



QUARTERLY
PROGRESS
REPORT

JANUARY - MARCH

2023

OPPORTUNITY 2.0

SECOND CHANCE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Education
Development
Center



Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations	4
Executive Summary	6
About Opportunity 2.0	8
Performance Indicator Tracking Table	10
What's New for the Quarter	14
Outcome Indicators	14
Project Indicators	15
Adjustments to the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan	17
Learning Agenda	17
Activity Reports: Accomplishments	19
IR1 Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to deliver second-chance education programs for OSY	19
IR2 Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to deliver workforce readiness and technical-vocational training for OSY	26
IR3 Improved enabling environment for positive youth development	34
Cross Cutting Activities	46
Gender and Disability	46
Higher Education Engagement	47
Private Sector Engagement	50
Grants Program	52
Outreach and Communications	53
Partnerships	55
Admin and Operations	60
Look Ahead to the Next Quarter	62
Annexes	64
Annex A: O2 in the Media (January-March 2023)	65
Annex B. Success Stories	67

Acronyms and Abbreviations

A&E	Assessment and Certification
ACYDA	Angeles City Youth Development Alliance
AFBP	Academic-Focused Bridging Program
ALS	Alternative Learning System
BAE	Bureau of Alternative Education
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BCPD	Banilad Center For Professional Development
BSMED	Bureau of Small and Medum Enterprise Development
BYOB	Be Your Own Boss
CDO	Cagayan De Oro
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CLC	Community Learning Center
COC	Certificate of Completion
COVID-19	Corona Virus 2019
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DepEd	Department of Education
DOLE	Education Development Center
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EDC	Education Development Center
EDCOM 2	Second Congressional Commission on Education
FELP	Functional Education and Literacy Program
FGD	Focused Group Discussion
GBE	Green-Blue Economy
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HERO	Higher-level Education or Training Readiness Orientation
HIV AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus - Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAI	Interactive Audio Instruction
ILC	Industry Linkage Coordination
IR	Intermediate Result
IRDT	Integrated Resource and Development for Tri-People
IRIS	Institute for Research, Innovation, and Scholarships
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
JCI	Junior Chamber International
LGU	Local Government Unit
LLMA	Local Labor Market Assessment
LOP	Life of Program
LRIR	Local Resource Inventory Report
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
NC	National Certification
NCR	National Capital Region
NTESDP	National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan
O2	USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
OCAT	Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool
OSY	Out-of-School Youth
PESO	Public Employment Service Office
PIA	Philippine Information Agency
PMAP	People Management Association of the Philippines
PMSDD	Program Management and System Development Division
PYAP	Pag-Asa Youth Association of the Philippines
QC	Quezon City
QCU	Quezon City University
RA	Republic Act
SEAMEO INNOTECH	Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology
SHS	Senior High School
SILC	Saving and Internal Lending Communities
SK	Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council)
STEP	Special Training for Employment Program
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
SY	School Year
TA	Technical Assistance
TBD	To Be Determined
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TOP	TESDA Online Program
TOT	Training of Trainers
TTI	TESDA Training Institutions
TVET	Technical-Vocational Education and Training
TVI	Technical Vocational Institution
TWG	Technical Working Group
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VSO	Voluntary Services Overseas
WBL	Work Based Learning
WRN	Work Ready Now!
YATOP	Youth Access to TESDA Online Program
YDA	Youth Development Alliance
YEP	Youth Entrepreneurship Program
ZSCMST	Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology

Executive Summary



The Education Development Center (EDC) is pleased to submit the Opportunity 2.0 (O2) Program's Quarterly Progress Report covering the period of January 1 to March 31, 2023 (FY23 Q2).

The program continues to perform well, and the progress is recognized by Bureau of Alternative Education (BAE), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the local government units in O2 cities. Reporting on the number of youth reached is still a challenge and we are working with TESDA on a data sharing agreement which will provide a more realistic picture of the number of youth who have been trained through their programs.

Capacity building for BAE is continuing and is well received and progressing well. The main activities focus on strengthening the organizational culture of BAE, an organizational competency assessment and support for the change management process. Teacher professional development continues and was recognized in a three-day Mid-Program Learning Summit attended by Alternative Learning System (ALS) implementers from the O2 sites.

Support for policy development by the Department of Education BAE continues with the finalization of two DepEd Orders, the development of a National Capability Building Framework and the development of a Functional Education and Literacy Program.

In addition, O2 supported BAE with an assessment workshop to evaluate the pilot of Work Based Learning and Be Your Own Boss as part of the ALS curriculum to support learners who are interested in transitioning to work or entrepreneurship.

As part of the BAE Research Agenda which was recently launched, O2 is offering a grant for the conduct of an ALS youth tracer study and information sessions were held prior to the issue of the call.

Progress with TESDA resulted in the Youth Access to TESDA Online Programs (YATOP) initiative being institutionalized in the initial 12 O2 sites with new YATOP activities beginning in three additional sites.

The Futures Thinking program for TESDA is now concluded with TESDA officials presenting 'capstone' projects developed during the Strategic Foresight Capacity Building Workshops. Support to TESDA's planning process continues with support for TESDA's Fifth Cycle National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan through the convening of its regional and provincial committees to identify the regional, provincial and national agendas.

In addition to work with BAE and TESDA, O2 also launched the 'YEP! You Can Be Your Own Boss' module with DTI to improve the entrepreneurial skills of youth.

Youth Development Alliances (YDAs) have now been formed and consolidated in the three new O2 cities of Iligan, Iloilo and Pasig and in the mature YDAs, use of the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool continues as they assess their performance. As O2 enters its final two years, discussions have begun on YDA exit strategies to ensure sustainable activity after program close-out. To explore these strategies, share good practices, and celebrate the YDAs successes, the 15 YDAs attended a YDA National Summit in February 2023. The summit provided an opportunity to learn from one another's successes, challenges, and innovations on sustaining impactful youth programs, applying innovative data management tools for youth programming, and mainstreaming strategies for youth access to wage employment, entrepreneurship, and engagements.

O2's support for higher education institutions (HEIs) continues to exceed expectations with an additional 53 HEIs engaged in this quarter. This is through the award of grants and the uptake of HERO delivery. It is also pleasing to note that during a courtesy visit to Commission on Higher Education, the Chair recognized the role that HEIs can play in supporting out-of-school youth.

It is also notable that private sector engagement continues to grow, with over 1,000 employers now involved and support from business organizations such as Junior Chamber International and People Management Association of the Philippines.



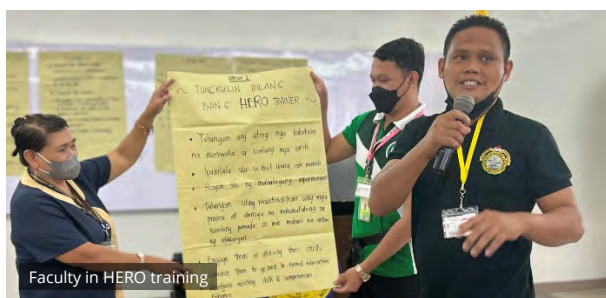
About Opportunity 2.0 (O2)



Youth in entrepreneurship training



YDA shows off awards



Faculty in HERO training



Youth volunteers in sustainable farming

O2 is a P1.9-billion (\$37.5 million) program designed to support existing programs and mechanisms for Filipino out-of-school youth (OSY) that seek to improve their education, employment, and livelihood outcomes by 2025. The five-year program is implemented by U.S.-based Education Development Center (EDC) in collaboration with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and in partnership with Accenture, Philippine Business for Education, Catholic Relief Services, Voluntary Service Overseas, and SEAMEO INNOTECH.

Program activities support DepEd and TESDA, as well as local governments to provide quality education, skills and opportunities to more than 180,000 OSY. O2 will work with more than 2,000 teachers and 2,200 employers to build valuable partnerships between the education system, industry, community leaders, and government agencies who provide services to OSY.

Key activities include:

1. Second-chance programs teach innovative learning content that is more relevant and responsive to youth aspirations for education and jobs through enhanced soft skills training, advancement to additional training programs and higher education, work-based learning opportunities, and entrepreneurship trainings
2. Support for the DepEd Alternative Learning System (ALS) to enhance teachers' access to and use of flexible delivery modalities to meet the needs of diverse OSY population
3. Supporting national and local systems to provide foundational skills that are responsive to employers' needs in work readiness and entrepreneurship
4. Engaging the private sector by bringing youth to the workplace through activities such as Work-Based Learning and work immersion; connecting industry and training and by listening to industry needs
5. Expanding the network of Youth Development Alliances
6. Building productive alliances with industry and higher education

OPPORTUNITY 2.0 PROGRAM SITES

► NCR HUB

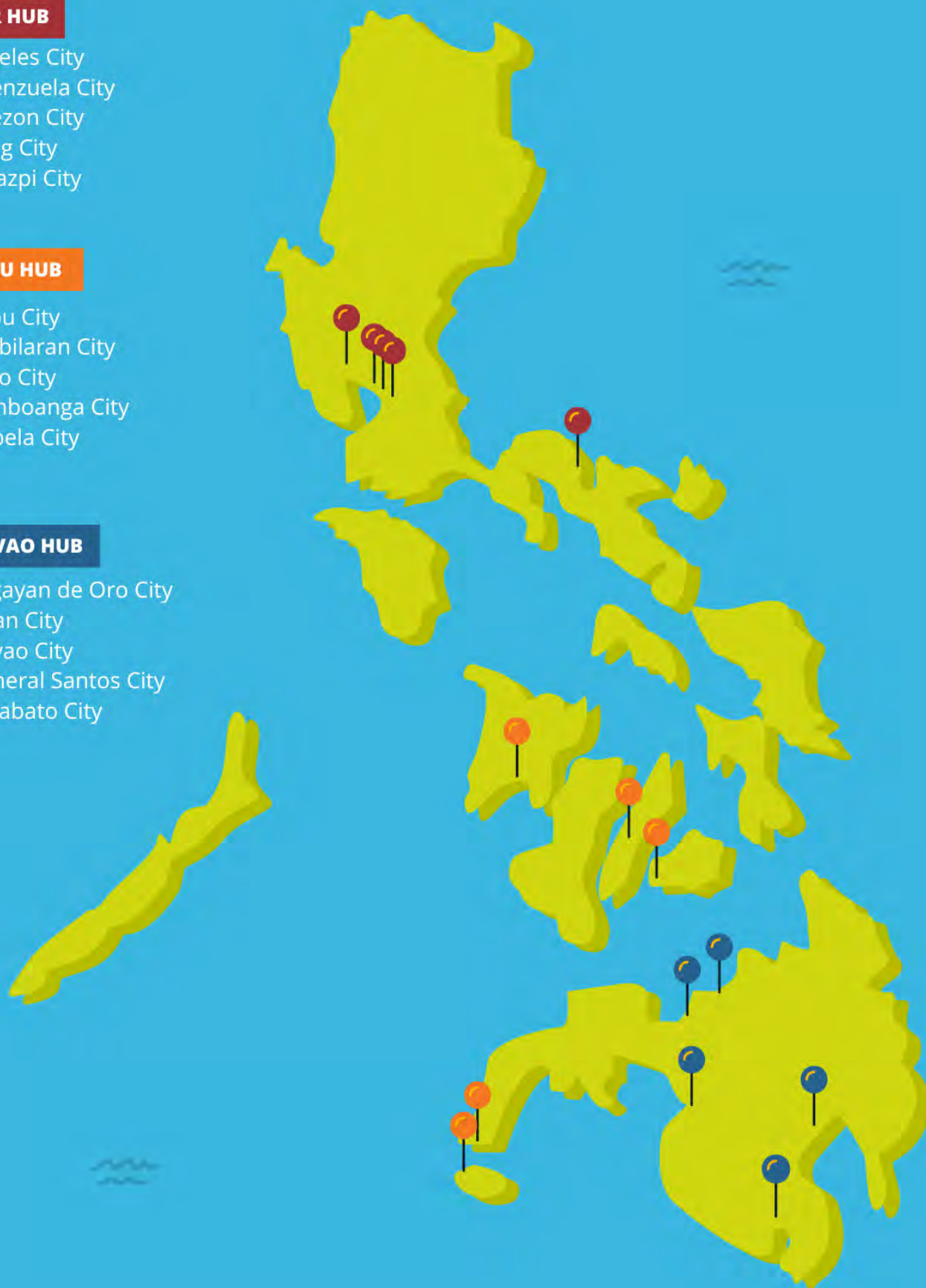
Angeles City
Valenzuela City
Quezon City
Pasig City
Legazpi City

► CEBU HUB

Cebu City
Tagbilaran City
Iloilo City
Zamboanga City
Isabela City

► DAVAO HUB

Cagayan de Oro City
Iligan City
Davao City
General Santos City
Cotabato City



Performance Indicator Tracking Table¹

#	FAF # / Custom	Indicator Name	Indicator Type	Frequency of Reporting	Year 4 October 22 - September 2023		LOP Target	LOP Progress (cumulative)
					Y4 Target	Q2 Progress		
Goal/Outcome Indicators								
1	Supp-15 /ES 1-59	Education system strengthened through USG-assisted policy reform	Outcome	Annual	Yes	Ongoing	Yes	Ongoing - ALS Law IRR written and approved; Operations Manual drafted. Technical inputs to 7 DepEd ALS Policies.
2	ES. 1-46	Percent of individuals who transition to further education or training following participation in USG-assisted programs	Outcome	Annual	25%	Results expected Q4 FY23/Q1 FY24	25%	7.4%
3	EG. 6-11	Average percent change in earnings following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs	Outcome	Annual	TBD	Results expected Q4 FY23/Q1 FY24	TBD	TBD
4	EG. 6-12	Percent of individuals with new employment following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs	Outcome	Annual	25%	Results expected Q4 FY23/Q1 FY24	25%	13.70%
IR1: Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to develop, deliver, and monitor second-chance education programs for out-of-school youth								
5	Supp-16	Education data system strengthened through USG assistance	Outcome	Annual	Yes (I)	Ongoing	Yes	Ongoing - ALS M&E Framework drafted and approved. Technical input to DepEd BAE National CLC inventory administration

¹ The Performance and Indicator Tracking Table along with outlined Year 4, LOP targets, and calculations made to arrive at LOP Progress to date reflect the original targets in the January 2022 Opportunity 2.0 MEL Plan. The LOP targets will be adjusted in the next quarterly reports once the AMELP is received and accepted by USAID/Philippines.

