, and Northern Mindanao, benefiting former CPP-NPA-NDF members, their families, and insurgency-affected communities. It has facilitated the rehabilitation of conflict zones, reintegration of surrendered

combatants into productive civilian life, and transformation of insurgent-influenced areas into peaceful, developed communities. Success indicators include the increasing number of rebel returnees, the peaceful turnover of firearms, and socio-economic improvements among beneficiaries. In Basilan, over 100 former rebels received livelihood support, while in Davao, the program significantly reduced insurgency incidents, with many beneficiaries establishing businesses or undergoing TESDA training.

The Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) in Basilan, Philippines, is addressing the long-standing conflict in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The region has been plagued by terrorist attacks, ethnic violence, and economic marginalization. With these adversities, ECLIP aims to reintegrate former rebels and evacuees (International Alert Philippines, 2021). The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) has continued its attacks, targeting rural areas and challenging government policies. Meanwhile, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF) push for independence for the predominantly Muslim region of Mindanao has led to conflict with the government. Socio-economic inequalities, historical grievances, and weak governance contribute to these conflicts. Despite peace and reconstruction talks, violence and revolution persist. International organizations and neighboring countries have contributed to peace talks and humanitarian aid, demonstrating the difficulty of achieving peace in a diverse and divided country (International Crisis Group, 2001). In June, the radical Islamist, the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), attacked the town of Lamitan, Basilan. They arrested criminals, including civilians and police officers, to attract media attention and promote their revolutionary agenda. The Philippine Army responded by surrounding the area, negotiating with the terrorists, and engaging in clashes with Abu Sayyaf Group. The siege received international attention due to the brutality and humanitarian impact of the Abu Sayyaf Group. The military intervention, supported by political efforts, resulted in the rescue of the terrorists and the

defeat of the Abu Sayyaf Group (International Committee of the Red Cross, 2001). Professor Nur Misuari led the siege of Zamboanga City to declare independence for the Bangsamoro people. Fighting between Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) fighters and the Philippine Army in the city led to the formation of bandits and the occupation of communities. The conflict resulted in many changes and casualties. The military's huge task of regaining control resulted in heavy casualties and concerns about historical marginalization and administrative problems (Gomez, 2018). The rebels led by Isnilon Hapilon aim to establish a caliphate, which has led to violent clashes. The Philippine government declared martial law in Mindanao and launched a major military operation, causing widespread destruction and displacement. The end of the siege in October 2017 raised concerns about recovery, peacebuilding, and preventing future radicalization (Lanao Disaster Response and Rescue Operations Center, 2020). Executive Order No. 70, signed December 4, 2018, outlined the country's path to peace. It established the National Task Force to End Local-Economic Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) to coordinate government institutions, and civil society. The order emphasizes peacebuilding, development, and community participation to address the root causes of conflict, focusing on regional reconciliation and better cooperation (PCOO, 2018).

Though the E-CLIP was generally successful in its implementation, the program can still be improved by addressing some identified gaps. One major research gap is the lack of comprehensive data on the operating context of E-CLIP in Basilan. Understanding the local conditions, such as program's effectiveness. Additionally, there is limited information on the specific E-CLIP programs that are being implemented in Basilan, as well as the mechanisms used to deliver these services. This study aims to document and analyze these aspects to provide a clearer picture of the program's on-the-ground realities.

Pondering on the identified gap, the primary intent of this action research is to critically

assess the performance of E-CLIP in Basilan by answering the following research questions:

1. What is the operating context in the implementation of E-CLIP in Basilan?
 - 1.1 Type of armed conflict
 - 1.2 Socio-economic condition
 - 1.3 Political Condition
 - 1.4 Local Governance condition
2. What E-CLIP programs are implemented in Basilan?
3. What are the implementing mechanisms of E-CLIP in Basilan?
4. How does E-CLIP perform in terms of efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness, relevance and sustainability?
5. What is the hindering and enabling factors in implementing E-CLIP in Basilan?

Statement of Objectives. The study aims to evaluate and enhance local integration programs of former combatants in Basilan, identifying challenges and proposing improvements for greater effectiveness. Objectives include assessing current programs, measuring impact, and providing evidence-based policy recommendations. The study seeks to foster community involvement, ensure sustainability and support peacebuilding efforts. Ultimately, it intends to create a more effective, comprehensive integration program that addresses the immediate needs of former combatants, promote socio-economic development and contributes to long-term peace and stability in Basilan.

