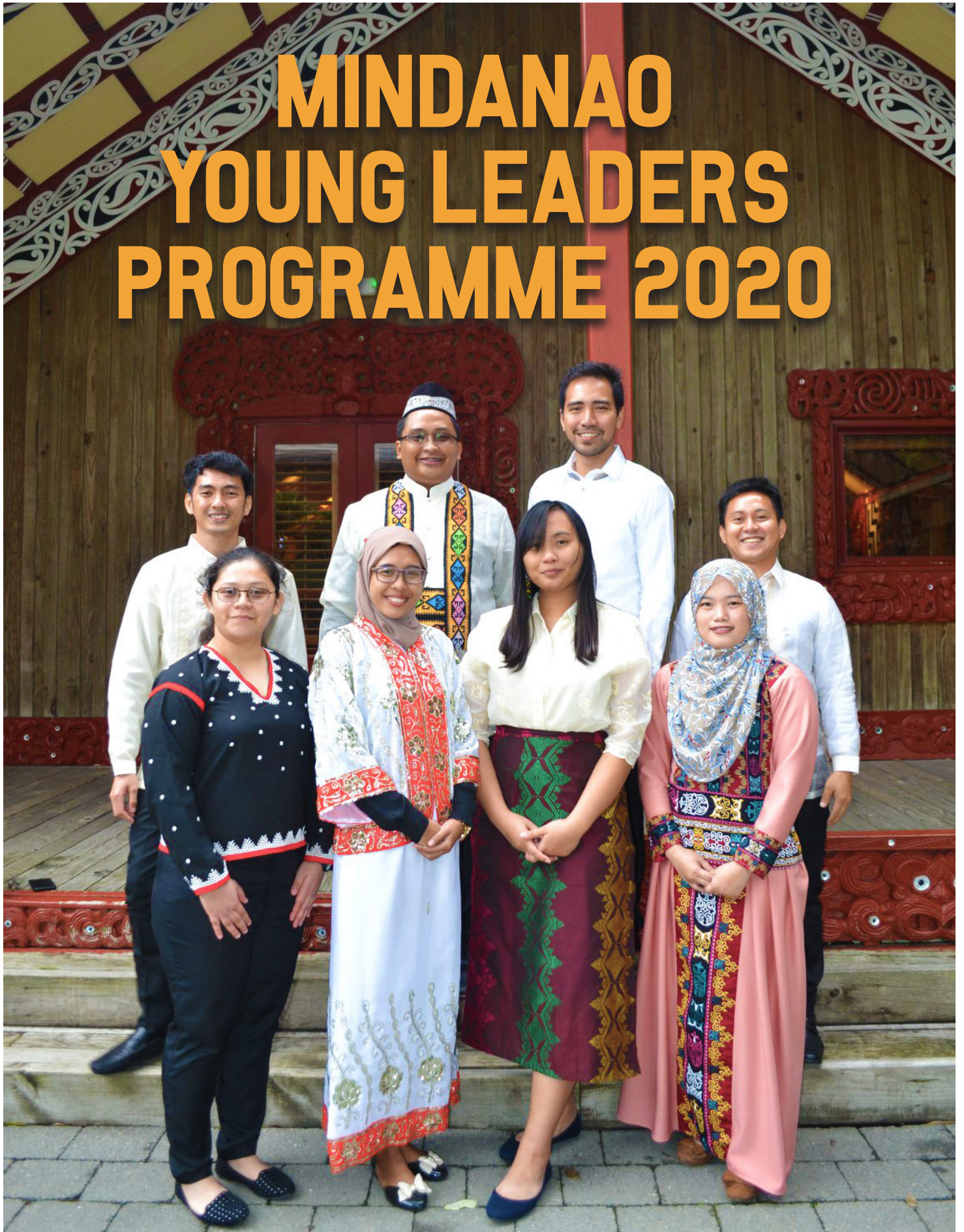




MINDANAO YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME 2020





UnionAID, International Alert, and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade invite applications for the 2020 Mindanao Young Leaders Programme. Emerging community leaders, aged between 23 and 30, from all regions of Mindanao are invited to apply for this four-month leadership programme, commencing in Wellington, New Zealand in August 2020.