#	FAF # / Custom	Indicator Name	Indicator Type	Frequency of Reporting	Year 4		LOP Target	LOP Progress (cumulative)
					October 22 - September 2023			
	Y4 Target	Q2 Progress						
Sub-IR 1.1: Second-chance programs teach innovative learning content that is more relevant and responsive to youth aspirations for education and jobs								
6	ES. 1-12	Number of education administrators and officials who complete professional development activities with USG assistance	Output	Annual	100	70	300	487
7	ES. 1-6	Number of educators who complete professional development activities with USG assistance	Output	Annual	N/A	615	1,700	4,491
Sub IR 1.2: National and local educational systems deliver new content with quality, at scale, and in a manner that is engaging to youth								
8	CUSTOM	Number of youth participating in USG-funded training program	Output	Annual	50000	1,699	180,000	34,956 ²
9	ES. 2-1	Number of host country higher education institutions receiving capacity development support with USG assistance	Output	Annual	5	53	15	107
10	ES. 2-54	Number of USG-supported partnerships that address regional, national, and/or local development objectives through or with higher education institutions	Output	Annual	0	16	14	76
Sub-IR 1.3 ALS supported to test flexible delivery modalities to meet the needs of diverse out-of-school youth populations								
11	CUSTOM	Number of youth reached through flexible delivery modalities	Output	Annual	2000	1,395	6,000	33,498
IR2: Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to deliver workforce readiness and technical vocational training for out-of-school youth								
12	EG. 6-13	Percent of individuals with improved soft skills following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs	Outcome	Annual	80%	Results expected Q3-Q4 FY23	80%	49%

² LOP Progress for this indicator captures youth from DepEd ALS, Local Service Providers, and TOP. Current figures do not include any TESDA learners trained to date since O2 is waiting for the operationalization of the data sharing agreement between O2 and TESDA.

#	FAF # / Custom	Indicator Name	Indicator Type	Frequency of Reporting	Year 4 October 22 - September 2023		LOP Target	LOP Progress (cumulative)
					Y4 Target	Q2 Progress		
13	YOUTH-1	Number of youth trained in soft skills/life skills through USG-assisted programs	Output	Annual	40000	993	144,000	30,526
<i>Sub-IR 2.1 National and local systems provide foundational skills in Work Readiness and Entrepreneurship</i>								
14	CUSTOM	Number of teaching and learning materials (TLMs) that are inclusively representative produced with USG assistance	Output	Annual	10	1	20	45
<i>Sub-IR 2.2 National and local youth workforce development systems are responsive to employers and prepare youth to transition into better jobs</i>								
15	EG. 6-14	Percent of individuals who complete USG-assisted workforce development programs	Output	Annual	80%	81%	80%	81%
16	CUSTOM	Number of employers engaged	Output	Annual	600	50 (data processing ongoing – to provide updated number within the week)	2,200	1,061
<i>Sub-IR 2.3: National and local youth workforce development systems prepare and support youth to start their own businesses/self-employment opportunities</i>								
17	GNDR-2	Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, or employment)	Output	Annual	50%	48%	50%	48%
18	EG. 4.2-7	Number of individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance, or lending programs	Output	Annual	175	49	500	457
<i>Sub-IR2 2.4 Capacity of local training and accompaniment service providers built</i>								
19	CUSTOM	Number of work experiences facilitated by USG-funded development program	Output	Annual	700	365	2,000	737

#	FAF # / Custom	Indicator Name	Indicator Type	Frequency of Reporting	Year 4 October 22 - September 2023		LOP Target	LOP Progress (cumulative)
					Y4 Target	Q2 Progress		
IR3: Improved enabling environment for Positive Youth Development at both national and local levels								
20	CUSTOM	Number of youth-friendly laws and policies	Outcome	Annual	6	1	16	15
Sub-IR 3.1 Stakeholders sensitized to the potential of vulnerable youth								
21	CUSTOM	Number of individuals who participate in orientation workshops promoting positive youth development	Output	Annual	0	508	150	857
Sub-IR 3.2: Services, support networks, and relationships are more responsive to youth needs								
22	CUSTOM	Number of Youth Development Alliances (YDAs) established	Output	Annual	N/A	0	8	15
23	CBLD-9	Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance	Outcome	Annual	80%	Results expected Q3-Q4 FY23	100%	100%
24	CUSTOM	Number of youth engaged in leadership activities	Output	Annual	100	243	430	1,405
Sub-IR 3.3: Sustainable pathways for youth engagement created								
25	CUSTOM	Number of youth participating in volunteer activities	Output	Annual	26,625	2,715	62,250	8,499

What's New for the Quarter

USAID observes a youth leadership training session led by O2 grantee Kutawato Green Initiatives in Cotabato



1,699

New youth engaged

53

HEIs engaged

50

New private sector
partners engaged

365

OSYs facilitated to
work immersion

O2 continues to monitor its performance based on 25 established indicators, of which 18 have significant movements for the quarter.

This quarter highlights the program's progress towards the continued support to the Department of Education Bureau of Alternative Education (DepEd BAE) in its policy reform agenda, providing capacity development initiatives, engaging 53 HEIs, forging 15 distinct partnerships to support local development objectives on youth development, and engaging 1,699 new youth and 993 life skills completers this quarter.

Additionally, 70 administrators and 615 educators across various government agencies also received professional development initiatives to provide innovative learning content through second-chance education programs. This quarter also highlights the vital role of private sector engagement by engaging 50 new private sector partners and having 365 youth undertaking work experiences.

Outcome Indicators

Outcome indicators will be updated next quarter.

Project Indicators

Intermediate Results 1 (IR1)

Highlighting the role of HEIs as youth development partners, O2 has engaged additional 53 HEIs (Indicator #9) this quarter and forged 16 distinct partnerships (Indicator #10) that aims to contribute in supporting local development objectives through the roll-out of youth readiness and workforce development programs and support transition of youth towards pursuing further education or training through the Higher-level Education or Training Readiness Orientation (HERO) program.



This quarter, O2 recorded an additional 1,699 youth (1,523 ALS youth³, 176 TVET youth) through the delivery of Life Skills and 21st Century Skills programs by Local Service Providers (LSPs). This progress brings the total youth engaged by the program to 34,956. Data collection for DepEd ALS S.Y. 2022-2023 is projected to commence next quarter and is expected to contribute significant progress in this indicator. O2 still currently faces delays in capturing TESDA youth participation through the Data Sharing Agreement but is closely monitoring developments and any additional requests needed by the institution to be able to transmit the TESDA youth data to O2.

Intermediate Results 2 (IR2)

O2's continued work on supporting the foundational skills on work readiness and entrepreneurship through national and local systems provides benefit to OSYs. This quarter, O2 launched the 'YEP! You Can Be Your Own Boss' module in partnership with DTI (Indicator #14), that aims to improve the entrepreneurial skills of the youth.

EDC's Work Ready Now! (WRN) curricula, adopted as Life Skills and 21st Century Skills Modules developed by O2, benefitted an additional 993 life skills completers⁴ (Indicator #13) (813 ALS youth, 180 TESDA youth) this quarter. This is also expected to increase in the next quarters as data collection commences for DepEd ALS S.Y. 2022-2023, when a significant number of life skills completers will be captured.

³ O2 is reporting a fraction of what is expected to be reported in terms of capturing ALS youth enrolled in the DepEd ALS program. Data collection for S.Y. 2022-2023 will commence between Q2-Q3 and will be included in the FY23 Q4 Annual Report.

⁴ O2 is reporting a fraction of what is expected to be reported in terms of capturing ALS youth enrolled in the DepEd ALS program. Data collection for S.Y. 2022-2023 will commence between Q2-Q3 and will be included in the FY23 Q4 Annual Report.

To better equip the youth with relevant skills, workforce development completion rate is currently at 81 percent (Indicator #15), which is meeting its target at 80 percent. Female youth participation in these programs is also a vital component in maintaining gender inclusivity in workforce programming, in which O2 is currently at 48 percent (Indicator #17), relatively close to its target of 50 percent. In addition, O2 was able to influence a regional policy (Indicator #20) for Training Institutes located in NCR to adopt the BYOB and WBL modules co-developed with O2. This policy will provide accessibility and sustainability in delivering these programs for the youth.



Recognizing the active role of private sector to support OSYs, O2 has engaged 50 new private sector partners (Indicator #16) through different mechanisms such as hosting work immersions, providing work-based experiences, and sustaining businesses engagement initiatives that benefit the overall enabling environment for youth development. Additionally, O2 facilitated 365 youth to engage in work experiences (Indicator #19). These work experiences allow the youth to build on their practical skills outside the classroom and learn in actual workplaces. Forty-nine new youth joined the Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) program that aims to provide youth with financial literacy training (Indicator #18).

Intermediate Results 3 (IR3)

Sustaining partnerships with local key stakeholders towards promoting positive youth development, O2 continues to work closely with the 15 Youth Development Alliances (YDAs) in program areas to strengthen support networks on the ground to open valuable and meaningful pathways for sustained youth engagement. This quarter, O2 and its partners conducted youth engagement activities by training 243 youth to become leaders (Indicator #24) in their own communities and engaging 2,715 youth (Indicator #25) in volunteering initiatives. An additional 508 individuals from the various local government units (LGUs), private sector, civil society organizations, and youth organizations were oriented on positive youth development (Indicator #21).



Adjustments to the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan

O2's revised MEL Plan, planned to be submitted by next quarter, is an evolution of the original MEL Plan submission dated January 2022. The document contains changes in targets and updates in select indicators, as well as updates on the project's logical framework, considering changes in project's operating environment, to reach its desired outcomes through the established intermediate results. These changes are based on grounded conversations made with both USAID and key stakeholders such as DepEd BAE, TESDA, DTI, and other partners to align and maximize opportunities to produce systems change and impact for OSY. O2's overall MEL approach and processes remain anchored on USAID's Data Quality Standards.

Learning Agenda

O2 continues to monitor its performance based on its 25 established project indicators, 16 of which have significant movements for the quarter. Innovations pioneered by the project continue to be implemented to demonstrate proof of concept as a foundation for potential scale-up and input to systems strengthening. Progress for the quarter in review include:

- Successful completion of WBL and BYOB pilot implementation in 10 cities as a component of regular ALS program implementation. The end of pilot assessment workshop conducted in Cebu, from March 28-31, confirmed the success of the WBL and BYOB materials and pedagogical strategies as an effective approach to teaching ALS Curriculum Learning Strand 4 competencies related to employment and entrepreneurial readiness. On the basis of the successful pilot, DepEd BAE plans a phased scale-up of BYOB-WBL implementation integrated within the ALS program in selected school divisions of all 17 Regions.
- The Academic-Focused Bridging Program (AFBP) for OSY piloted by Ferndale College in Zamboanga City under a O2 grant was identified by DepEd as an invaluable source of learning for the planned development of national AFBP as an expanded DepEd ALS program offering as required by the provisions of RA 11510. O2 organized a benchmarking visit to Ferndale College for four BAE senior technical staff, led by Mr. Andrew Villarba, Chief of the BAE Program and System Development Division (PMSDD) on March 22-24. Insights from the benchmarking visit have been incorporated in a Draft Concept paper being developed by DepEd BAE covering a proposed national AFBP program and policy framework as the first step towards AFBP program development and roll-out. It is envisioned that the AFBP will enhance Assessment and Certification (A&E) learners' readiness for senior high school and college thereby strengthening the ALS as a

truly alternative system of learning and expand the life and learning opportunities for OSY and adults. In subsequent quarters, O2 will continue to provide technical assistance to BAE in the development and pilot testing of the new AFBP as a national ALS program of DepEd.

- Insights gained from the ongoing pioneering O2 HERO initiative are also informing the DepEd BAE's plans for strengthening career guidance within the national ALS program. During the AFBP benchmarking visit to Zamboanga, the BAE team had an opportunity to interact with Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST) to learn more about how HERO was used as a career guidance support platform for incoming ALS Senior High School learners.