Significance of the Study. The study on the effectiveness of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) in Basilan province is crucial for various stakeholders. For community members, it highlights the program's impact on social cohesion, security, and development, fostering greater support for former rebels and identifying areas for improvement. Former combatants benefit from insights into their reintegration process, helping tailor services to meet their needs. The

findings also provide the Provincial E-CLIP Committee with valuable evaluations to strengthen the program's implementation. Similarly, the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) can use the results to refine strategies for maintaining public safety and stability in the region.

Local Government Units (LGUs) and National Government Agencies can also apply the study's insights to enhance resource allocation, policymaking, and program implementation, ensuring better outcomes for peace and development initiatives. Civil society organizations (CSOs) can use the findings to improve their peacebuilding and development efforts, while the academe can expand knowledge on conflict resolution and reintegration. For policymakers, the study provides evidence-based recommendations to guide strategies in conflict zones. Lastly, future researchers can use the study as a foundation for exploring integrated services and developing interventions that contribute to sustainable peace.

Scope and Limitation. The study on the performance of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) in Basilan province focuses on assessing the program's impact from its inception to the present, involving former combatants, community members, local officials, and security forces. The research design is purely qualitative, employing interview, Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and document analysis approach to evaluate reintegration effectiveness, community security, and implementation challenges. However, the study is limited by data availability, potential participant biases, external influencing factors, and resource constraints, which may affect the comprehensiveness and generalizability of the findings. Despite these limitations, the study aims to provide valuable insights into E-CLIP's efficacy and inform future policy and program improvements.

LITERATURES

Theoretical Framework. The study draws on John Paul Lederach's peacebuilding theories, emphasizing conflict transformation and reconciliation. Lederach's framework highlights addressing root causes of conflict, fostering dialogue, and empowering local communities to build sustainable peace. These principles align with the Enhanced-Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP), which aims to reintegrate former rebels in the Philippines by providing livelihood, education, and legal support. Applying Lederach's concepts to E-CLIP in Basilan provides a lens to evaluate how the program fosters trust, facilitates dialogue, and addresses long-standing socio-economic grievances in a conflict-prone area.

Additionally, peacebuilding theories such as social cohesion, reconciliation, and local ownership underscore E-CLIP's potential to promote lasting peace. By integrating former rebels into society and engaging communities in the peace process, E-CLIP can strengthen relationships, reduce social isolation, and encourage cooperation. These efforts align with reconciliation and local participation theories, which stress empowering communities to ensure relevance and sustainability in peacebuilding interventions. Assessing these elements offers valuable insights into the program's effectiveness in addressing Basilan's unique socio-political challenges.

Putnam's Social Capital Theory further enhances the study, emphasizing the role of social networks, reciprocity, and trust in community development. By analyzing E-CLIP's implementation, the study examines how social ties and cooperation contribute to its success. Strong social capital facilitates mutual benefit and trust, critical for reintegration and stability in Basilan. Understanding the interplay between E-CLIP and social capital offers actionable insights to strengthen program delivery, enhance community cohesion, and promote sustainable peace in conflict-affected areas.

The design of the study is also anchored in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and

Program Evaluation Theory, with additional grounding in Social Constructivist Theory. PRA emphasizes active stakeholder participation to analyze and address local issues, ensuring that insights gathered reflect ground-level realities (Chambers, 1994). Program Evaluation Theory, particularly the OECD-DAC criteria, guided the assessment of E-CLIP's relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability (OECD, 2010). Social Constructivist Theory highlights the co-construction of knowledge through dialogue and interaction, making it especially relevant for FGDs, where participants collaboratively shared experiences and identified actionable solutions (Vygotsky, 1978). This theoretical foundation ensured that the study was both participatory and context-sensitive, enabling a nuanced understanding of E-CLIP's operating context in Basilan.

Assumptions. This study tests the assumptions that the operating context in Basilan significantly impacts E-CLIP implementation, various E-CLIP programs are being carried out in the region, specific mechanisms are employed for its implementation, the program's performance varies in terms of efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness, relevance, and sustainability, and both hindering and enabling factors influence its success.

Analytical Framework. This study assesses the performance of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) in Basilan through a multidimensional framework, focusing on the operating context, implementing mechanisms, and key program components. It examines the socio-political, security, and cultural factors affecting program implementation, evaluates the effectiveness of program design and coordination, and analyzes components like livelihood support, psychosocial services, and community engagement. The study measures performance based on efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness, relevance, and sustainability, while identifying enabling factors such as strong leadership and collaboration, and hindering factors like security risks, logistical challenges, and limited resources.

