

World Bank flags mixed risk levels but sustains positive implementation outlook

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The World Bank has affirmed steady progress in two major development initiatives in Mindanao focused on transport connectivity and agricultural transformation, underscoring continued implementation momentum across infrastructure and rural development programs in the southern Philippines.

The Mindanao Transport Connectivity Improvement Project (MTCIP) and the Mindanao Inclusive Agriculture Development Project (MIADP) have both been assessed as satisfactorily progressing, according to the lender's latest implementation status reports, despite differing risk classifications and funding disbursement timelines.

MTCIP, implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways, is aimed at strengthening inter-island connectivity, improving climate resilience, and enhancing road safety along key corridors including the Cagayan de Oro-Davao-General Santos route. The project also focuses on upgrading local road networks and modernising transport asset management systems to support long-term infrastructure durability.

While procurement activities have commenced and are expected to accelerate with additional consultancy engagements, the project continues under a substantial risk rating. No disbursements have been recorded so far from the approved \$506.99 million financing package, which is scheduled to run until 2032.

In parallel, MIADP, led by the Department of Agriculture, is advancing with a focus on improving agricultural productivity, market access, and resilience among farmer and fisherfolk groups in selected ancestral domains. The project has reached a key implementation phase following completion of social preparation activities across all targeted domains, enabling a shift

toward scaled-up execution.

According to the World Bank, the initiative has recorded progress across infrastructure development, institutional strengthening, and enterprise support components, including increased participation of women-led groups in value-chain activities. The project, classified under moderate risk, has so far disbursed \$26.84 million out of a total \$100 million financing envelope, with completion targeted for 2029.

Together, the two initiatives reflect a broader development push aimed at integrating climate-resilient infrastructure with inclusive agricultural growth strategies in Mindanao, while strengthening institutional capacity and improving rural livelihoods across the region.