WHAT IS THE MINDANAO YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME (MINYLP)?

The Mindanao Young Leaders Programme (MinYLP) is managed by UnionAID in collaboration with International Alert and Victoria University of Wellington, and funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The programme aims to enhance the knowledge, skills, and confidence of young community leaders from Mindanao to actively participate in the sustainable and peaceful development of their communities and of Mindanao, more broadly. The programme builds leadership in several ways:



Exposure to a range of New Zealand institutions, policies, and practices.



Enhance skills in research, evaluation, presentation, and strategic communication.



Develop critical thinking to understand complex socio-political contexts, including their own, and apply innovative and relevant actions to challenges in their communities.



Collaborate with other youth leaders on a cross-ethnic and cross-religious basis to build unity, understanding, and equality at all levels in society.



WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS LEARN FROM THE PROGRAMME?

The Mindanao YLP has been developed with local advice on the particular needs of Mindanao. Participants will follow a group programme and, individually, explore a particular area of interest, develop and refine a research question on this topic, and prepare a change proposal for a practical project to be undertaken on their return home.

Participants will learn about community development, government processes and institutions (both national and local), gender justice, labour rights, conflict resolution, sustainable economic development, environmental management, social enterprise, and indigenous approaches to development. Likewise, they will acquire skills in organisational development and management, basic research and project proposal writing, project evaluation, and communication.

Participants will also develop strong relationships with other Mindanao YLP alumni as well as host families, mentors, teachers, and organisations in New Zealand.



MINDANAO YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAMME CONTENT

1 In-country foundation workshop, Philippines

A one-week foundation workshop in Davao City on Mindanao history, political systems and social movements, and conflict analysis with International Alert. The course will blend theories and evidence in various topics such as: identity, institutional multiplicity -- the organisation of family and clans, formal and informal rule systems and institutions, and the political economy foundations of violent conflict.

2 Mindanao YLP course, New Zealand

- A one-week orientation to MinYLP, the university, and Wellington on arrival in New Zealand.
- A three-week intensive English language course run by Victoria University of Wellington.
- A twelve-week course on Development Leadership covering:
 - Democratic processes, including national and local government, elections, rule of law, human rights, labour rights, effective governance, and civic action.
 - Approaches to conflict resolution.
 - The Treaty of Waitangi and Māori approaches to development.
 - The opportunity to explore a special interest topic supported by an individual mentor.
 - Research skills, project proposal development, the project cycle and evaluation.
 - Practical workshops on organisational development, project management as well as communication, facilitation, and leadership skills.

The four-month programme in New Zealand will be delivered by UnionAID, in partnership with Victoria University of Wellington. The programme is delivered through a range of different learning approaches, including in-class teaching, workshops and educational visits, and involves contributions from New Zealand organisations and individuals including local and central government, NGOs, academics, and Māori. The programme will include the following:

3 Change project implementation, Philippines

Funding, subject to criteria, for participants to implement a change project in their communities that address a salient issue and share actionable ideas learned from the Mindanao YLP course. The change project is not mandatory but strongly encouraged. Change projects will serve as the culminating activity of the participants where they can explore application of the concepts and innovations learned from the various exposures and inputs they had. International Alert with UnionAID will provide coaching and accompaniment in the implementation back in the Philippines.

4 Alumni learning sessions, Philippines

An annual alumni workshop in Mindanao run by International Alert to exchange knowledge and build networks with groups from other years of the MinYLP (beginning in 2020).



WHAT HAVE ALUMNI GAINED FROM THE PROGRAMME?