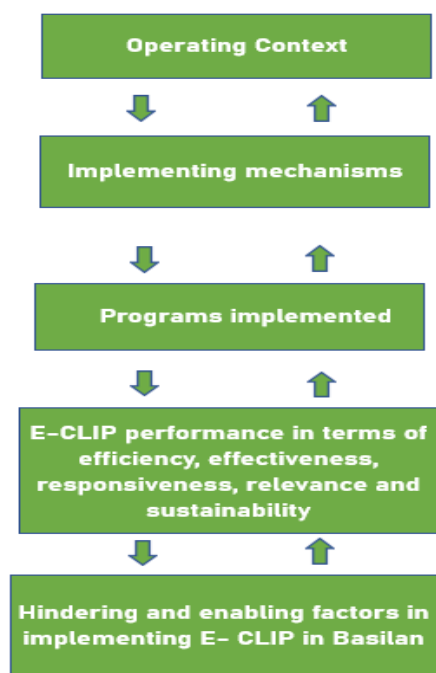


Figure 1
Framework of Study

METHODS

This part presents the details of the research design, participants of the study, sampling technique, instruments, procedures in gathering data, and data analysis.

Research Design. In this qualitative study, the researchers employed Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussion (FGD), and document review to evaluate the effectiveness of E-CLIP in promoting peace, stability, and socio-economic development in Basilan, Philippines. Key Informant Interviews were conducted with program administrators, local government officials, community leaders, and NGO representatives to gather insights into program implementation strategies, challenges, and perceived outcomes. Focus Group Discussions were employed to engage diverse groups of beneficiaries to explore community perspectives on the socio-economic impacts and effectiveness of E-CLIP interventions. A comprehensive document review was complemented with primary data by analyzing program reports, policy documents, and relevant literature to provide contextual background and validate qualitative findings.

Participants of the Study. Gathered from the Provincial Government of Basilan, Isabela City, Basilan, the primary source of data in this study were three (3) Key Informant Interview (KII) and one Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with eleven (11) participants. The secondary source of data was analyzed based on themes consistent with the program document and accomplishment reports.

Participants of the study for KII were three: two (2) members from Provincial E-CLIP Committee and one (1) from other government agency, while eleven (11) participants comprised the Focus Group Discussion. The participants were chosen from the list of members of Provincial E-CLIP Committee under Executive Order No. 35-2021 signed by Provincial Governor of Basilan Hon. HADJIMAN "JIM" S HATAMAN SALLIMAN dated on November 25, 2021 at Provincial Capitol, Isabela City, Basilan.

Research Instrument. The semi-structured interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were designed to capture detailed, context-specific insights into the implementation and performance of the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) in Basilan. Semi-structured interviews provided a flexible framework for engaging key informants, including former rebels, local government officials, and program implementers, allowing the interviewer to probe deeply into specific topics while still maintaining focus on the core areas of inquiry.

The FGD provided a collective discussion among stakeholders to explore different viewpoints on E-CLIP's implementation, effectiveness, and impact in Basilan. Through designing the FGD with these considerations, drawing on best practices in participatory research and insights from relevant literature, the session dealt on a nuanced exploration of E-CLIP's performance in Basilan. The diversity of stakeholder perspectives was captured, contributing to a comprehensive assessment of the program's impact and effectiveness in fostering peacebuilding and socio-economic integration in the region. (UNDP, 2009).

Sample questions raised in the questionnaire to support and facilitate a thorough explanation of the E-CLIP's performance were the following: 1) What is the operating context in the implementation of E-CLIP in Basilan?; 2) What E-CLIP programs are implemented in Basilan?; 3) What are the implementing mechanisms of E-CLIP in Basilan? 4) How does E-CLIP perform in terms of efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness, relevance and sustainability?; and, 5) What is the hindering and enabling factors in implementing E-CLIP in Basilan?

Data Gathering Procedure. The researchers conducted the study following a standardized process, starting with a formal request to the Honorable Governor of Basilan for permission to administer Key Informant Interviews (KII). Upon approval, in-person interviews were conducted while adhering to ethical research standards. Participants were briefed on the study's purpose, their rights, and the option to decline participation. Interview guide questions focusing on participants' lived experiences were prepared in advance, and participants selected their preferred language, ensuring clarity and comfort. Confidentiality was maintained, and consent was secured for recording. During the interviews, the researchers observed participants' mannerisms and expressions while recording responses, which were later transcribed and analyzed. Redundant or irrelevant responses were excluded to focus on meaningful insights, with a systematic approach ensuring orderliness and thorough exploration of the participants' perspectives.

