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PHILIPPINES: USAID Boat Landings Bring Economic Benefits to Sulu Archipelago Communities

From July to September 2011, USAID completed eight community boat landings in the Sulu Archipelago, an economically underdeveloped and conflict-affected area of Mindanao, to help generate economic activity by improving access to markets and services. USAID, through its Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, has built more than 1,300 such community infrastructure projects, including water systems, solar dryers, boat landings, bridges, trading centers and roadway upgrades. According to a recent study, such USAID boat landings bring in an average return of $1.90 for every dollar invested in the project, in terms of reduced passenger landing and cargo handling fees, among other benefits. The study was conducted by the Institute for Socio-Economic Development Initiatives (ISFI) at Ateneo de Davao University, and employed surveys and focus group discussions.

Photo by Cernan Sabturani, GEM Infra Team

Fisherfolk and traders from neighboring islands throng the Tulay boat landing built by USAID through its Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, in Jolo, Sulu. The 42 meter-long reinforced concrete landing with passenger shed and pier head has made the transport of passengers and cargo safer, as well as more orderly and efficient, for about 9,000 residents and travelers from neighboring communities.

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