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YDA SUMMIT 2022

The Power of Partnerships and
Convergence for Out-of-School Youth

DOCUMENTATION REPORT

DAVAO CITY | GENERAL SANTOS CITY | COTABATO CITY | CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY



Background

USAID Opportunity 2.0 helps establish Youth Development Alliances (YDAs) in the cities it covers. YDAs serve as a mechanism that brings together key decision-makers and stakeholders to improve opportunities for out-of-school youth (OSY) in the community.

YDAs are composed of youth development actors and stakeholders in each city. These include the local government unit, government line agencies, local business associations, civil society, universities, college, and training Institutions, other youth-serving organizations, and, of course, the youth themselves.

Commonly led by the City Government, local youth development actors craft youth-inclusive policies and programs, harmonize implementation, and maximize resources through the YDA. To date, all O2 sites have established YDAs in varying stages of development, nine of which already have legislative backing with comprehensive work plans developed.

After almost two years of implementation, despite the pandemic, activities in program sites particularly in Davao City, Cotabato City, General Santos City, and Cagayan De Oro City, proceeded through the YDA. Over 200 YDA members have also undergone Positive Youth Development orientation enabling them to apply a more youth-inclusive lens in their work. Aside from this, YDAs have also conducted the first round of local labor market assessments, organizational capacity assessments, and annual strategic planning. Local champions of out-of-school youth development have also begun to emerge.

Summit Objectives

To foster the continued growth of YDAs as the primary driver of youth development at the city-level, this summit is being organized to gather members together. This will enable YDAs to have time to reflect, learn from each other, share good practices, identify common challenges, and discuss practical solutions.

At the end of the summit, YDA members should be able to gain insights from various experiences and existing practices that they could consider and apply in strengthening their city's own Alliance and youth programs.



USAID Opportunity 2.0 aims to support 180,000 out-of-school youth and train more than 2000 Department of Education Alternative Learning System teachers and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority trainers in 12 selected cities by 2025. To do this, we seek the support of Youth Development Alliances composed of local government units, national government agencies, non-government offices, higher education institutions, and the private sector.

In the recently concluded Davao Hub Youth Development Alliance Summit, we have seen the unique compositions, as well as the strengths and synergy of the alliances in the cities of Davao, General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, and Cotabato.

In his keynote speech, Chairperson of the General Santos City Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, John Salvador Demdam encouraged the alliances to collaborate as a way to innovate services for the youth, using the positive youth development framework.



O2 commends each YDA's immense dedication in creating better services to the youth from establishing their respective alliances to implementing programs amidst restrictions imposed by the pandemic, and we hope that the youth will see more of this in decades to come.

Among the four YDAs in the Hub, the Davao City Alliance for Youth Develop stands as the only alliance led by a representative from the private sector. Given its unique leadership, there may be challenges and gray areas when it comes putting up systems to ensure sustainability. DCAYD Chairperson Dr. Roland Suico, underscored the local government's support, however, the alliance still has yet to "figure out the dynamics according to the mandates of the government."

We can generate new and innovative ideas in a shared drive for change, true to our diverse backgrounds, perspectives and experiences. Getting things done requires cooperation of members in our alliance.

John Salvador Demdam
President, SK Federation, City of General Santos
General Santos City YDA



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In General Santos City, the YDA stressed the need for convergence and collaboration as the LGU "cannot do it alone," especially as they have yet to engage 30% of the city's population composed of out-of-school youth.

We will continue to strengthen our partnership with all the stakeholders of this youth profiling process as we really need updated data every year to harmonize our plans and programs to make it relevant to the existing OSYs on the ground.

Dr. Roland Suico
Davao City YDA
President, Zilverband Inc.

Youth development is everyone's shared responsibility.

The creation of the YDA maximized our capacity to provide services to these young people.

Ms. Sahara Flora
General Santos City YDA
Chief, Youth Affairs and Development Office of General Santos City



In the institutionalization of the OSYDA, we realized the value of our kabataan.

Mr. Munfarid Azan Matt Tubojan
Cotabato City YDA
Acting Assistant Department Head of PESO Cotabato City

CDO is the gateway to Northern Mindanao... We hope to become a youth development hub as well.

Mr. James Patrick Santos
Cagayan De Oro City YDA
Head, Oro Youth Development Office

The Cagayan de Oro City OSYDA is proudly youth-led, strategically positioning local youth leaders as active agents in the alliance. According to Mr. James Patrick Santos of the CDO Youth Development Office, prior to the creation of the alliance, member agencies worked in silos, only adhering to their own mandates thus resulting into the creation of unharmonized youth programs. Now, they consciously employ a convergence strategy with an operational structure that supports OSY development programs.

Challenges Faced



During the panel discussions, **COVID-19 restrictions** and the **lack of a unified data or a centralized data management system** were identified as common challenges in implementing youth programs.