Data Analysis. Thematic analysis was done to identify recurring themes and patterns across data sources, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of E-CLIP's performance (Schoch, 2020). This procedure ensured methodological rigor in exploring the multifaceted dimensions of E-CLIP in Basilan, contributing valuable insights to peacebuilding and development efforts in conflict-affected regions.

More so, to analyze the data derived from the FGDs, thematic analysis was used to code qualitative data and uncover patterns and

themes related to socio-political conditions, program implementation, and community dynamics. Document reviews have also complemented this by examining reports and official documents to analyze E-CLIP's context, strategies, and performance metrics. Participants were assured of their voluntary participation, informed of the study's objectives, and guaranteed confidentiality in compliance with ethical research standards and the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (Republic Act No. 10173). This integrative approach enabled a comprehensive evaluation of E-CLIP's efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, and sustainability while identifying operational challenges and areas for improvement.

RESULTS

This presents the findings and discussions of the gathered data, organized in the following sequence: 1) The Operating Context in Implementation of E-CLIP in Basilan province in terms of types of armed conflict, socio-economic condition, political condition, local governance; 2) The E-CLIP Programs Implemented in Basilan province; 3) The Implementing Mechanism of E-CLIP in Basilan province; 4) The Performance of E-CLIP in Basilan Province in terms of efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness, relevance and sustainability; and, 5) The Hindering and Enabling Factors Affecting the Implementation of E-CLIP in Basilan Province.

1. Operating Context in the Implementation of the E-CLIP in Basilan

Types of Armed Conflict in Basilan. Basilan's journey from conflict to stability has been characterized by the transformation of violent resistance and tribalism into peace and development. In the past, the state has been plagued by attacks by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and clashes with Moro separatist groups such as the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, leading to ensuing conflict. The administration also remains plagued by political conflicts caused by rival parties and political support. However, the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law

(BOL) and Basilan's integration into Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) have brought peace. Violence in the province has decreased due to reconciliation, the suppression of insurgents, and improved governance. Today, Basilan is growing by focusing on infrastructure, lifestyle, and economic development, paving the way for a sustainable and prosperous future.

Socio-economic condition in Basilan. Basilan's economy has undergone a significant transition from a period of poor growth and poverty to a period of prosperity. Historically, the state has faced high levels of poverty, poor infrastructure, dependence on agriculture and fisheries, as well as security concerns and conflict. However, recent developments, including the incorporation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), have led to improved development plans, improved governance, and streamlined governance.

These changes have led to significant investments in infrastructure, increased support for agriculture and local businesses, and improved public services. As a result, Basilan's economy is progressively improving, with opportunities for growth and development, and a stable environment conducive to long-term success.

Political Condition in Basilan. The political system in Basilan has undergone a major change from the previous government's difficulties such as the control of the people, the opposition, and the construction with construction to the current progress and government development. Early civilizations were often faced with problems in terms of violence and conflict, which hindered economic development and governance. In contrast, the current government operating in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) focus on promoting peace, stability, and development. The existing government has focused on infrastructure projects, improving governance and policies to promote progress in society and create economic growth, presenting the future to the state.

Local Governance condition in Basilan. During the previous administration, Basilan's Provincial Government struggled with security concerns and insurgencies, which hindered development and governance. Efforts to improve infrastructure and services were often undermined by instability. In contrast, the current administration has made significant progress in enhancing security and stability, enabling energy development, improved infrastructure projects, economic growth, and greater community participation. These changes have redefined governance in Basilan, promoting long-term growth and better living standards.

The Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP), spearheaded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), focuses on assisting former rebels to reduce violent conflicts. It operates effectively in conflict-free areas but relies on military and police intervention when conflicts arise, with civilian-driven efforts resuming afterward. The program primarily aims to reintegrate communist rebels by offering opportunities to restore allegiance to the government while supporting rehabilitation. In Basilan, ECLIP has been tailored to address the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), whose motivations align with local contexts, facilitating integration. The program's adaptability reflects the provincial government's ability to synchronize national initiatives with Basilan's unique needs, fostering stability and offering former rebels a path to peaceful reintegration. The governor's leadership, in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and Philippine National Police (PNP), has been pivotal in addressing Basilan's unique challenges.