Training participants use HERO module



Zamboanga university explains bridge program

In addition to pilot-testing innovative models as springboards for system strengthening, O2 continues to implement operations research designed to inform O2 planning and the systems strengthening requirements of DepEd and TESDA. For the quarter this includes:

- Launch of a Php 3 million research grant for HEIs to conduct an 18-month tracer study of A&E Junior High School learners and completers for S.Y. 2022-2023. The study is one of the priority research studies of the DepEd BAE National Research Agenda 2022-2026.
- Completion of Phase One of a research study being conducted by Accenture on exploring OSY employment opportunities (both waged employment and OSY-led micro enterprise) in the blue and green economy. Results of the research will inform O2 local level planning and collaboration with YDAs to promote OSY engagement in decent jobs and self-enterprise ventures that seek to reduce the consumption of energy, minimize waste and pollution, protect and restore ecosystems, and enable communities to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Activity Reports: Accomplishments

IR1 Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to deliver second-chance education programs for OSY



Zamboanga ALS teachers in training for WBL-BYOB roll out

Sub-IR 1.1 Second-chance programs teach innovative learning content that is more relevant and responsive to youth aspirations for education and jobs

Activity 4-1.1.1 Capacity-building for Learning Strand 4

Supports indicators 5, 6, and 7

O2 continues to support ALS Teachers in their delivery of ALS Learning Strand 4, specifically on work readiness and entrepreneurship, through refresher training workshops on Work-Based Learning (WBL) and Be Your Own Boss (BYOB). Sixty-two ALS Teachers from Isabela, Zamboanga, and Valenzuela received such training that supported the pilot implementation of WBL-BYOB in select learning centers in their respective divisions.

Activity 4-1.1.2 Implementation of Life Skills and Work Readiness training

Supports indicators 3, 4, 16, and 19

There are 16,308 ALS Learners who completed WBL, while 16,279 ALS Learners who completed BYOB in 10 O2 sites. This is part of DepEd BAE's initiative to conduct a pilot implementation of BYOB and WBL that will inform their plan to mainstream WBL-BYOB into the ALS programming and curriculum as a learning delivery for Learning Strand 4. Next quarter, the number of ALS learners who completed BYOB and WBL is expected to increase with the culmination of the pilot implementation in Cagayan de Oro, Isabela, and Iloilo.

Activity 4-1.1.3 Quality Assurance of Life Skills and Work Readiness Training

Supports indicators 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 15

Following DepEd's pilot implementation of WBL-BYOB, O2 conducted an assessment workshop on March 29-31 in Cebu. Forty administrators (Indicator #6) and 20 educators (Indicator #7) composed of DepEd BAE, regional and division ALS focal persons, and select ALS teachers attended the workshop.



I find the pilot implementation of BYOB and WBL to be very impactful, rousing, and awakening. I am excited to see BYOB and WBL be articulated across the country.

— Director Marilette Almayda, Bureau of Alternative Education, DepEd after the assessing the BYOB-WBL rollout in ALS

The workshop gathered inputs from the attendees on learning content and materials, learning process and design, learner assessment, capacity-building and other support, and policy recommendation. The common feedback was on the usefulness of the materials to the learners in terms of their transition to work or entrepreneurship. Pressing issues shared by participants were on scheduling the implementation, supplementary capacity-building activities, as well as support on the coaching and mentoring.

After the workshop, O2 reported the result of the workshop to DepEd Assistant Secretary for ALS G.H. S. Ambat, BAE Director Marilette Almaya, Director Lynn Padillo, and members of BAE. The reported result shall be considered by BAE in the scaled-up pilot implementation and in improving the implementing guidelines.



Participants of the O2-DepEd assessment workshop of WBL-BYOB pilot rollout in ALS

Sub-IR 1.2 National and local educational systems deliver new content with quality, at scale, and in a manner that is engaging to youth

Activity 4-1.2.1 Manual of Operations

Supports indicator 1

Updates on this indicator are expected in the next quarter.

Activity 4-1.2.2 Support for policy development

Supports indicator 1

O2 continues to support the senior management team of DepEd BAE in formulating and implementing its ALS 2.0 policy reform agenda designed to enhance the accessibility, quality and governance of ALS. This includes assisting BAE to address the requirements of Republic Act 11510: An Act Institutionalizing the ALS designed to strengthen “S” in ALS. For the quarter under review, this included providing technical inputs into the following:

- Finalization of DepEd Order - Guidelines on the Implementation of the Alternative Learning System Senior High School (ALS SHS).
- Finalization of DepEd Order – Guidelines on Conduct of Presentation Portfolio Assessment Round 4 – to be used in lieu of the A&E equivalency exam as basis for certification of elementary and secondary ALS completers.
- Development of a National Capability Building Framework for ALS Implementors. This will serve as basis for crafting of a comprehensive BAE ALS Capability Building program as required by RA 11510. O2 assisted in the design, conduct and processing of a DepEd BAE Capability Building Framework Development Workshop held January 23-27 in Puerto Princesa. A draft framework was developed and is currently under revision by DepEd BAE’s Program Management and System Development Division (PMSDD).
- Development of a Functional Education and Literacy Program (FELP) Framework. FELP is one of the new ALS programs listed in Republic Act 11510 that DepEd BAE is required to

develop, designed to improve the accessibility and responsiveness of the ALS. A FELP Program Framework was developed by BAE with technical assistance from O2 and approved in principle by ASec G.H. Ambat. It will be used as the basis for the development of a pilot FELP short Course on Financial Literacy and formulation of the FELP Policy Guidelines.

- Technical support for ALS policy discussions during the National Consultative Conference for ALS Focal Persons held in Iloilo City, January 31 to February 3. Ongoing policy proposals of BAE were discussed during the conference to incorporate field-level feedback or inputs.
- Benchmarking activity conducted in Zamboanga to inform DepEd's AFBP policy. DepEd BAE invited O2 to provide insights on the development of the policy framework, particularly on the possibility of embedding O2's HERO into the policy. Likewise, O2 organized a benchmarking activity for DepEd BAE personnel in Zamboanga, where two colleges presented their experience in conducting Bridging Classes and HERO to DepEd ALS Learners towards their pursuance of further education or training. O2 will continue to assist DepEd BAE in the development of the AFBP policy.



- Conduct of a Nationwide Inventory of ALS Community Learning Centers (CLCs). The results of the inventory will be used by BAE to: i) Craft policy guidelines on ALS Learning Environments; and ii) Prepare a Financial Investment Proposal to finance the nationwide rehabilitation and Construction of CLCs. This is in accordance to the provisions of RA 1150 that every municipality and CLC should have one CLC sufficiently equipped to support full implementation of the ALS K to 12 Curriculum. O2 supported the design, conduct, and data cleaning of the nationwide inventory and is in the process of engaging a short-term consultant, through its sub-agreement with SEAMEO INNOTECH, to assist DepEd BAE with the data analysis and financial investment plan preparation.
- Response to on-call requests for technical assistance related to ALS system strengthening from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for ALS.

As member of the DepEd-UNICEF Advisory Board on Micro-Certification, O2 also provided technical assistance to DepEd BAE and UNICEF in drafting policy guidelines to guide implementation of micro-certification within the ALS as required by RA 11510; and, design and conduct of a research and development process designed to develop and pilot test micro-certification of two additional life skills (problem solving and leadership skills) being led by the University of Melbourne.

Activity 4-1.2.3 Improving ALS Learning Strand 4 Delivery

Supports indicators 1 and 14

Sixteen Angeles City ALS Implementers, through Angeles City Youth Development Alliance (ACYDA), had a learning tour at the Alpha Aviation Group and Savers Group Holdings, Inc., to learn first-hand about how avionics, hospitality, real estate, advertising, and property development industries, among others, operate in preparation for the WBL-BYOB roll-out in April. Through this learning experience, ALS teachers' horizons are stretched and, in turn, that will also provide more opportunities for ALS learners in Angeles through industry linkage coordination and partnerships created by ALS teachers and supported by ACYDA.



In the coming months, more ALS teachers are expected to learn about private sector partners who are willing to host our ALS learners for immersion and provide possible employment through O2's efforts to strengthen ALS teachers' capacity to create linkages with industries and private sectors in their respective communities.

Activity 4-1.2.4 BAE capacity-building

Supports indicator 6

Through its partnership with Accenture, the O2 EDC team has worked closely with the BAE in conducting a series of organizational development interventions that address priorities detailed in BAE's Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) Action Plan. For the past quarter work focused on the following key areas of organizational transformation of BAE:

- Strengthening the organizational culture of BAE and the BAE's value proposition as a new organizational unit within DepEd.
- Conducted an organizational competency assessment covering identification of BAE critical organizational and functional competencies, competency assessment of current and incoming BAE staff to identify critical gaps, and identification of possible priority training interventions.
- Support for the change management process as BAE matures as a new full-functioning organizational unit within DepEd.

In the next quarter, this organizational strengthening work will continue under a new Accenture task order, with emphasis on enhancing the BAE's organizational processes and governance

systems. This will include helping BAE in defining its success indicators in terms of its mandate for standard setting, policy formulation, capacity support, and M&E; also strengthening its risk management systems.

Activity 4-1.2.5 Support for BAE Research Agenda (see also Higher Education and Grants Sections) Supports indicators 1, 5, and 10

O2 conducted information sessions on O2-ALS Research Grant that was launched on March 15. Two rounds of information sessions were conducted: one online on March 21 with 43 participants, another in-person on March 27 at SEAMEO INNOTECH with eight HEIs.



The research grant is part of O2's support to ALS Research Agenda and is focused on conducting a tracer study for ALS students and completers for S.Y. 2022-2023. This will track the exits of the learners, whether they have completed the program or not. The results will be used to inform policies and programs of DepEd ALS.

During the online session, Dir. Almayda expressed her excitement about what HEIs can do to support OSYs. She shared that this will be the first time DepEd will be doing this. The research grant application will close on April 30.

Activity 4-1.2.6 Teacher Professional Development

Support indicators 6 and 7

Mid-Program Learning Summit

The O2-ALS Mid-Program Learning Summit was conducted on January 18-20 in Tagaytay City. This three-day event enabled implementers to recognize and learn from the good practices on ALS implementation as a result of the O2 package of interventions, gain fresh insights from other innovative community-based youth development programs and models, which inspired them to identify concrete areas for improvement in the ALS 2.0 delivery and management.



A total of 77 ALS Implementers from Angeles City (Region 5), Quezon, Pasig, and Valenzuela Cities (NCR), Cotabato City (BARMM), Iloilo City (Region 6), Cebu and Tagbilaran Cities (Region 7), Cagayan de Oro and Iligan Cities (Region 10), Davao and Panabo City (Region 11) and General Santos (Region 12), and staff from DepEd BAE (5), and EDC (6) participated in the summit.

Teacher Professional Development Course 3

On March 20, Course 3 began, SEAMEO INNOTECH's first “unbundled” online offering of the course. Participants will be able to earn the Certificate of Completion (COC) of academic requirements at the end of each module. Modules are interrelated and are meant to cover the target competencies to enhance the delivery and management of ALS program. The Certificate is equivalent to three credit units when they enroll at the University of Southeastern Philippines’ Master of Education, major in ALS, program. If they earn the three COCs they will receive the INNOTECH COC. Course 3 design is anchored on the ALS 2.0 Operations Manual and can possibly be offered as an induction program for the newly hired ALS teachers.

Activity 4-1.2.7 Support for BAE Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activity

Supports indicators 1 and 5

From the series of presentation and orientation conducted last quarter with ALS M&E TWG, SEAMEO INNOTECH M&E Consultant Mr. Rey Macalindong have organized discussions with BAE technical team in charge of M&E to finalize the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) ready for pilot implementation. Initial dates of Division-based orientation on the M&E system pilot implementation were identified with the team starting with Masbate and Legazpi as the first pilot sites.

Sub-IR 1.3 ALS supported to test flexible delivery modalities to meet the needs of diverse OSY populations

Activity 4-1.3.1 Complete and handover Interactive Audio Instruction (IAI) materials and capacity-building

Supports Indicators 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 14

Voice actors are currently recording Episodes 9 and 10 of the IAI. O2 continues to support BAE in developing and disseminating IAI materials. Voice actors are in the process of recording episodes 9 and 10. In addition, O2 is developing an awareness campaign and video products on to introduce IAI as an inclusive instructional tool that will aid in the delivery of Life Skills, specifically Learning Strands 4 and 5 of the ALS Curriculum. The video will feature interviews from ALS Implementers and Teachers, as well as feedback from select learners who have used IAI to aid delivery of Learning Strands 4 and 5.

IR2 Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to deliver workforce readiness and technical-vocational training for OSY

Sub-IR 2.1 National and local systems provide foundational skills in Work Readiness and Entrepreneurship

Activity 4-2.1.1 Relevant work readiness content integrated into the curriculum

Supports indicators 1, 6, 7, and 14

One hundred forty-eight TESDA Trainers from Region 11 completed the training on Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills for National Certificates (NC) I and II, on March 21-24 and March 27-31. Participants are from both TESDA Technology Institutions (TTIs) and Technical Vocational Institution (TVIs) from six TESDA Districts in Region 11 – Davao Region.