Over the past year, we have slowly learned to adapt to the health restrictions through constant collaboration with the LGUs. However, in some instances like in Davao City, private sector partners would require OSY to have health insurance before they are accepted for work immersion. A series of consultations then ensued to facilitate the provision of the said requirement, which received positive feedback from concerned companies. There was also **the need to formalize the active engagement** of each member organization in O2 programs given their various natures of business and mandates.



In monitoring the youth's needs in CDO, progresses, and identifying possible opportunities, a unified system is also imperative for the YDA to be able to harmonize data-driven programs and interventions. In Cotabato City, fostering linkages with relevant agencies has proven to be challenging since the BARMM's transition.

In addition, there was the **concern of getting the buy-in of more private sector actors** when it comes to engaging in youth development programs. There was also the question of sustainability, and how the established systems for youth development would be preserved even after the change of leadership in each city.



Strategies that worked

Early on in the panel discussions, the importance of the **active engagement of the private sector** in the YDA was underscored, as they are identified as the end-users of majority of O2's program completers. To achieve this, the speakers cited the series of consultations needed to be able to properly introduce O2 and have the local businesses understand its value and purpose, and receive their buy-in especially with the youth who would be upskilled through the said program.

Besides strengthening collaborations with local businesses and public institutions, it was agreed that the YDA also needs to foster a **positive working relationship with the youth**, through local youth organizations such as the Sangguniang Kabataan.

In Davao City, in partnership with the SK, as well as the BLGU was built through their youth **profiling collaboration**. The General Santos City YDA forged a **MOA with various youth organizations** and implemented events celebrating the youth such as the Sustainable Development Goals Festival, International Youth Day, Linggo ng Kabataan, ang many more. "Youth development is a shared responsibility. Youth is not just a mere beneficiary but a stakeholder in development. Each and every one of us are drivers of a strong youth development alliance," said Flora.

Recognizing the vital role of the education sector

- In GenSan, a number of teachers were engaged through technical assistance in implementing O2 programs. According to Flora, "The main role of the youth and education sector in the YDA is that they help us prepare better human resource. Their main role is to help us equip our OSY so that they can readily be absorbed by private sector."
- In CDO, while the Mayor sits as the OSYDA Chair, the local SK President serves as Co-Chair and the Local Youth Development Office sits as the local secretariat together with its city school board. Highly invested in youth organizing, they have already identified various sectors of the youth population as such: OSY, in-school, cultural identity, faith-based, community-based, and special advocacy. Because of youth organizing, CDO now has Oro Youth serving as the pioneer voice of the youth which birthed one of the first Youth Development Councils in the country.

Engaging youth participation in their own development

- "We don't see OSY as mere recipients. They are our partners and we are providing opportunities for them for leadership and personal development because what we aim to do is that they'll be in safe spaces so they can enrich themselves, be better, so that they'll become active partners in community development." Santos said.
- In GenSan, the YDA is set to facilitate the passage of an ordinance in the city and barangay-level to be led by SK, in a bid to draw more participation in youth development at the grassroot level, as well as to bring in more partners and integrate more programs.



Strategies that worked



Investing to gather data on youth

- When it comes to monitoring and evaluation, GenSan has already started developing “POSYGen” or the “Project Out-of-of-School Youth in GenSan,” a data profiling and management system, together with STI College, a member of the GSCYDA. Meanwhile, the CDO OSYDA, led by the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines, is also in the process of developing their very own E-Monitoring App, which will serve as a youth profiling, referral, and monitoring system.
- The DCAYD, in collaboration with the SK, and BLGU has profiled 18,073 youth in 182 barangays with O2's KOBO Toolbox, using the data as reference in completing their operation plan and in developing their Strategic Youth Development Program. Meanwhile, in Cotabato City, youth profiling has been conducted in 13 barangays.

Expanding YDA membership, especially with the private sector

- In Cotabato City, the YDA tapped the Office of Social Work and Development, Tourism Office, and BLGUs, and expanded partnerships with the private sector to help in addressing the youth's concerns.
- Getting the buy-in of several private sector actors has proved to be challenging, even for a private sector-led alliance. As such, YDAs should be strategic in deciding who to invite. As Suico said, “There should be a representative from each industry or cluster such as agriculture, tourism, ICT, etc. They add value with their industry insights into our program and curricula para ma-package natin ang youth natin, at employable sila afterward.”
- As applied in CDO, strategic relations also make for programmatic sustainability. “It is our (YDA's) responsibility to create awareness among private sector that we are doing this for the youth. We need to package the program so we can get more private sector partners to join. It is only when they get onboard that they will understand what we are doing,” Suico added.