The community's increasing fear of ASG banditry has diminished the group's size, while ECLIP provides opportunities for former members to lead better lives. Over time, people in Basilan have rejected ASG's violent ideals, realizing they bring more harm than benefit. This growing awareness, combined with government services and economic support,

has furthered ECLIP's success. However, historical community neglect and marginalization, which initially allowed ASG to gain traction, remain underlying issues that necessitate continued attention.

Aside from ECLIP's focus on ASG, localized conflicts like rido (clan feuds) persist, posing public safety challenges. While not directly involving security forces, these conflicts impact communities and require local government intervention. Proactive measures, such as economic support and safety initiatives, have reduced violence, complementing ECLIP's broader peace-building objectives.

Despite its successes, ECLIP faces criticism from victims of ASG violence and those excluded from its benefits. Some community members question the fairness of offering privileges to former extremists while victims and non-ASG rebels lack similar support. This perceived inequity risks fostering resentment and undermines community trust in the program, highlighting the need for balanced support.

The role of educated community members has been instrumental in convincing rebels to participate in ECLIP. Their ability to effectively communicate the program's benefits, coupled with testimonials from former rebels, has strengthened recruitment efforts. Additionally, the program's collaboration with AFP and PNP ensures a thorough vetting process for beneficiaries, addressing concerns about misallocation of resources.

One significant aspect of ECLIP is its firearms remuneration package, which incentivizes disarmament and fosters community safety. Former rebels also serve as effective advocates, persuading their peers to surrender and reintegrate into society. These components have contributed to the program's success in reducing violence and enhancing productivity among former rebels.

The program's sustainability depends on addressing logistical challenges, such as delays in financial support due to documentation

requirements. Streamlined processes and interagency cooperation are crucial to maintaining momentum. While ECLIP's implementation in Basilan has shown promise, its long-term success relies on addressing community grievances, ensuring fairness, and sustaining collaborative efforts among all stakeholders.

2. ECLIP Programs Implemented in Basilan

The most important and strategic component of the ECLIP that bears most positive in the province of Basilan is the firearms remuneration. Firearms is the root of the trouble in this part of the country (Kopel, Gallant & Eisen, 2003) and separating the people from the firearms offer the most significant step towards achieving a lasting peace. The mechanisms of the ECLIP are primarily based on the guidelines of the national government, particularly the DILG.

3. ECLIP Mechanism Implemented

When implemented at the province, the first thing that they do is to organize ECLIP committee established through an executive order. The BARMM government, particularly the MILG, which is the counterpart of the DILG in the autonomous region. In addition, the police demonstrate the higher role in the ECLIP, such that, while the AFP takes on the complemented effort, the police, particularly the chief of police takes the lead in convening the various agencies, and the MILG takes charge of the orientation of the mechanism. The non-government organizations are important partners for the program (Davidson, 1997), shifting the ECLIP implementation in the Basilan as a whole society approach, moving from the usual coordinative feature of the whole-of-government model. In Basilan, all stakeholders contribute to the effort.

4. E-CLIP Performance in terms of Efficiency, Effectiveness, Responsiveness, Relevance, and Sustainability

The ECLIP in Basilan is implemented through the agencies concerned, which regularly meet

to discuss the program. At times, the LGU takes the initiative to bring together the agencies to discuss the status. It would appear that the authority to call for meetings to harmonize and thresh out concerns, which is a democratic process (Adams, 2004) rests upon those who have the agenda to discuss. If the LGU has an agenda to discuss, then the LGU hosts the meeting, and if other agencies have a concern, then they will host the meeting.

This is considerably both a strong and a weak system for meetings can be done into series and in emergency nature, not unless regularity is set (Airey, 2022). Yet, if the concern is related to the application, detailed implementation of the mechanism, it would appear that the agencies involved like the AFP, PNP, social welfare office continuously work and communicate for faster coordination. Given these, the ECLIP implementation, as evidence by the drastic reduction leading to elimination of the armed conflict. This is the strongest proof that the program is effective (Byman et al, 2001) because there is no more armed conflict that occurred in the province since the implementation (Dellosa, 2017).

When rebels are persuaded to accept ECLIP and apply, they note that the processing and release of benefits are swift, reflecting their growing confidence in the system (Aguilar, 2018). However, while the program is effective in achieving surrenders, participants highlight inefficiencies, as delays still occur, particularly when applicants fail to provide required documents like IDs or birth certificates (Salain & Abduhrahim, 1993). This inefficiency prolongs the rate of surrenders, leaving some rebels armed, which sustains issues like rido, ambushes, and murders (Taberne, 2011).