Implementing 21st Century Skills is the pre-requisite in all our Basic Competencies, and this training will help us big time as we integrate this to our classes and in renewing our institutions.

—Assistant Regional Director Rey Cueva recognizing the value of the enhanced version of Basic Competency course to making learners more work-ready

Meanwhile, in TESDA National Capital Region (NCR), 81 trainers have undergone the Training of Trainers Program for the WBL-BYOB modules. There are three (3) implementers in NCR: TESDA Navotas Training Institute, Quezon City Lingkod Bayan Skills Development Center, and the TESDA PaMaMariSan⁵ District Office, in collaboration with the PaMaMariSan Technical Vocational Schools Association, Inc. This is in line with the Region's aim to adapt the module for the entrepreneurship program under the Special Training for Employment Program (STEP). TESDA NCR through its Regional TESD Committee saw the significance of the WBL-BYOB in STEP so it issued Regional TESD Committee Resolution Number 004 Series of 2022 enjoining all TTIs to adopt WBL-BYOB modules from O2.

O2 will continue to plan with other TESDA regions in O2 sites for the integration or adoption of O2 work readiness systems strengthening programs in the next quarter. Capability building for TESDA's Community Training and Employment Coordinators (CTECs) on HERO for Upskilling and Multiskilling modules is also being pushed to help TESDA encourage young people to access Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs.

⁵ TESDA District Office covering the cities of Pasig, Mandaluyong, Marikina, San Juan in Metro Manila.



The BYOB and WBL are essential learning contents that support our curriculum infrastructure as we prepare our learners in their journey to self-employment as their career path.

— TESDA NCR Regional Director Florencio F. Sunico, Jr. emphasized the importance of adopting the BYOB and WBL modules.

Activity 4-2.1.2 Institutionalization of YATOP as local development initiative for youth transitioning to employment and entrepreneurship

Supports indicators 3, 4, 11, 12, and 13

Turn-over of O2's Youth Access to TESDA Online Program (YATOP) to Local Training Systems

As part of O2's institutionalization initiatives for YATOP, TTIs, TVIs, and TESDA Provincial or District offices are being eyed as potential recipients of the YATOP initiative together with 25 tablets used in pilot implementation. The turnover with potential recipients will start next quarter.

In Luzon, potential recipients are; TESDA Pampanga, TESDA CaMaNaVa⁶, TESDA PaMaMariSan, Quezon City Lingkod Bayan Skills Development Center, and TESDA Albay Provincial Office. In Visayas, TESDA Provincial Offices in Cebu and Bohol, and University of San Augustine are the potential recipients, while TESDA Regional Training Center 9. Meanwhile, TESDA Region 9, TESDA Regional Training Center 9 KorPhil, TESDA Provincial Offices in General Santos and Lanao del Norte, CDO-TVI, and Cotabato City Manpower Development Center are identified as potential recipients in Mindanao.

Continuing YATOP roll out in three new O2 sites

TOP sessions are about to be concluded for the first cohort of learners in O2's YATOP three expansion cities of Pasig, Iligan, and Iloilo.

As of March 2023, 135 have completed 21st Century Skills, 120 have completed TVET courses through TOP, and 86 from Pasig and Iligan have completed WBL and BYOB. YATOP utilizes TESDA's existing e-TESDA platform to provide access to OSY for self-paced online classes.

⁶ TESDA District Office covering the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela in Metro Manila.

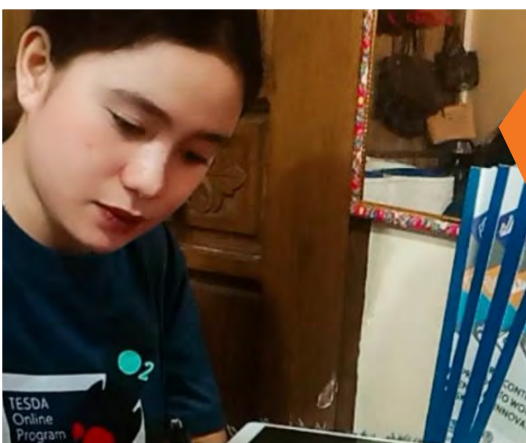


TOP facilitator and youth



TOP youth in Pasig City

TOP youth completers are introduced to local private sector through O2 events that facilitate upskilled youth to starting businesses and finding jobs. TOP youth completers will also be engaged in hands-on training and skills assessment activities with partner TVI or local enterprises to prepare for TESDA certification process. Graduation events for YATOP completers are scheduled in May to June 2023.



For me po nakatulong po ang WBL. Sa pamamagitan ng work planning, na-realize ko na marami palang opportunity na mas malapit sa akin para makahanap agaran ng trabaho.

(For me, WBL was helpful. Through work planning, I realized there were many opportunities near and around me so that I can find work more quickly.)

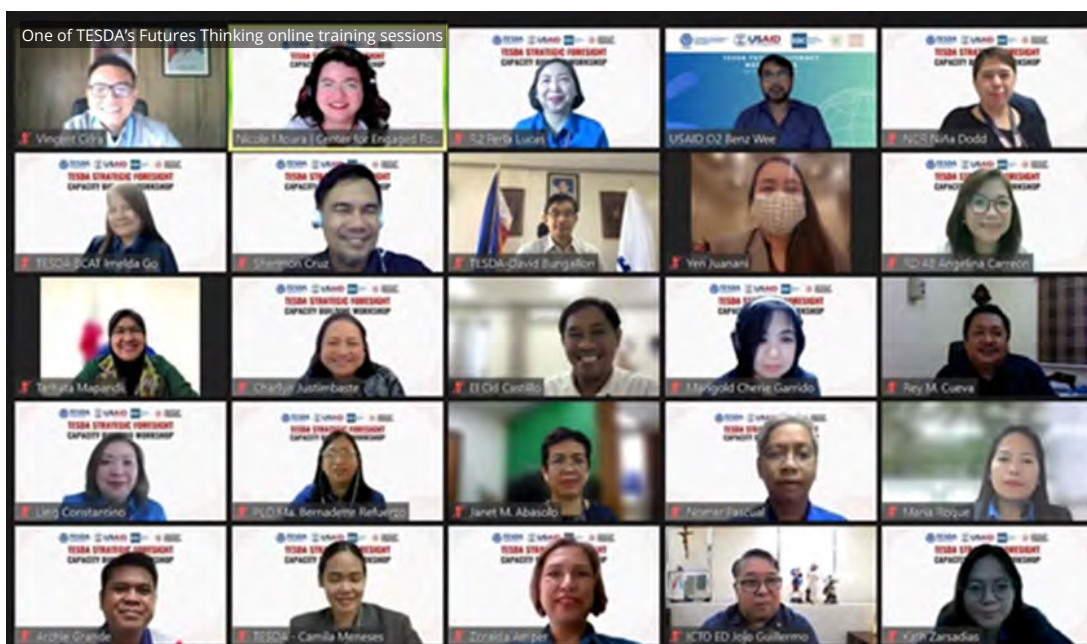
— Jenly Zulueta, 24, completed a TVET course on Front Offices Services in Pasig City through TOP.

Activity 4-2.1.3: Support to TESDA's Policy Direction and Strategic Plans

Supports indicator 1

TESDA's Strategic Foresight Institutionalization Framework Takes Shape through O2's Futures Thinking Program

This quarter, TESDA concluded its Futures Thinking program sessions with a culminating activity held on February 7. Four groups of TESDA officials presented 'capstone' projects developed throughout the Strategic Foresight Capacity Building Workshops. One group presented a project on Skills Anticipation, one group presented a capstone on the Future of TVET Assessment and Certification, a third on Special Clients, and another on TVET Trainers' Development.



On March 20, the final meeting for strategic foresight institutionalization framework development planning was held wherein members of TESDA's strategic foresight core team were given the opportunity to discuss TESDA's steps forward, as well as provide feedback on the recommended multi-phase plan presented by the Center for Engaged Foresight to institutionalize foresight within TESDA. The agency is expected to firm up its strategic foresight framework plan next quarter. TESDA Futures Thinking program is facilitated by Center for Engaged Foresight, an internationally known consultant tapped by O2 to handle and manage the training sessions and workshops.

O2 continues to support the development of TESDA's National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan (NTESDP) Fifth Cycle (2023-2028)

The formulation process for TESDA's Fifth Cycle NTESDP continued this quarter with the convening of its Regional and Provincial committees to generate inputs and recommendations that will identify regional and provincial as well as national agenda.

A series of regional and zonal focused group consultations involving TVET clients and beneficiaries (workers, learners, graduates, unemployed, IPs, PWDs, etc.) were also conducted from February 23 to March 9, to gather more substantial inputs. Two online sessions were held on March 15-17 and March 21-23 with TESDA Regional and Provincial Directors and Officials to formulate the NTESDP vision, objectives, framework, and strategies.

TESDA Planning Office with consulting firm onboarded through O2, the Institute for Research, Innovation, and Scholarships (IRIS), facilitated these consultations. TESDA's NTESDP (2023-2028) is expected to be completed in June and is expected to be launched in August 2023.



Sub-IR 2.2 National and local youth workforce development systems are responsive to employers and prepare youth to transition into better jobs

Activity 4-2.2.1 Develop Work Readiness and Entrepreneurship Skills of the Youth

Supports indicators 2, 3, 4, 8, 13, and 15

O2, through EDC, partnered with SkillLab, an organization offering a software platform, to help OSYs understand, capture, and document their skills, and provide inclusive career guidance and curriculum vitae-building. As part of this partnership, a pilot was conducted in 2022 with youth from Angeles, Isabela, and Cagayan de Oro. The platform has helped O2 youth use SkillLab-generated resumes. This year, a training of trainers was conducted for O2 staff and 102 trainers and administrators from 16 LSPs to be able to use SkillLab so that they may guide youth learners to create skill profiles using the platform.

Activity 4-2.2.2 Improved Work Facilitation Services

Supports indicators 6, 7, 16, and 19

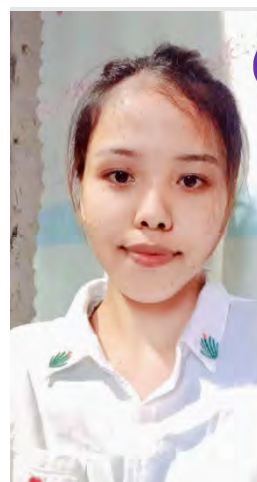
As a result of raising awareness to the private sector on ALS and TESDA youth potentials, companies are raring to hire these upskilled youth to join their workforce. For example, the ALROSE Group of Companies, owner of food chains like Jollibee in Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City, has committed to support ALS youth to be able to transition from work immersion to full time employment at their branches across Iligan City. To date, 737 of youth have been deployed for work immersion across the program sites.



We will make sure that this first batch will be a model for the next batch of USAID Opportunity 2.0 Youth.

That is why we are setting the standard high, we have great hopes for this batch and we are looking forward to having the next batch of O2 Youth.

REY AN PADILLA
Human Resource Officer
Alrose Group of Companies



Nagpapasalamat ako sa USAID Opportunity 2.0 program dahil nabigyan [ako] ng pagkakataon na maipakita ang aking kakayahan. Hindi hadlang ang isang out-of-school youth na abutin ang mga pangarap.

MEDICHE CABALQUINTO
Opportunity 2.0 Youth
ALS Completer
Iligan City

Sub-IR 2.3 National and local youth workforce development systems prepare and support youth to start their own business or self-employment opportunities

Activity 4-2.3.1 Expanded SILC activity

Supports indicators 17 and 18

CRS's Savings and Internal Lending (SILC) has reached its target number and their stories from the ground

O2, through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), has now reached its target of 500 youth in the pilot of SILC cities of Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Cotabato, and Quezon City. Seventy-four new youth were engaged this quarter that brought the total OSYs participating in SILC programs to reach its target by March 29. SILC members are trained in the BYOB and SILC program. Many of the groups have partnered with TESDA or community-based organizations.

Overall, as of March 2023, O2's SILC youth have accumulated total savings of Php 629,756 with cumulative loan amounting to Php 319,880 that financed livelihood ventures, education costs, family needs, and emergency relief. During this quarter, CRS facilitated the organization of four additional SILC groups with TESDA Regional Training Center in Cebu and TESDA Wangan Agricultural School in Davao.



'Green Mana,' a SILC group based in Quezon City organized through O2, has received recognition from the Quezon City Government for innovative engagement. The group started savings in 2021, which has enabled them to accumulate an amount of Php 61,906 (\$1,131) in their first eight-month savings cycle.

Members accessed loans amounting to Php 55,000 (\$1,004) to finance schooling, household expenses, and emergency needs. The success of their savings program has persuaded Green Mana to embark on a second cycle of savings, attracting more youth in the barangay to join. At present, the group has accumulated new savings worth Php 33,600 (\$614) and is looking to expand its impact by venturing into entrepreneurial activities.

Green Mana's financial proficiency is evident in their plans to allocate their savings to finance their school requirements and job-seeking related expenses. The youth members of the group attribute much of their success to the support of CRS, their parents, the Quezon City Lingkod Bayan Skills Development Center (TESDA), and the BYOB learnings, which played an integral role in teaching them valuable financial management skills. The success of Green Mana's savings initiative serves as a reminder of the importance of financial literacy and planning, particularly for the youth. Their impressive accomplishments serve as an inspiration to other young people who aspire to take control of their finances and achieve their goals.