Formalizing alliances through agreements and sustaining them through legislation

- In sustaining not only the alliance but also the youth-centered programs they have created, DCAYD has secured their MOU, which defined its structure as a youth-serving body and defined each member's role to propel sustainability and independence.
- Meanwhile, CDO and Cotabato City already have an Executive Order institutionalizing their YDAs and enabling them to craft and implement their own strategic and operational plan. In CDO, one of their best practices was constituting the Local Youth Development Council to be the highest youth policy recommending body in the city, effectively complementing the work of the YDA.

Moving Forward

Even with varying circumstances, the Hub resolved to continue building partnerships with local actors to ensure sustainability of their alliances. As repeatedly stated, youth development programs are meant to engage the youth as stakeholders, able to participate and contribute in decision-making, and not as mere beneficiaries.

Among others, the Alliances stressed on creating and continuing programs that create safe spaces and platforms where youth can speak and decide on programs and policies concerning their future. It was also agreed that to be able to help the youth, the members of the YDA must also equip themselves so that they ready and able to respond to the needs of the youth as well as other stakeholders.



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Our goal for OSY development program is for it to be a bridging program for employment, education, skills training, and livelihood, and even empowerment opportunities for OSY.

JP Santos of CDO YDA stated, echoing the general sentiments of the YDAs.

As stated in the Summit, youth development work does not end with O2, as there are already outstanding YDAs in the Hub, working hard to establish enabling systems and provide viable services for the youth.

Thank you for being with us on our very first YDA Summit for Davao Hub!







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Convergence for Out-of-School Youth

ATTACHMENT 1

Event Program Flow



USAID OPPORTUNITY 2.0 PROGRAM
Second-Chance Opportunities for Out-of-School Youth

DAY 1 - Wednesday, January 19, 2022

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
8:00 a.m.	Event Registration	
9:00 a.m.	Opening Ceremony	
9:10 a.m.	Introduction of YDA Delegates	Mr. Emmanuel Crimas Youth Development Officer for Davao City Opportunity 2.0
9:25 a.m.	Welcome Remarks	Hon. Pilar Braga Councilor, City of Davao Vice Chair, Davao City YDA
9:30 a.m.	Message of Support	Ms. Yvette Malcioln Deputy Director, Office of Education USAID Philippines
9:35 a.m.	Message from Opportunity 2.0	Dr. David Hall Chief of Party, USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program Education Development Center (EDC)
9:40 a.m.	Background and Overview of the YDA Summit	Dr. Maria Theresa Mokamad Deputy Chief of Party-Technical Programs USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
9:45 a.m.	Keynote Address	Hon. John Salvador Demdam President, SK Federation, City of General Santos General Santos City YDA
9:55 a.m.	Photo Opportunity and Wellness Break	
10:15 a.m.	<u>Panel No. 1:</u> Education, Industries, and Youth: Sectors that Drive Stronger Alliances for Out-of-School Youth	Introductions from Mr. Isagani Busque and Ms. Ariane Catubig Youth Development Coordinators, Opportunity 2.0
11:35 a.m.	World Café Breakout Session	Ronnel Victor dela Cruz Private Sector Coordinator, Opportunity 2.0
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	Elson Gilza and Jhasmin Jabel Youth Development Officers, Opportunity 2.0
1:00 p.m.	Ice Breaker	
1:10 p.m.	<u>Panel Discussion No. 2:</u> Youth Development Alliance: Sustainable and Innovative Ways to Promote Positive Youth Development Programs	Introductions from Ms. Kotie Bax and Ms. Jennifer Bendol Youth Development Coordinators, Opportunity 2.0
2:20 p.m.	World Café Breakout Session	Mr. Ronnel dela Cruz Private Sector Coordinator for Davao Hub Opportunity 2.0
2:50 p.m.	Wellness Break	
3:00 p.m.	<u>Learning Session 1:</u> Design Thinking as an Approach to Strengthening the Work and and Relevance of YDAs	Dr. Robert Rances CEO, QuestLab Member, Davao City YDA
4:00 p.m.	End of Day 1	
5:00 p.m.	Recognition Dinner	

DAY 2 - Thursday, January 20, 2022

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
8:00 a.m.	Registration	
8:30 a.m.	Preliminaries	
8:35 a.m.	Unfreezing: Day 1 Recap	Davao Hub Private Sector Officers
8:45 a.m.	<u>Learning Session 2:</u> Opportunity 2.0 Youth Pathways for Development	Mr. John Hayden Bale Training Manager, Opportunity 2.0
9:25 a.m.	<u>Learning Session 3:</u> Opportunity 2.0 Private Sector Engagement	Mr. Ronnel dela Cruz Private Sector Coordinator for Davao Hub Opportunity 2.0
10:00 a.m.	Wellness Break	
10:10 a.m.	Overall Synthesis and Looking Forward	Dr. Miriam Pahm Senior Education and Youth Development Advisor Opportunity 2.0
10:25 a.m.	Commitment Setting	Mr. Emmanuel Crismas Youth Development Officer for Davao City Opportunity 2.0
10:40 a.m.	Prayer of Gratitude	Ms. Kotie Bax Youth Development Coordinator for CDO City Opportunity 2.0
10:50 a.m.	Closing Message	Mr. Robinson Wee Technical Education and Skills Development Advisor Opportunity 2.0
11:00 a.m.	Lunch and Check-Out	