Participants observe that disarming rebels leads to a shift in their mindset, reducing violence. However, in Basilan, ECLIP implementation requires caution due to beneficiaries with outstanding warrants. Government officials must balance fulfilling the program's goals with addressing legal obligations to avoid neglect of duty, which could jeopardize their careers (Legarde, 2023).

Effective implementation builds public trust and improves bureaucratic morale, but participants argue that delays and unresolved legal concerns hinder the program's efficiency. Despite these challenges, ECLIP remains a critical tool for promoting peace and reintegration.

On the other hand, it is beyond comprehension that the E-CLIP would not include the violators of the law, as the program is meant for the reconciliation and rehabilitation of the former rebels and bandits (Malan & Solomon, 2012). And it is just natural that the beneficiaries would have warrant of arrest.

However, they cautioned that not everyone can join the project without going through the process. Only those who will submit themselves to the process can fully take advantage of the privileges that is included in the E-CLIP. Unless placed on the process, the rebels cannot be placed as applicants of the E-CLIP and waive the privilege of the government program. What is certain is that when the names are listed, and the applicants are cleared by the PNP and AFP, the request for release immediately follows. The release of fund is efficient, and the liquidation of documents are done effectively. The E-CLIP aims to facilitate the reintegration and rehabilitation, and the stakeholders in Basilan understand this very well.

The transformation of institutions that compose the Basilan society defines the thinking that the people would manifest in their day-to-day activities (Alih, 2017). The success of the ASG in its recruitment back in the 90's demonstrates the influence of the idea in the conditions of the place, back then, Basilan is a place barely touched with government projects, the people are left out, and their government cause them oppression. But the ECLIP takes the potency of reflecting the conditions of the ground, the optics of the place, and the sensation of the people's relief, it was able to supplant the root of the concept of terrorism with the desire to surrender and reintegrate with the society (Gunawa, 2017; Taberne, 2011; Malan & Solomon, 2012).

The significant transformation in the attitudes of Basilan residents stems from the E-CLIP's ability to offer a peaceful alternative to a violent life. Transforming society also involves addressing livelihood and fostering a sense of community. Former rebels are motivated to surrender due to the community acceptance they receive upon doing so (Yabes, 2017). Local leaders, community members, and law enforcement agencies play key roles in building this confidence. The process of identification and application must be supported, confirmed, and sustained to ensure trust in the program. Ultimately, the E-CLIP aims to facilitate effective reintegration and rehabilitation, a goal well understood by stakeholders in Basilan.

However, the overall management of the program is considered to achieve proper allocation and have been considered to be with adequate support.

5. Hindering and Enabling Factors in Implementing E-CLIP

The transformation of institutions within Basilan society shapes the community's mindset and daily activities. The ASG's recruitment success in the 1990s highlights the impact of the area's conditions at the time—marked by minimal government presence, neglect, and oppression. Former rebels' willingness to surrender often depends on the reception they anticipate from their communities, a confidence nurtured by local leaders, law enforcement, and other stakeholders. Ensuring transparency in the identification and application processes is crucial, making them accessible to all and not confined to a few in authority.

Efficient profiling and regular coordination through the Joint AFP-PNP Intelligence Coordination (JAPIC) have bolstered public trust in the process and improved the ASG's perception of law enforcement. The profiling process signals the program's seriousness, reinforcing the community's view of ECLIP as a program specifically designed for ASG members. This structured approach also aligns with Mortela & Hastings' (2009) caution on

contextualizing idealism. By addressing the rebels' deeper motivations and integrating them meaningfully into the community, E-CLIP fosters their commitment to reintegration and productive contributions to society.

In the process of rehabilitation and reconciliation, at its core is on how to respond to demanding requirements and how flexible the processes are to adapt to the new situations that were not contemplated (Kao & Revkin, 2023) when the program was crafted. While the government follows the strictures of the audit and standards of reporting, its ability to bring to an elevated scale the E-CLIP in Basilan to the higher level of contribution to the overall effort to bring about lasting peace in the province and the needed effect to make sure that the seeds of radicalism cannot take root in the province and in its remote places.

It must be admitted that ECLIP takes time to make it adaptive to the evolving challenges that the rebels and insurgent returnees need. There is the challenge of continued support from the LGU, but the sticky adaptability of the government is addressed by the non-government organizations who has the flexibility to readily fill the void that is resulting from the bureaucratic processes.

The Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) implementation in Basilan operates across four key dimensions: profiling, application, release, and evaluation. Effective leadership by local officials, particularly the governor, and strong coordination between security forces and the community, have generated significant interest in the program. However, challenges such as pending warrants of arrest hinder its effectiveness, as these deter applicants. A focused awareness campaign involving former rebels as advocates could address this issue and help applicants better understand the program's objectives. Ensuring that only eligible individuals receive benefits is critical to maintaining ECLIP's credibility and long-term impact.

Financial packages provided through ECLIP have improved socioeconomic conditions in

Basilan. Many former Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) members surrendered their firearms in exchange for remuneration, which boosted local economic activity. The program has significantly reduced violent conflicts, though some issues, such as “rido” (clan feuds), persist. By incentivizing disarmament and reintegration, ECLIP has fostered peace and stability in the province, enabling residents to engage more actively in trade and community life.

The success of ECLIP in Basilan is largely due to the governor’s effective leadership and the collaborative efforts of the provincial government, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), and national agencies. The program’s adaptability—extending to non-communist insurgents like ASG members—has been crucial, as there are no communist rebels in the province. However, cultural barriers, such as the significance of firearms in local traditions, remain a challenge. Disarmament strategies must account for these cultural factors while ensuring compliance through strong community involvement and proper monitoring.

Firearms remuneration has been particularly effective in encouraging ASG members to surrender their weapons, with larger compensations offered for more firearms. This approach has not only incentivized disarmament but also reinforced trust in the program. As more rebels reintegrate into society, the community gains confidence in the value of peace, fostering reconciliation and reducing the cycle of violence. The program’s integrity depends on rigorous application processes to prevent misuse, ensuring that only deserving beneficiaries receive support and that its long-term objectives of peace and stability are sustained.

On account of the findings, the framework of the implementation of ECLIP in Basilan is presented in Figure 2 below.

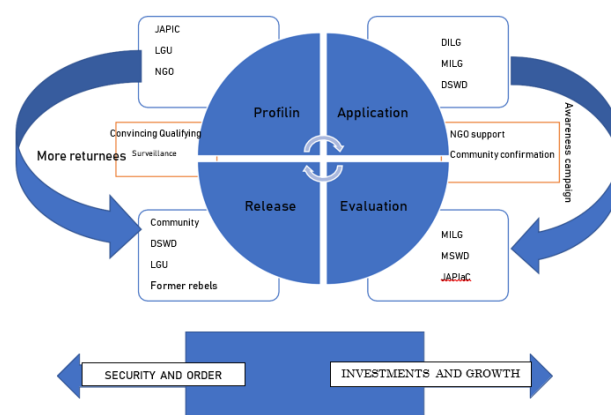


Figure 2
Framework of the ECLIP Implementation in Basilan

Another contentious stage in the ECLIP procedure is the release of the financial benefits. There is instance when the money is ready for release, yet the beneficiaries are not, and this becomes an area which allowed the Basilan ECLIP to stand out because the implementors will find a way to provide results, and effectively lead to an efficient release. In all of these, the community in partnership with NGO and Civil Society Organizations will either benefit or bear the brunt of the outcome of the program, but in Basilan, what is demonstrable is the positive results, the success of the ECLIP, and the continuing peace that has made Basilan a positively expanding province in terms of its economic activities.

Therefore, the core of the ECLIP is not an ordinary security analytics and assurances, it is more of a public safety with regards to law enforcement. This is because the program is targeted for the former rebels – not ordinary rebels but former terrorists. This terrorist could have sown more conflicts and violence if it were not the whole-of-society approach in a more communitarian degree. It is communitarian on the account that the residents, the members of the community commit to a more successful reintegration, more particularly in transforming the behavior of violent freak to conflict avoidance, which is firstly initiated and

established through the surrender of arms. The surrender of arms or the severance of the rebels from their guns reduced the onset of conflicts.

Conclusion. The Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP) in Basilan has been shaped significantly by the province's sociopolitical environment, particularly its local governance. The program's implementation depends on stability; otherwise, law enforcement agencies like the AFP and PNP take charge during conflict and violence. ECLIP has been instrumental in reducing the number of violent extremists from the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). This success is largely attributed to former ASG members persuading others to surrender and avail themselves of the program's benefits. However, the program remains limited in Basilan compared to other areas, focusing primarily on surrender support and firearms remuneration.