Activity 4-2.3.2 Partnering with Local Private Sector to Support Entrepreneurship Pathways for Youth

Supports indicators 3, 8, 17, and 18

To further expand and deepen the entrepreneurship opportunities for ALS and TESDA youth, O2 continued to strengthen the system of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) by training 80 DTI personnel across the country, including Ministry of Trade, Investments and Tourism-BARMM. The 'YEP! You Can Be Your Own Boss' (YEP! BYOB) module is the product of last year's curriculum writeshop.

The opening ceremonies of the Training of Master Trainers on March 8 in Makati City was graced by none other than DTI Regional Operations Group Undersecretary Blesila Lantayona, USAID Philippines Deputy Director of the Office of Education Yvette Malcioln, DTI NCR Regional Director Marcelina Alcantara, DTI Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development Director Emma Asusano, and around 50 DTI staff from Luzon and Visayas.



This is history in the making. DTI supports the *YEP! You Can Be Your Own Boss* 110 percent!

— DTI Undersecretary Blesila Lantayona addresses DTI trainers during a writeshop that harmonized BYOB and Design Thinking into the Department's YEP.

The roll out of YEP! BYOB will start in April 2023 in select regions and will continue to be implemented until December of 2023.



Sub-IR 2.4 Capacity building of local training and accompaniment service providers to provide workforce readiness, technical-vocational, and self-employment training to OSY

Activity 4-2.4.1 Continued support to training providers

Supports indicators 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, and 13

One hundred two trainers and administrators from 16 LSPs participated in the Training of Trainers on the content and delivery of O2 programs. Participants learned how to facilitate Positive Youth Development, Pathways Orientation for Youth, Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills, ALS Life Skills Modules, BYOB, WBL, and HERO. These trainers and administrators are expected to reach 1,600 youth for the duration of their one-year grant.

IR3 Improved enabling environment for positive youth development at both national and local levels

Sub-IR 3.1 Stakeholders sensitized in three new sites to the potential of vulnerable youth

Activity 4-3.1.1 YDAs established in three new cities

Supports indicators 20, 23, and 24

Three new YDAs have been formed in the cities of Pasig, Iligan, and Iloilo. New YDAs are now on the process of crafting policy agenda, developing strategic plans, gathering local and private stakeholders to support the program and reaching OSYs in their respective city.

Pasig City, through the leadership of Hon. Mayor Victor Ma. Regis “Vico” N. Sotto, has issued an Executive Order and led the signing of Memorandum of Agreement between the Pasig City LGU and O2. These policies will support the implementation of interventions of key stakeholders for OSY development in the city.



The Iloilo City YDA, with an existing ordinance, created committees for OSY development, and established a special drafting committee to craft a Manual of Operation for the YDA.

The Iligan City YDA has finalized its three-year strategic plan containing its vision, mission, goals and outcomes as well as core values. An oath taking of its members is being organized on the second week of April. Afterwards, Hon. Mayor Frederick Siao is expected to approve the strategic plan before May 2023. In addition, a set of committee leaders encompassing five strategic outcomes were elected to provide oversight on the planned out programs.

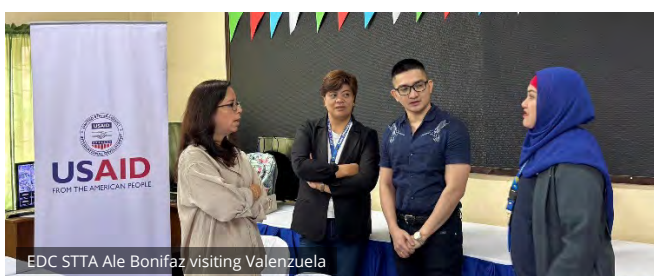


Activity 4-3.1.2 Existing YDA organizational capacity strengthened

Supports indicators 20, 22, 23, and 24

O2 continued supporting YDAs in their efforts to create responsive, inclusive, and effective programs and policies for OSYs through different capacity-strengthening activities such as workshops, brainstorming discussions with experts and key partners and linking the YDA to other partners and stakeholders.

Notably, this quarter, Pasig City and Iloilo City revisited the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT) to determine their performance and review their tasks and priority interventions for OSYs. Angeles City Technical Working Group continued their good progress in crafting the ACYDA Ordinance Implementing Rules and Regulations. Meanwhile, Quezon City, and Pasig City YDAs are set to finalize their OSY Development Plan 2022-2023 and each member's roles and contributions.



As part of capacity strengthening and in an effort to support YDAs to reach a self-sustaining stage, O2 engaged international Short-Term Technical Assistance (STTA) to conduct consultations with a sample of YDAs across Hubs to inform the development of a YDA Exit Strategy that will aim to address the capacity strengthening needs of YDAs to reach, or move closer to, a self-sustaining stage in the YDA continuum. Consultations with YDAs highlighted the diverse nature of YDAs, including their composition, working structures, operations and plans, and collected information about what YDA members envision as a 'sustainable YDA', and their ideas to achieve sustainability. This information will be used to develop O2's YDA Exit Strategy during the next quarter, which will be implemented over the remaining period of the project.

In the next quarter, the YDAs are expected to start a series of workshops to determine their endline performance this year using the OCAT. These results will also inform the YDA Exit Strategy being developed.



Meanwhile, all 15 YDAs were celebrated during the National YDA Summit conducted in February 2023 in Davao City. The Summit provided an avenue for the YDAs to benchmark and learn from one another's successes, challenges and innovations on sustaining impactful youth programs, applying innovative data management tools for youth programming, and mainstreaming strategies for youth access to wage employment, entrepreneurship, and engagements.

Davao City Mayor Sebastian Duterte through Vice Mayor Melchor Quitain welcomed the participants to the Summit while USAID Mission Director Ryan Washburn officially opened the Summit and said, "The challenges faced by youth demand a whole-of-community approach and the YDA is our response. Based on what we are seeing, it remains the most impactful and sustainable approach."

YDA's collaborative work was further highlighted by Tagbilaran City Mayor Jane Yap when she delivered her keynote speech saying, "When we work together, we become stronger. We can achieve more, make greater progress and leave a lasting impact."



Collaborate and deliver outcomes that go beyond traditional thinking to address the challenges we are facing in workforce development and cater to the learning and skills training needs of out-of-school youth.

— Vice President and concurrently Education Secretary Sara Duterte enjoined local actors to innovate in serving the marginalized youth in a video message for participants of the O2 National YDA Summit.

Recognition during the YDA Summit were also awarded to deserving YDAs. The 15 Local Chief Executives were recognized for their dynamic and visionary leadership that led to the city's marginalized OSY gaining more learning and earning opportunities towards a better tomorrow. Six YDAs also received special citations relative to their status on the domains of the OCAT. In addition, four YDAs were also recognized for having an effective functioning status that underscored them to be Top YDAs of the Year. Also, three YDAs were awarded for having improved performance as alliance. Below were the recognitions awarded to YDAs:

Excellence on Governance	Isabela City Youth Development Alliance A champion alliance in governance for having consistently demonstrated well-aligned, well-informed membership, effective organizational and leadership structure, and well-established and operational procedures and documentation processes.
Excellence on Strategic Direction	Valenzuela City Youth Development Alliance A champion alliance on strategic direction, set out a visionary plan for OSY, has effectively implemented appropriate activities, has clarity of their ownership of vision, mission, and core values; and continues to value the important contribution of its members to achieve its objectives relative to OSY interventions.
Excellence on OSY Development Planning and Service	Legazpi City Youth Development Alliance

	A champion alliance that has efficient data utilization that helped to achieve and deliver all projects and activities with due diligence, remarkable quality, and commendable excellence.
Excellence on Resource Generation	Out-of-School Youth Development Alliance of Cagayan De Oro City A champion alliance in resource generation and has established efficient ways towards ensuring that sourced resources are maximized by its members towards achieving youth-transformative outcomes.
Excellence on Advocacy and Networking	Cotabato City Youth Development Alliance A champion alliance that established structures and forged partnerships between organizations and among individuals to share ownership of goals and platforms for collaboration.
Excellence on Sustainability	Youth Development Alliance of Tagbilaran City A champion alliance that has promising legitimacy and self-reliant efforts to draft and implement on local policies and legal documents in sustaining the provision of pathways and opportunities for OSY.
Top YDA Sites of the Year	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Isabela City Youth Development Alliance 2. Out-of-School Youth Development Alliance of Cagayan De Oro City 3. Legazpi City Youth Development Alliance 4. Cotabato City Youth Development Alliance <p>Champion alliances that effectively functioned and maximized the potential of its members related to provision of interventions to OSY that link them to opportunities in employment, entrepreneurship, education, and engagement.</p>
Most Improved YDAs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Angeles City Youth Development Alliance 2. General Santos City Out-of-School Youth Development Alliance 3. Youth Development Alliance of Tagbilaran City <p>This special recognition was awarded to YDAs that have improved services in terms of governance, strategic direction, service delivery, resource generation, advocacy, networking, and efforts on sustainability.</p>

Following the successful hosting of National YDA Summit in Davao City in February 2023, the Davao City Alliance for Youth Development facilitated the Executive Order of Mayor Sebastian “Baste” Duterte that established the OSY Development Council under the Office of the City Mayor.



Sub-IR 3.2 Services, support networks, and relationships are more responsive to youth needs

Activity 4-3.2.1 Increase awareness and recognition of YDAs

Supports indicators 20, 22, and 24

O2, through YDAs in various sites, partnered with barangay officials in preparation for the Barangay Caravan, focusing on civic engagement activities, and recruitment to O2, ALS and TVET programs available for OSYs.

In Valenzuela, O2 and Valenzuela Youth Development Alliance, in partnership with the city's Social Welfare and Development Office and the local chapter Pag-asa Youth Association of the Philippines, implemented a caravan in selected barangays. In this caravan, barangay officials and OSYs were invited as participants for them to receive additional orientation on how YDA members such as TESDA, DepEd ALS, DTI, PESO, and others can provide additional career pathways.

Meanwhile in Cebu, O2 and Cebu City YDA worked closely with barangay officials to recruit OSYs who are still not enrolled in ALS or TESDA. O2 and the YDA also lobbied for the creation of "OSY Desk" during the Barangay Council sessions. The OSY Desk will serve as a recruitment hub for youth to access programs particularly ALS and TESDA and manage the OSY pathways referral.



O2 also continues to support the YDAs in forging partnerships to support the delivery and planning of relevant and excellent youth development programs and policies in their respective sites.

The QC YDA has partnered with the Small Business and Cooperatives Development and Promotions Office (SBCDPO) of Quezon City to reach more OSYs in the City to be young entrepreneurs through BYOB. A Training of Trainers to select faculty members of Quezon City

University (QCU) and staff of the QC LGU have been scheduled, and an agreement between SBCDPO and QCU is now being drafted.

While in Iloilo City, the biggest district of Molo had a barangay orientation on YATOP to seek barangay LGU support on the recruitment of 50 OSY into the TOP. A Positive Youth Development training to members of Iloilo City YDA also took place as part of the preparation on their strategic OSY development planning.

Both in Zamboanga and Isabela, HEIs, namely: Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology, Universal College, ComTech Institute, Global School, Claret College of Isabela, and Juan Alano Memorial School, drafted partnership agreements to implement Pathways Orientation for Youth and HERO.



In Legazpi, on the other hand, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of the city endorsed a resolution authorizing the City Mayor Geraldine Rosal to sign the Memorandum of Agreement of YDA Members relative to the conduct of Local Labor Market Study led by PESO Legazpi with DOLE Albay, TAYO Inc., and Sangguniang Kabataan. The agreement is planned to be signed this second quarter of 2023. Then, the study will then be implemented.

O2 also continues to support the YDAs in building their team as new members were accepted to the alliance this quarter.

In Tagbilaran City, the Bohol Association of Hotels, Resorts and Restaurants (BAHRR) has now become member of YDA. This external group or association's membership to YDATC is seen significant where most of the employment opportunities are from this industry. While in Davao, Higher education institutions such as Jose Maria College, Ateneo de Davao and Assumption College of Davao signed an MOU with the Davao City Alliance of OSY Development to formalize the HEIs commitment as members to the alliance. In addition, Iligan's St. Michael's College and St. Peter's College, Cotabato City's Cotabato State University and General Santo's City's Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Colleges signified interest to support the YDAs plans regarding transition OSYs to Education opportunities.

Lastly, government agencies and units like the Department of Social Welfare and Development 4Ps Program, Gender and Development Offices, Anti-drugs Council and Barangay LGUs in each site together with local non-government organizations like Zonta International, Kaligkasan, Kusgan Volunteers, Safe Space Iligan, Corpus Christi High School Alumni Association, Pag-asa Youth Home

Center and Ayala Foundation committed to provide support to the YDAs in different sites in enabling youth's access to civic engagement opportunities.

Activity 4-3.2.2 YDAs to be key players in continuing education and workforce development

Supports indicators 2, 9, 10, and 16

YDA Efforts for Youth Pathways

YDAs, together with O2, continued to find partners and champions that will create a stronger and more responsive alliance for the OSY's education and workforce development. This quarter, several partnerships were formed that benefited the youth to achieve higher education or training and be work-ready.