Event Host:

Jan Aldwin Cutin

Higher Education Coordinator – Davao Hub
USAID Opportunity 2.0, Program, EDC

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ATTACHMENT 2

Speakers and Panelists



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USAID OPPORTUNITY 2.0 PROGRAM
Second-Chance Opportunities for Out-of-School Youth

Panel Discussion 1

Education, Industries, and Youth:
Sectors that Drive Stronger Alliances for
Out-of-School Youth

MODERATOR



Mr. Steve Sarigumba
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Master Trainer

PANELISTS



Dr. Roland Suico
Davao City YDA
President, Zilverband Inc.

PRESENTATION:
Strong private sector leadership
and engagements drive
partnerships for youth
development



Ms. Sahara Flora
General Santos City YDA
Chief, Youth Affairs and Development Office
City of General Santos

PRESENTATION:
Youth and education sectors
leading the way to building a
stronger alliance.

Panel Discussion 2

YDAs: Sustainable and Innovative Ways
to Promote Positive Youth
Development Programs

MODERATOR



Ms. Divorrah Meneses
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Master Trainer

PANELISTS



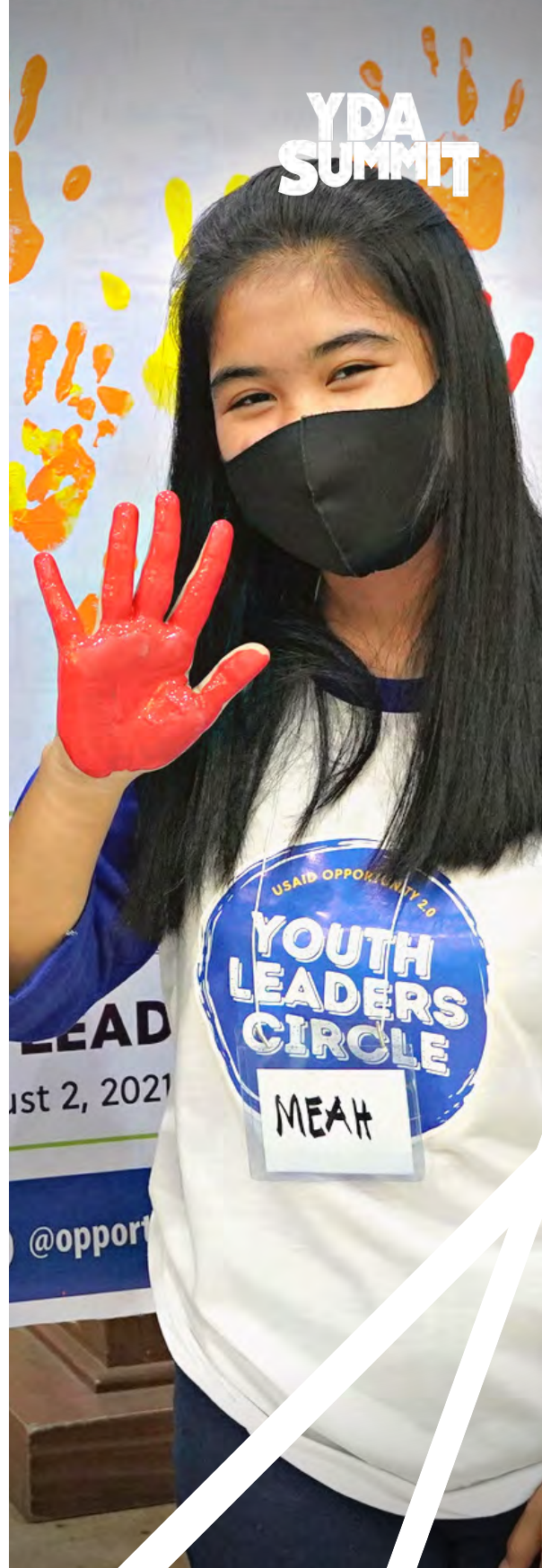
Mr. James Patrick Santos
Cagayan De Oro City YDA
Head, Oro Youth Development Office

PRESENTATION:
Effective and innovative ways
to promote active youth
participation



Ms. Farina Mae Guiani
Cotabato City YDA
Youth Development Officer, City of Cotabato

PRESENTATION:
LGU's lead role in sustaining
multi-stakeholder Youth
Development





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