Immediate financial assistance and firearms remuneration have proven to be compelling incentives for surrendering extremists. Former ASG members are compensated based on the quantity of firearms surrendered, which provides a strong economic motive. Despite this, challenges remain in persuading more ASG members to participate due to existing legal issues, such as pending warrants. Socioeconomic factors are pivotal, both as drivers of initial ASG membership in the 1990s and as motivators for surrender under ECLIP. This dual role underscores the interplay between economic opportunities and decisions to engage in or abandon extremist activities.

While the program has successfully reintegrated ASG members, it has raised concerns among other groups, including MNLF members and victims of ASG violence. The latter have expressed resentment over perceived preferential treatment given to former perpetrators. If unaddressed, these grievances could undermine the peace gains achieved through ECLIP. The role of local leadership, particularly the governor and other elected officials, has been crucial to ECLIP's success. Their unity and effective governance

have contributed to Basilan's improved economic performance, reflected in its 2023 competitiveness ranking as one of the top-performing provinces in the Philippines.

ECLIP's implementation in Basilan demonstrates a hybrid approach, combining national guidelines with local adaptations. The provincial government and BARMM collaborated to address ambiguities in the national program, extending its benefits to lawless elements like the ASG. This liberal interpretation of the program has allowed it to meet its core objective of promoting peace and order. By encouraging former rebels to reintegrate into society and participate in community rehabilitation, ECLIP has not only enhanced local security but also contributed to Basilan's economic growth and stability.

Recommendations. Based on the results of the study, the following recommendations were drawn:

1. **Continue Current Initiatives.** The ECLIP has been effective in Basilan, with numerous ASG members surrendering and firearms turned over to the government in exchange for financial remuneration. Key strategies include utilizing former ASG leaders as speakers and educated former rebels as mentors. However, the program's success heavily relies on the current governor's leadership, raising concerns about sustainability when the leadership transitions.
2. **Cooperative for Former ASG Members.** To ensure that financial aid has a lasting impact, establishing cooperatives for former ASG members is proposed. By pooling resources for productive activities, returnees can reinvest funds into their communities, fostering sustainable economic growth. Training in cooperative development would support this initiative.
3. **Family-Oriented Approach.** Expanding program benefits to include the families of returnees could strengthen their commitment to ECLIP. Providing support for

children, spouses, and parents increases the program's economic and social impact, making reintegration more appealing than returning to violence.

4. **Human Rights Approach.** Many former rebels face legal barriers, such as warrants, which hinder their reintegration. The program should address these legal challenges while respecting victims' rights. Establishing a clear justice pathway, potentially through amnesty or executive clemency, ensures accountability and aligns with human rights principles.

Viability of Courses of Action. Given the parameters established in Table 1, it would appear that in terms of effectiveness, efficiency and administrative acceptability, the continuing the current initiative is seen as the most viable as a course of action, while in terms of social acceptability, the human rights approach is seen as more viable.

Table 1
Criteria for Evaluation of Recommendations

Recommendation	Criteria					Score	Rank
	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Social Acceptability	Political Viability	Administrative Acceptability		
Continuing current initiatives	4	4	4	3	4	19	1
Family- Oriented Approach	1	1	4	4	3	13	3
Establishment of Cooperative for ECLIP Recipients	2	2	5	3	3	15	2
Human rights approach	1	1	5	2	1	10	4

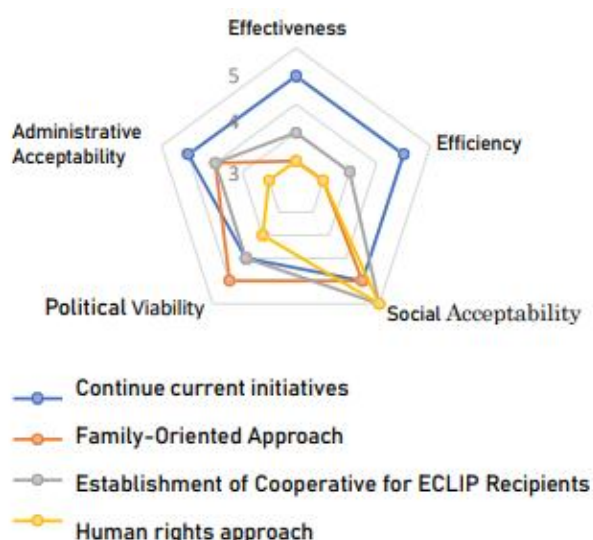


Figure 3
Viability of Courses of Action

Figure 3 diagrammatically depicted the need for an institutional effectiveness that blends the social acceptability, and the way to do this is to make the bandits face the consequences of their action while they also receive the financial packages, it has to be equitable, not that if they surrender, all accountability is removed.

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