In Tagbilaran City, 129 Boholano business owners and industry leaders convened on March 21 for a forum that aimed at addressing today's business challenges. Tagbilaran City Mayor Jane Censoria Yap assured that the city government is closely collaborating with the private sector to provide more jobs, including opportunities for the youth. The event was conducted in partnership with Tagbilaran City's Department of Labor and Employment and Public Employment Service Office.

In Angeles City, 64 O2 youth were trained on Microsoft Office apps. These learners can now develop their own portfolio presentation and assessment using digital tools. The activity was led by the City College of Angeles Computing Society Club.

In General Santos City, the YDA reached out to Barangay Captains and representatives from General Santos City LGU to introduce O2 programs and invite more OSY to receive work and life skills trainings. Partnership with the Sangguniang Kabataan, Youth Affairs and Development Office, and City Mayor's Office Integrated Barangay Affairs were continued to reach more OSY in the city.

Meanwhile, in Davao City, two HEIs joined the Davao City Alliance for Out-of-School Youth Development: Assumption College of Davao and Ateneo de Davao University. This partnership is deemed to provide *Dabawenyo* OSYs more access to higher education or training opportunities.



Davao City YDA expands membership to HEIs



Partnership with Toyota for OSY TVET scholarships in CDO

In Cagayan de Oro City, O2 supported the conduct of TESDA Misamis Oriental's Industry Consultation for Area-based Demand-driven City Skills focusing on the Automotive Sector. Gathering key YDA members from the automotive industry and select youth, the activity has provided essential inputs to enhancing TESDA Misamis Oriental's Provincial Skills Priorities for 2022-2026. It intended to help reduce the recurring problem of skills mismatch between the outputs of learning institutions to that of the requirements of industries.

YDA Policies for Sustainability

Existing ordinances related to the operationalization of YDAs were further strengthened this quarter.

- In Tagbilaran, Mayor Jane Censoria Yap signed the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the YDA.
- In General Santos and Cagayan De Oro, Mayors Lorelie Pacquiao and Rolando Uy signed their respective Executive Orders, re-institutionalizing and improving the YDA ordinances in their cities from the previous fiscal year.

Moreover, new initiatives were made to ensure that the YDA as an independent group is part of the LGU's network of champions to support OSY development in the city. These were made possible in Davao and Cotabato through the leadership of Mayor Sebastian Duterte and Mayor Mohammad Bruce Matabalao, respectively.

Mayor Duterte signed an Executive Order establishing the Davao City Alliance for OSY Development Council, in which the Davao City Alliance for Youth Development will be a member. In Cotabato, Mayor Matabalao signed and submitted to the Cotabato City Sangguniang Panlungsod a proposed measure on an Ordinance related to the Cotabato City YDA.

Sub-IR 3.3 Sustainable pathways for youth engagement created.

Activity 4-3.3.1 Empower youth to actively participate in city level planning and project implementation activities

Supports indicators 24 and 25

Progress on youth leadership and empowerment as well as youth-inclusive city plans are expected in the next quarter.

Activity 4-3.3.2 Capacitate YDA Youth Leaders to effectively deliver quality youth-relevant services, efficiently manage, and distribute resources, and create meaningful partnerships at the city-level

Supports indicators 24 and 25

Activities on OSY leaders and organizations are planned in the next quarters. EDC and CRS have agreed to hold further talks on this proposed activity.

Activity 4-3.3.3 Provide support to PYAP, SK, youth groups and other like-minded organizations in giving opportunities to OSY towards meaningful youth engagement

Supports indicator 25

This was a very productive quarter for all 15 O2 Youth Networks that stepped up their volunteering and resource mobilization activities, including partnering with more government and private organizations.

O2 Youth Networks were able to mobilize new OSYs in various youth volunteering activities ranging from thematic areas such as: 1) Gender and Personal Development, 2) Access to Education, 3) Access to Employment Opportunities, 4) Environment Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction, 4) Health, 5) Food Security. A total of 1,079 OSYs were involved in these volunteer activities.



Through such a wide range of volunteer activities, O2 Youth Networks partnered and mobilized a wide and diverse pool of stakeholders at the local level, ranging from non-government organizations, whose focus is on youth development, government offices, private sectors, academe

and higher education institutions, and museums. These volunteer activities served as a catalyst for diverse stakeholders to engage with and support OSY while showcasing their positive roles and contributions to the community, contributing to a positive perception of OSY and ultimately, helping improve an enabling environment for positive youth development at the local level.



Youth volunteers in Iloilo reach out to fire victims



Valenzuela youth volunteers planting trees



Angeles youth volunteer in a feeding program



Youth volunteers in Cotabato provide learning materials for children



Clean-up in Pasig with youth volunteers



Participants of OSY summit in Isabela

Through the leadership of the O2 Youth Networks and in partnership with various champions and stakeholders in their respective communities, 210 O2 youth were mobilized in the cities of Iligan, Quezon City, Zamboanga, Cotabato and Valenzuela, who participated in an environmental advocacy seminar and clean-up drive, tree planting, and environmental reading literacy volunteer activity. Moreover, 111 O2 youth participated in volunteer activities in their communities in Cotabato, Iloilo, and Isabela, leading environmental consciousness and social awareness campaigns to recruit more youth in socio civic activities. In addition, 125 more OSYs from the cities of Pasig and Tagbilaran participated in community clean-up drives, disaster risk response workshop, and online campaigns against cybercrime.

The O2 Youth Networks were able to conduct various meaningful youth engagement activities through partnering with government and non-government organizations. The youth engagement activities were also used as an enjoining activity to encourage the youth to enroll in ALS, TESDA and participate in other O2-related training and activities.

This quarter, 'KaYa Na' O2 youth network in Cagayan de Oro has been certified as a registered organization by the National Youth Commission, effective March 7. The Youth Organization Registration Program of the National Youth Commission ensures youth organizations have access and can participate in the commission's programs nationwide.

Gender and Development

Five hundred twenty-eight O2 youth from various sites were mobilized for youth activities related to prevention of spread of HIV AIDS, responsible reproductive and adolescent health, and family planning.

In Cagayan de Oro, 20 O2 youth participated in Bread and Pastry Production training, Financial Literacy and Feeding Activity for Kids that benefitted the teen moms and OSYs.

Two hundred thirty-one O2 youth from the cities of Pasig, Davao, General Santos, and Cagayan de Oro conducted volunteer activities spreading awareness on AIDS, reproductive health, cleanliness and sanitation, and environmental protection. General Santos City also facilitated youth-led activities focused on teenage pregnancy prevention, early marriage, family planning and responsible parenting from January to March 2023.

In Zamboanga City, 27 Indigenous Peoples youth learned basic computer literacy, social media etiquette, and basic use of Canva in a two-day workshop with the Department of Information and Communications Technology Zamboanga, and Integrated Resource Development for Tri-People.



Moreover, O2 youth in General Santos and Valenzuela conducted youth volunteer activities for the communities in partnership with the General Santos City Population Commission, VSO Philippines, and Pag-Asa Youth Association of the Philippines.

Finally, O2's successful experience with Youth Networks that model a deep approach to youth leadership and volunteerism, shed light to the demand of other forms of volunteerism that OSY and YDAs in O2 sites expressed need for. Based on testimonies of YDAs and youth leaders, there is great interest among OSY in opportunities to engage meaningfully in their communities without

necessarily committing to a long-term program with ALS and TESDA. This interest seems to have been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic that increased OSY isolation and limited opportunities for community engagement. O2 is examining this further to develop entry point opportunities for OSY to engage meaningfully in short-term volunteer activities that help address this expressed need while also contributing to a positive perception of OSY in their communities and to an enabling environment for OSY.



Youth leaders at O2's National YDA Summit 2023



Because of this opportunity that I had through USAID, I feel as if I completed a four-year degree course... With my new job, I know we will eventually be more financially stable and be able to provide for our child better.

— Clarice, 24, from Tagbilaran completed Housekeeping course through USAID support for the TESDA Online Program. She now has a job at a local restaurant.

Cross Cutting Activities

Gender and Disability

The findings of the Gender and Disability Strategy (GDS) permeate all of the work of O2 and the document outlines activities under each IR for the current year. This overview is in addition to activities previously mentioned in the IR narratives.

Under IR1, given the pressing need for, and strong focus on, capacity building for BAE, the five planned activities will take place later in the year. This will include a review of the DepEd gender strategy, along with relevant documents from TESDA and other stakeholders, aimed at identifying institutional barriers to young men or young women and youth with disabilities (YWD). Also planned for Q3 or Q4 is a high-level gender and inclusion forum.

Under IR2, O2 is seeking discussions with regional, division, and district stakeholders from TESDA and DepEd prepare for the gender and inclusion forum mentioned above. These discussions have been slightly delayed due to the preparation of the fifth cycle of the National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan for 2023-2027, to be finalized in April 2023, which will include gender and disabilities recommendations from O2.



Young teens and moms learn reproductive health in Cotabato

Under IR3, there are many completed, ongoing, and planned activities to support the YDA work in gender and disability inclusion. All YDAs have integrated gender and inclusion activities in their work plans, including sessions on parenting with young mothers and fathers and information and services related to sexual and reproductive health and mental health. Volunteering activities in all YDAs ensure appropriate gender balance, and specific events have been aimed at young mothers and teenagers at risk of pregnancy. For example, in addition to those activities described in Activity 4-3.3.3, in Davao in February, 20 young mothers attended a workshop intended to raise awareness of their sexual and reproductive health and rights, protecting them from abuse and connecting them with education and health services, and, in General Santos in March, 100 young women from four barangays planted 200 trees in recognition of World Water Day.

A comprehensive summary of all GAD activities will be included in the Annual Report.

Higher Education Engagement

Collaborations with the higher education sector this quarter went from field-level workshops with colleges and universities across O2's sites, to high-level discussions in national-level boardrooms. As one of O2's cross-cutting activities, work with HEIs continue to influence programs and activities of DepEd, TESDA, and the YDAs.

Elevating Higher Education Work supporting OSY advancement with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2)

USAID Philippines Director for the Office of Education Dr. Thomas LeBlanc conducted a courtesy visit to CHED Chair Dr. J. Prospero E. De Vera III to formally update him of O2's support and investment to the higher education sector. The courtesy visit was conducted as part of O2's system strengthening efforts by formally engaging CHED to future higher education-related activities of O2. O2's accomplishments on higher education work for OSY development were elevated to the office of the CHED Chair, which may also eventually inform national-level higher education work. These activities include gaining CHED's support to widely inform Philippine HEIs on upcoming higher education collaborative grants of O2, as well as attending O2's Higher Education Learning Summit in May 2023.



As a response to the request of EDCOM 2's Executive Director Dr. Karol Mark Yee to inform him of O2's work on higher education research and how this supports the wider need of OSY development in the Philippines, O2 paid him a courtesy visit. Other areas for possible collaboration were also explored during this visit. EDCOM 2 is the newly established national commission tasked to undertake a comprehensive national assessment and evaluation of the performance of the Philippine education sector.

Higher education support to IR1 strengthening second-chance education systems

Supports indicators 9 and 10

O2 and DepEd BAE launched the "Education Research Grant Supporting the Philippine Department of Education Alternative Learning System" this quarter to enjoin Philippine HEIs in conducting a nationwide tracer study of DepEd ALS Learners and Completers and determine the factors behind their relative success or failure in pursuing their desired post-ALS program exit. HEIs will receive capacity strengthening support by facilitating this grant, through the technical guidance provided by O2 and DepEd BAE. 93 HEI personnel

attended the online and face-to-face Information Sessions for this Grant. Deadline of applications for the O2-ALS Grant is on April 30. (See IR1's 4-1.2.5)

Ferndale College and Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology informed DepEd BAE on their experiences in running Bridging Classes and HERO to DepEd ALS Learners to assist them in pursuing further education post-ALS. Through the support of the two HEIs, DepEd BAE was able to further clarify their design of the AFBP policy which will ensure that ALS Learners will have the opportunity to move up the continuous ladder of learning to college-level education. (See IR1's 4-1.2.2.)



Higher education support to IR2 strengthening workforce readiness and TVET systems

Supports indicator 6

O2 scheduled dialogues with TESDA this quarter for the eventual training of TESDA's Community Training and Employment Coordinators (CTECs) on the conduct of HERO. The training of TESDA CTECs will allow them to deliver HERO to support TESDA's advocacies to reach more Filipinos to be upskilled or multiskilled. The meetings with TESDA's Regional Offices, starting with its Regional Office in NCR, and the conduct of HERO Training of Trainers to TESDA's CTECs will commence next quarter. (See IR2's 4-2.1.1.)

