

Funding Opportunity: DFOP0013435

Q&A

Q: How flexible are you on including some components in more detail as attachments?

A: **The Logic Model and Budget Model should be included as attachments and do not count as part of the 10-page limit.**

Q: The NOFO mentions that the pilot project will focus on the Mindanao region. It notes that the initial counter-terrorism court for the pilot project is the 9th Judicial Region Hall of Justice in Zamboanga but that the territorial scope may also include Sulu. As, based on information available to us, there are currently no counter-terrorism courts set up in Sulu, is there any additional information on the courts or other relevant actors that the pilot project would potentially engage in Sulu?

A: **Yes, can include Regional Trial Courts in Mindanao in the islands of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.**

Q: Would this pilot project seek to engage other counter-terrorism courts in Mindanao (Cagayan De Oro RTC Branch 20, General Santos City RTC Branch 58, Iligan City RTC Branch 1) or the Court of Appeal in Cagayan De Oro City in relation to the Court of Appeal's role in adjudicating terrorism cases (with respect to countering the financing of terrorism)?

A: **Yes.**

Q: The NOFO notes that the program needs to be aligned with the Philippines Department of Justice (PDOJ) Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations. Is this in reference to the Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations devised by the Supreme Court of the Philippines (available at this link:

<https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/3d-flip-book/spji/>)?

A: **Yes.**

Q: It is noted in the NOFO that the program needs to be coordinated with CT-funded DOJ/OPDAT assistance. The website of the Supreme Court of the Philippines mentions a discussion between DOJ/OPDAT and the Supreme Court on possible assistance from the US government on the preparation of a manual and trainings for judges about the Rules on the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 as well as on the selection process and composition of the Office of the Judiciary Marshals (<https://sc.judiciary.gov.ph/us-dojs-opdat-pays-courtesy-visit-on-supreme-court-justices/>). Would the pilot project engage with/contribute to such a process?

A: **No, not for this pilot.**

Q: Who will oversee the security of the court premises and the surrounding area? Will it be the local police forces or military personnel?

A: **Proposal could include scoping for security response to incident at the courts.**

Q: Is it necessary to adhere strictly to the 36 months of performance, or can it conclude earlier if the objectives are achieved ahead of schedule?

A: It can conclude earlier. The proposal can include a recommended period of performance based on activities proposed and associated budget.

Q: The counterterrorism court selected for the pilot project outlined in this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is the Ninth Judicial Region, specifically Regional Trial Court Branch 33 in Zamboanga. As a specialized court handling terrorism and terrorism financing cases, individuals facing relevant charges from the areas of the Zamboanga Peninsula, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi should be transferred to Zamboanga, given that these areas fall under this Judicial Region's jurisdiction. While the NOFO also highlights Sulu as a potential area of concern, it lacks a designated terrorism and terrorism financing court. Could the project include an assessment of the transfer procedures, considering the associated risks and challenges for example with witness testimonies?

A: Yes.

Q: Could the project include enhancing security arrangements and management of courts included in the Ninth Judicial region that are not designated terrorism and terrorism financing courts, for example, Regional Trial Courts in the islands of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi?

A: Yes.