The MinYLP was launched in 2019 with an intake of eight emerging leaders from Mindanao, joining UnionAID's well established Myanmar Young Leaders Programme, and more recent Inspirasi Programme for young leaders from East Indonesia. There are now over 100 alumni from across the three programmes.

At the conclusion of the 2019 MinYLP, participants reported having increased self-confidence, communication, project development and critical thinking skills, and greater self-assurance in their abilities as leaders.



"MinYLP has taught me to believe in myself and to have confidence in others. The things I looked forward to before I came to New Zealand was to learn about my special interest topic, gender and development, and to hone my research and communication skills. Yes, these were absolutely met. My journey here has shaped me into someone who is much more open and hopeful."

"Through the MinYLP, I have come to appreciate more deeply Māori values such as guardianship of the land and the environment. This has renewed my commitment of being a conservationist. My experience reminded me that these values also exist in indigenous cultures in the Philippines, especially in Mindanao, and that indigenous peoples here should be given enough opportunities to implement ecosystem management and teach it to the rest of us."



"My experience during the programme exceeded my expectations. I learned a lot from amazing individuals and organisations that do inspiring work and advocacies, especially in the media sector. I dream to contribute to ensuring more issue-based discussions in mainstream media and more government support for an autonomous and free press in my country."



WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE PROGRAMME?

To be eligible for selection, applicants must:

- be aged between 23 and 30
- be working for a community based organisation (community self-help group, cooperative, student group or other advocacy group), NGO, women's organisation, trade union, or similar organisation in Mindanao.
- have an intention to return to work for their organisation for a minimum of a year on completion of the programme
- have English language proficiency, with ≥ 5.5 IELTS (or TOEFL 46-59) being used as a guide. This level is necessary to ensure that the participants will get value from the programme, particularly the Development Leadership Course.
Note: you are not required to take an IELTS test, but an English language test will be administered at the interview stage.
- hold a passport issued by the Government of the Philippines valid for 6 months beyond the return date.



HOW WILL PARTICIPANTS BE SELECTED?

Candidates will be assessed using the following criteria:

- demonstrated leadership and future leadership potential
- a commitment to development and community work
- a commitment to working with other ethnic and religious groups
- open-mindedness and maturity
- support from their employing organisation including a mutual commitment to continue the employment for one year post-programme
- demonstrated understanding on a chosen specific topic they would like to research while in New Zealand, which would provide the basis of a change project they can choose to undertake on their return home (e.g. environment, disaster risk management, gender issues, indigenous peoples rights, social entrepreneurship, human rights, peace and development).

In making the final selection, the panel will endeavour to ensure that the group will reflect an ethnic, religious, and gender mix where possible, and that immigration requirements for a student visa can be met.



HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the programme, visit [UnionAID's website](https://www.unionaid.org.nz) and complete the online application form. Applications are open from 23 January and close on 26 February 2020.

Once all applications have been received, candidates will be shortlisted by UnionAID and International Alert for interviews in Davao City in early April. The final selection of eight participants will be made following the interviews.

For more information about the selection process and to make your application, go to www.unionaid.org.nz or email alexandra.hill@unionaid.org.nz

SUPPORT

The programme is fully funded by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Support will cover tuition fees, student visas, roundtrip ticket to and from New Zealand, and a weekly subsistence allowance while abroad to cover lunches, transport, and other personal costs. Accommodations and food will be provided by host families in Wellington in a friendly and supportive home environment.

LIVING IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is in the South Pacific and has a population of over 4 million people. The majority of people are of European descent or Māori, the indigenous peoples of New Zealand. New Zealand has a developed economy and is regularly ranked as one of the most democratic and least corrupt countries in the world.

Wellington, where the programme will be based, is New Zealand's capital city and has a population of just over 200,000 people. It has a temperate climate with daily temperatures varying from 6°C (43°F) to 25°C (77°F) between winter and summer. The VUW university campus is in the central city and is accessible by public transport or walking.

New Zealand is a secular country and the practice of any faith will be supported by the programme and host families.









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