Higher education support to IR3 improving the enabling environment for positive youth development

Supports indicators 9 and 10

One hundred and one higher education personnel, composed of both faculty members and college students, from nine HEIs from (Cebu, Tagbilaran, and Pasig participated in the Training of Trainers for O2's HERO. Through this, HEIs were capacitated to deliver O2's HERO, which they committed to use in informing DepEd ALS Learners on possible pathways to further education or training in Senior High School (SHS) or TVET. These trained HEIs are expected to implement HERO and host education fairs starting May to July 2023, either through their National Service Training Program or through other modalities. HEIs from O2's other 12 sites will also receive capacity strengthening activities on HERO delivery in the next quarter. (See IR3's 4-3.2.2)



4 HEIs in Cebu City participated in the HERO Training of Trainers | March 20-21, 2023

1. Cebu Technological University (13 delegates)
2. University of San Jose Recoletos (17 delegates)
3. University of Southern Philippines Foundation (20 delegates)
4. Banilad Center for Professional Development (2 delegates)



2 HEIs in Tagbilaran City participated in the HERO Training of Trainers | March 24-25, 2023

1. University of Bohol – 7 delegates
2. Holy Name University – 30 delegates



3 HEIs in Pasig City participated in the HERO Training of Trainers | March 30-31, 2023

1. University of Asia and the Pacific – 3 delegates
2. Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig – 5 delegates
3. Pasig City College – 4 delegates

HE.1. Provision of Higher Education Grants that foster partnerships between institutions to advance opportunities for out-of-school youth

Supports indicators 9 and 10

O2 conducted brainstorming activities for its two higher education collaborative grants as per Activity 4-HE.1.1. and Activity 4-HE.1.2., which will both be launched in May 2023. These grants will allow Philippine HEIs to foster partnerships with US-based HEIs (Activity 4-HE.1.1.), and with local partners in government, academe, or industry (Activity 4-HE.1.2.).

The collaborative grant between Philippine HEIs and US-based HEIs will have a total value of Php 12.5 million to enable both institutions to design globally informed and locally relevant innovations for Filipino OSYs. The other collaborative grant for partnerships between Philippine HEIs and government, academe or industry is valued at Php 7.5 million, which will enable the development of contextualized strategies to strengthen local systems for OSY development.

HE.2. Foster collaborations between Philippine HEIs across sites to share best practices and experiences in solving common challenges on youth development

Supports indicators 9 and 10

This quarter, O2 consulted various stakeholders in the design of the two-day Higher Education Learning Summit which will take place in May 2023 (Activity 4-HE.2.1.). The Summit, bearing the theme “Higher Education Institutions: Partners in Out-of-School Youth Development,” is designed to gather 200 delegates from O2’s 15 cities to participate in knowledge sharing activities focusing how HEIs could deepen and elevate their functions to resolve challenges in OSY advancement. The delegates will also be tasked to co-design the Higher Education Community of Practice in OSY Development and Lifelong Learning, which will serve as their community for continued knowledge and practice exchange on OSY-related work.

Private Sector Engagement

Supports Indicators 16 and 19 directly and Indicators 3 and 4 indirectly

The trust and confidence of the private sector have been earned by the valuable Gen Z graduates of DepEd ALS and TESDA. Now, 1,061 employers are engaged in contributing to the ecosystem that supports OSY to become employable and bankable as young entrepreneurs. This was no easy feat with O2 focusing on shifting the mindset of industry on youth who are not four-year course graduates.

With sensitization events to private sector on the potentials of Gen-Z digital natives with natural grit, OSY as well as introduction to the programs of government agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry and the Public Employment Service Office, more and more companies are giving second chance opportunities to Gen-Z OSY. 'Agile Biz' in Iligan City, 'DigiBiz' in General Santos City, 'Full Zoom: GenZ and their Impact on the Workforce' in Iloilo City, and 'PasiGenZ: In Leaps and Bounds' in Pasig City were all different versions of the said sensitization event that won over more private sector partners to pledge support to ALS and TESDA graduates.



Apart from sensitization events, O2 engaged private sector through General Membership Meetings of strategic business organizations such as Junior Chamber International (JCI) and People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP).

One of the most impactful is the in-person National Annual General Membership Meeting of PMAP on January 25 in Makati City where Chief of Party Dr. Dave Hall and Private Sector Advisor Angelique Roux presented the O2 program to PMAP members. PMAP has approximately 1,800 corporate and individual members with 22 chapters across the country. Regional Heads from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao came to the stage with the newly inducted national president, Ms. Elizabeth Nasol, to pledge support to O2 youth. In the pipeline is a national partnership agreement which hopes to see the creation of corporate policies to support ALS and TESDA youth to transition to workplaces despite not possessing college degrees.



O2 at the PMAP National General Membership Meeting in January



O2 helped me get to know myself better. I now fully understand the skills I do best. We were able to interview professionals and managers, which I'm really thankful for because it really boosted my confidence.

— Yna Marie Cabañog, 20, from Cebu successfully runs a part-time make-up business after WBL with local private sector partners.

Grants Program

O2 continues to reach more OSY this quarter with 14 new and two follow-on grants to enable at least 1,600 OSY gain employment, start a business or pursue further education through life skills and Work Ready Now! (WRN) training. Moreover, O2 grantees were able to reach 321 OSY in this quarter. More than 600 completed the life skills (252) and WRN (388) modules while about 300 youth underwent work immersion. In addition, 162 OSY completers were transitioned⁷ to wage employment (67), entrepreneurship (32) and further education or training (76).



Second grant awarded to BCPD in Cebu led by USAID MD Ryan Washburn



Meeting with O2 grantee IRDT in Zamboanga

USAID Philippines Mission Director Ryan Washburn awards Banilad Center for Professional Development (BCPD) with a grant to provide technical and life skills to 110 OSY in Cebu City. This is BCPD's second grant following the success of their first grant.

Aside from preparing OSY for the workplace, O2 grantees have also engaged Filipino OSY in leadership and community volunteer activities. In Zamboanga, grantees Ateneo de Zamboanga University and Integrated Resource and Development for Tri-People (IRDT) trained OSY in the city on financial management, communication and social media marketing. IRDT-trained OSY participated in the disaster relief operations for internally displaced persons in their communities by providing logistic support during social preparations. Ramon Aboitiz Foundation and Engadin Corporation provided e-commerce and digital skills training to OSY in Cebu and Quezon City, respectively, to help them develop digital campaigns that will support micro-enterprises and social development activities in their communities.

O2 launched a research grant program for HEIs to conduct a nationwide tracer study on ALS learners and completers. The grant is valued up to Php 3 million and will support the Research Agenda of DepEd.



ALS research grant in-person info session with DepEd and HEIs held at SEAMEO in March 2023

⁷ Youth can proceed to more than one pathway.

Outreach and Communications

Social media

This quarter, 2,000 more people followed O2 on Facebook growing its followers to 17,000 from 15,000 three months previously. The most popular posts were about PESO and private sector engagement as well as Philippine Information Agency (PIA) coverage of O2 activities in Tagbilaran.

In this period, the O2 Facebook page reached a peak of more 520,000 people in February on Facebook alone. More than 9,600 directly interacted with 154 posts made and 142 queries were also responded to. In addition, O2 currently has 1,884 followers on LinkedIn and 87 on Twitter, previously 1,683 and 81, respectively.

Over the past three months, O2 website averaged more than 1,700 visitors, of which 1,600 are new. These users viewed the website more than 3,600 times. Users are overwhelming coming from the U.S. (79 percent) followed by the Philippines (10.61 percent) and the U.K. (8.26 percent).



Chief of Party Hall in media interviews at the YDA Summit 2023

Media engagement

O2 was covered at least 25 times by media this quarter including Manila Times, Business World, and Sunstar. The PIA offices in Cagayan De Oro, Davao, Bohol, and Bicol have covered the program significantly as active YDA members. Top story pick-ups were the National YDA Summit, private sector sensitization events, and youth leadership activities, along with other city-level coverage from local media. The list of O2's media coverage this quarter is provided in **Annex A**.

New communications products

This quarter, a brand package for O2's first national YDA Summit was developed. A complete set of branding design including decks, tags, programs, certificates, plaques, predeparture kit, and an event report were some of the branding products developed for this event.

The Oxygen Newsletter has already been relaunched this quarter to promote O2 progress to its partners. It features key MEL indicators, new downloadable products, a snapshot of O2's media reach, and stories from the field each quarter.

Finally, a briefer for each of the 15 partner cities has been developed. These are used by local field staff in their meetings and activities as well as the management in similar activities and public events, providing quick, easy-to-process information about the program to existing and potential partners and stakeholders.

New videos

1. [O2 Mid-Program ALS Learning Summit](#)
2. [National YDA Summit Highlights](#)
3. [EDC-QCU Collaboration for Positive Youth Development in Government Planning](#)
4. [Updated YDA Explainer slideshow video](#)
5. [Updated O2 Introductory slideshow video](#)
6. [From CRS: GrowQC Ang savings ng Green Mana SILC Group](#)
7. [From PBE: Angeles Private Sector Engagement Highlights video](#)



“

I want to have many other branches. My end goal is to help others, like with my staff and the local riders and their families. I want to help the community... I want to be able to offer them jobs and opportunities, and I want to build a community as well.

— John Cayman Dungog, 22, former OSY in Cagayan de Oro City completed BYOB and started his own café business.

New success stories

- [Clarice in Tagbilaran: Improved access to training helps young mom find job](#)
- [Yna in Cebu: USAID opens new possibilities for young breadwinner](#)
- [Judith in QC: O2 enabled QCU to train community leaders, improving youth programs](#)
- [John in CDO: Building communities one cup of coffee at a time](#)

Success stories developed in this quarter are provided in **Annex B**.

Partnerships

SEAMEO INNOTECH

This quarter, SEAMEO INNOTECH has successfully conducted a Mid-Program Learning Summit on January with a total of 77 ALS implementers attending. They have also completed the Course Development for Course 3: ALS 2.0 Delivery and Management with University of Southeastern Philippines. A total of 444 ALS teachers enrolled in the course that started last March 20, 2023. Instructional learning materials and contents have already been uploaded in iFLEX and pool of Flexible Learning Tutors (FLT) coming from Miriam College, University of Southeastern Philippines, Silliman University and West Visayas State University have been engaged to the program. ALS Focal Persons who will serve as Associate Flexible Learning Tutors (AFLT) have been identified.

Another major accomplishment was the finalization of the ALS 2.0 Key Performance Indicators and the plan for the pilot implementation of the ALS M&E system in Masbate and Legazpi as the first pilot sites. TORs for two other Short-Term Consultants for Educational Cost Modelling Specialist and Educational Data and Statistical Analyst required by the DepEd BAE for their data analysis and financial investment plan preparation has been approved by Dir. Almayda and ASec G.H. Ambat.

CRS

CRS's SILC program has made great impact to the lives of upskilled OSYs as part of O2. As previously mentioned in IR2, youth has successfully organized into groups and made much savings that funded their education, household, and emergency needs. CRS has achieved its target number of OSYs to organize as SILC groups this quarter, after its request for an extension was granted last quarter. To mark the close-out of CRS's contract under O2, a Reflection Event for SILC Youth is being organized in Cebu City in June.

VSO Philippines

VSO continues to conduct youth engagement activities in five program areas (Valenzuela City, Cebu City, Cotabato City, General Santos, and Davao City) this quarter. Youth engagement activities through the 2023 Gen-Z Summer Boot Camp, focused on the advocacies for youth development and crucial discussions on thematic areas that affect OSYs such as climate change, volunteering and community engagement, youth sexual and reproductive health, and education for peace and development. To date, VSO has engaged around 690 unique youth volunteers and trained 110 youth leaders since its implementation.



VSO youth volunteers in a boot camp

Accenture

In the quarter under review, Accenture has completed its Task Order 4 commitments that focused on:

- Organizational capacity development for DepEd BAE (described in Activity 4-1.2.4 BAE Capacity Building)
- Conduct of a research study on exploring blue and green economy employment opportunities for OSY. The following research tasks have been completed to date:
 - Alignment of objectives and scope of the research
 - Research framework development
 - Research design and instrumentation
 - Data gathered through secondary research, and FGDs and key informant interviews with over 50 stakeholders from government, private sector, LGUs, environmental organizations, independent agencies, and multilateral agencies
 - Data analysis completed including sector and city prioritization
 - Initial findings documented and presented for review
 - Draft recommendations formulated identifying opportunities for future O2 programmatic action to promote OSY employment in the blue and green economy

In planning, designing, and conducting the research study, Accenture worked in close collaboration with EDC's global blue green economy research team to ensure alignment of operational definitions and quality assurance of the research process.

EDC have completed discussions with Accenture for the next scope of work (Task Order 5) covering a 6 month period which will focus on: i) Ongoing organizational capacity building for DepEd BAE, ii) Finalization and dissemination of the blue green economy research study, iii) Conduct of a rapid research study exploring statistical trends in OSY enrolment and reasons why OSY enrolment post-COVID has not increased as expected.

Philippine Business for Education (PBE)

With PBE, O2 ramped up private sector engagement and boosted advocacy and communication efforts in Q2. This was demonstrated through the following events: Local Labor Market Assessment consultation three-part series in Cagayan de Oro (February), joint event with DTI in General Santos (February), and the employers' fora with DOLE-PESO in Tagbilaran and Cagayan de Oro (March), respectively. These events contributed to engaging a total of 184 employers while strengthening partnerships with government and industry partners.



Private sector engagement event in Angeles



Private sector engagement event in Tagbilaran



Private sector engagement event in General Santos

Private sector communications still focused on amplifying the message of bridging private sector and youth, with more testimonials from both employers and youth on their experience in the O2 program. As of March 2023, the cumulative social media reach for all platforms totaled 552,395 (Q1 and Q2). For Q2 alone, the social media reach totaled 474,953, a significant increase from the previous quarter (77,442). As for media exposure, O2 private sector engagement events and activities were featured in the news by local media outlets iOrbit and the Philippine Information Agency Bohol.

USAID Health Programs

O2 in collaboration with relevant government agencies and USAID Reach Health and Renew Health programs successfully conducted awareness campaign workshops on reproductive health. In Angeles City and Legazpi City, 160 OSYs attended sexuality and reproductive health workshop. The workshop is aimed at setting the youth up for success, arming them with the right information and service. In Angeles, 119 OSYs attended the "Rated SPG: Sexual Perspectives of this Generation" a reproductive health awareness workshop. While in Legazpi City, 41 OSYs attended a Reproductive Health Orientation Workshop using USAID ReachHealth Modules.



Sexuality and reproductive health workshop in Angeles



Sexuality and reproductive health materials

Admin and Operations

Human Resources

During Q2 FY23, O2 has recruited and hired seven new staff to fill the vacant positions. They include the Davao-based Communications Officer for Media Engagement; Master Trainer in Cebu; Youth Development Officers in Legazpi and Iligan Cities; and Office Custodians in Pasig, Cebu, and Davao cities.



Hub Offices

By March 1, all three Hub offices in Metro Manila, Davao, and Cebu have been established and fully operational. All staff are reporting to work, at a minimum two weeks per month based on their assigned schedule. All hub offices are open daily, except for Friday, a day reserved for enhanced sanitation and cleaning.

Safety and Security

The Operations team and HR have conducted safety and security training to project staff during the regional Hub planning workshops in January and February 2023. The discussions included code of conduct, emergency preparedness, safety, and security, including basic occupational safety and health orientation.

Short Term Technical Assistance (STTA)

Name	Title	Technical Assistance Provided
Nancy Wallace	Project Director	Weekly calls with COP and home office to address project management matters, strategy, and track financial and programmatic progress. Provided technical guidance on private sector and youth engagement, recommendations for future activities, etc.

Name	Title	Technical Assistance Provided
Abidemi Oderinde	International Project Coordinator	Weekly calls with COP and home office to provide technical and operations guidance. Administrative, recruitment, procurement, financial, and communications support.
Claudia Nino de Guzman	Financial Analyst	Supported financial activities, reports, projections, and fund requests.
Jasmina Josic	MEL Specialist	Weekly calls with technical support team. Provide guidance on the MEL plan revisions. Met with team in the Philippines
Munir Mahomar	M&E Technology Associate	Supported the technical operations for the data sharing agreement and the O2 dashboard.
Diana Perez-Cordova	M&E Technology Associate	Supported the MEL dashboard and the data management of the WRLSS and WORQ tools.
Alejandra Bonifaz	Senior Technical Advisor	Provided technical guidance on YDA sustainability and expansion.
Chris Murray	Senior Technical Advisor	Provided technical support regarding strategies for quality of step-down implementation of BYOB, WBL and accompaniment and post-training support activities through DepEd ALS, TESDA and DTI.
Tania Tzelnic	Senior Technical Advisor	Provided technical support and tool development for youth engagement
Melanie Sany	Director, Youth and Workforce Development	Provided technical guidance to the team for strategies regarding the O2 targets, FY23 work planning and new initiatives include PSE and green jobs.
Evan Lane	Security Advisor	Monitored the COVID-19 and security situations. Provided guidance and support for administrative and technical staff.



Look Ahead to the Next Quarter

April

IR1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Building for BAE Conduct of Teachers Professional Development Course 3 ALS 2.0 Delivery and Management Development of IAI Episodes 9 and 10 Deadline of Applications for the O2-ALS Research Grant for HEIs
IR2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of Trainers on 21st Century Skills in Region 7 and Don Bosco-One TVET TESDA Writeshop on 21st Century Skills Modules for NC 3 and 4 Levels Hands-on Skills Practice for TOP Completers Meeting with TESDA NCR on HERO Training for CTECs Conduct of HERO TOT for TESDA CTECs
IR3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination Meetings with partners and YDAs Youth Networks Activities Youth Volunteering Activities Conduct of HERO TOT to HEIs in Zamboanga, Angeles, Legazpi, Isabela, Iloilo, General Santos, and Iligan
CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Based Learning-Industry Linkage Coordination (WBL-ILC) Manual Finalized Modules for DTI Grants Performance Assessments Midterm Monitoring Visits Preparations for the Higher Education Learning Summit

May

IR1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity Building for BAE and ALS Teachers Development of IAI Episodes 9 and 10 Evaluation of Applications from Philippine HEIs to the O2-ALS Research Grant
IR2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOT on 21st Century Skills, WBL, BYOB with other TVI Associations in TESDA Regions and Don Bosco-One TVET O2 SILC End of Program Event with CRS TOP Graduations in Iligan and Iloilo Initial Turnover of YATOP to TTI or YDA member partner recipients Conduct of HERO TOT to TESDA National Capital Region CTECs
IR3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination Meetings Youth Networks Youth Volunteering Activities Conduct of HERO TOT to HEIs in Quezon City, Valenzuela City, Cotabato City HERO Rollouts led by HEIs across O2's Sites

May

CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Call • Partnership Agreements • Continued coordination • Work Based Learning-Industry Linkage Coordination (WBL-ILC) Manual • Finalized Modules for DTI • Grants Performance Assessments • Midterm Monitoring Visits • Higher Education Learning Summit • Launch of the Two Higher Education Collaborative Grants with US HEIs; and local Government, Academe, or Industry
----	--

June

IR1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity Building for BAE and ALS Teachers • Review and Finalization of Episodes 9 and 10 • IAI Scriptwriting Workshop • Negotiations for the O2-ALS Research Grant
IR2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOT on 21st CS, WBL, BYOB for TVI associations in TESDA Regions • TOP Graduations in Pasig, Iligan and Iloilo • Turnover of YATOP to TTI/YDA member partner recipients • Soft Launch Event for TESDA's 5th Cycle NTESDP
IR3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination Meetings • Youth Networks • Youth Volunteering Activities • Conduct of OCAT/LRIR Endline Workshop • Conduct of HERO TOT to HEIs in Cagayan De Oro City and Davao City • HERO Rollouts led by HEIs across O2's Sites
CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Call • Partnership Agreements • Continued coordination • Work Based Learning-Industry Linkage Coordination (WBL-ILC) Manual • Finalized Modules for DTI • Grants Performance Assessments • Midterm Monitoring Visits • Deadline of Applications for the Two Higher Education Collaborative Grants with US HEIs; and local Government, Academe, or Industry

Annexes

Annex A: O2 in the Media (January-March 2023)

	Date	Media Outlet	Author	Title	Link
1	19-Jan-23	iOrbit News	N/A	USAID helps out 599 Angeleño OSY	https://iorbitnews.com/usaids-helps-out-599-angeleno-osy/?fbclid=IwAR1aVy7r_l4l1suwrl0FH_u8nBioipnvUA1jslXUNbjctVW2HXLOgqeBESpA
2	20-Feb-23	PIA Davao Region	N/A	Kapehan sa Dabaw	https://fb.watch/iOCaz2Pu77/
3	22-Feb-23	Sunstar Davao	Iona Finlay C. Mendoza	USAID project seen to benefit 180K out-of-school youth in Mindanao	https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1954116/davao/local-news/usaids-project-seen-to-benefit-180k-out-of-school-youth-in-mindanao
4	22-Feb-23	PIA Davao Region	Antonino Oblianda	1st nat'l youth dev't alliance summit to gather youth development stakeholders in the country	https://pia.gov.ph/news/2023/02/22/1st-natl-youth-devt-alliance-summit-to-gather-youth-development-stakeholders-in-the-country?fbclid=IwAR2CzB_AdX7QiMT_O_pT3EuRTTqc1JrFND5LWWWhXxVDV6rH64Wjo8Nx2BbAM
5	22-Feb-23	Philippine News Agency	Robinson Niñal Jr. (Photos only)	Vice President Duterte delivers her speech via a video during the National YDA Summit in Davao City	https://www.facebook.com/pnagovph/posts/pfbid05BSkmhgoxC4Mb68PJx2GDYGHvN6VuhuaOHMvUkRzvRbysLfbE19qw3nejQNiErc9l
6	23-Feb-23	PTV Davao	N/A	1st National Youth development alliance summit, gipahigayon sa Davao City	https://www.facebook.com/ptvnewsmindanao/videos/942338983443457/
7	23-Feb-23	91.5 Brigada News FM	N/A	Kapin 100,000 Ka Ma Out of School Youth sa Mindanao Himuong Benepisiyaryo sa Program Ilalom sa USAID	https://www.facebook.com/915brigadaadavao/posts/pfbid0jeAsNdYSfeEGbE_EKTYswT9NxuuRkqkfsAod2Gricqp6Es_vBcGfD8GmQZAP3tcgj9l
8	23-Feb-23	Bombo Radyo Davao	N/A	Mahigit 180,000 na mga OSY sa Mindanao, makakatanggap ng benepisyo galing sa USAID program	https://www.bomboradyo.com/mahigit-180000-na-mga-oys-sa-mindanao-makakatanggap-ng-benepisyo-galing-sa-usaid-program
9	25-Feb-23	Politiko	N/A	Mayor Matabalao gets award from USAID	https://mindanao.politics.com.ph/mayor-matabalao-gets-award-from-usaid/
10	03-Mar-23	Daily Guardian	N/A	200 Filipino Youth Leaders join U.S. Summit to strengthen programs for out-of-school youth	https://www.dailyguardian.com.ph/200-filipino-youth-leaders-join-u-s-summit-to-strengthen-programs-for-out-of-school-youth/
11	04-Mar-23	Sunstar Davao	n/a	200 Filipino Youth Leaders Join US Summit	https://www.pressreader.com/philippines/sunstar-davao/20230304/page/10
12	05-Mar-23	Daily Tribune	n/a	Health education, empowerment programs	https://www.pressreader.com/philippines/daily-tribune-philippines/20230305/page/15

	Date	Media Outlet	Author	Title	Link
				for Gen Z, out-of-school youth	
13	06-Mar-23	Business World		USAID Philippines awards BCPD another grant for female OSY	https://www.pressreader.com/philippines/business-world/20230306/281964611929698
14	06-Mar-23	RNG Luzon	N/A	200 Filipino Youth Leaders Join U.S. Summit to Strengthen Programs for Out-of-School Youth	https://www.rngph.com/200-filipino-youth-leaders-join-u-s-summit-to-strengthen-programs-for-out-of-school-youth/
15	07-Mar-23	Metro News Central	Noah James	Valenzuela's Youth Development Alliance honored at national summit	https://metronewscentral.net/valenzuela/metro-cities/valenzuelas-youth-development-alliance-honored-at-national-summit
16	08-Mar-23	The Post	Arturo Belano	Over 200 leaders participate in youth dev't alliance summit	https://thepost.net.ph/news/region/over-200-leaders-participate-in-youth-devt-alliance-summit/
17	09-Mar-23	The Manila Times	Leander C. Domingo	200 Filipino youth leaders join US summit to strengthen OSY programs	https://www.manilatimes.net/2023/03/09/campus-press/200-filipino-youth-leaders-join-us-summit-to-strengthen-osy-programs/1881948
18	18-Mar-23	iNews Pasig	Luanne Peñano	Tiyansa ng mga Out-of-School youth sa mas magandang kinabukasan, Programa sa Pasig	https://fb.watch/jwjMiEaXjD/
19	21-Mar-23	PIA Bohol	N/A	Kapihan sa PIA on "USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program"	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEPBI0RAmOM
20	24-Mar-23	PIA	Irene Joy Dayo	OSYDA members meet city exec, take oath	https://pia.gov.ph/news/2023/03/24/osyda-members-meet-city-exec-take-oath?fbclid=IwAR0RTMCm5Mq3S-Vcf-KeBL3A9tmd15Yco4BkYzt9HGyymMF-tVqi4376Tc
21	24-Mar-23	PIA Region V		USAID pinuri ang Opportunity 2.0 Legazpi City youth alliance	https://web.facebook.com/watch/?v=1353367688842636
22	25-Mar-23	PTV News	N/A	CDO strengthens OSYDA that addresses out-of-school youth concerns	https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=-UX-2hkiq5l&fbclid=IwAR0T8NOWbHatXC27Vvw9mJYKiIMwyUVW7urJCRfenntUCEYxKDh50_6yMC4
23	26-Mar-23	PIA Region 10	N/A	OSYDA members meet Mayor Uy, take oath	https://www.facebook.com/pia10normin/posts/pfbid02UaHZognCgzWwsJtLn9YfjQ8UrmCX8UkS8i6GLSsWyfrTmFNK6aCqQk3Zi5AW7fMl
24	30-Mar-23	PIA Region 10	KaYa Na	KaYa NA activity capacitates young moms, OSYs	https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2023/03/30/kaya-na-activity-capacitates-young-moms-osys?fbclid=IwAR2c4CbTWnyBgP288Av8Zd0x9XNhTN-FGqnvhnuN3YbwJgtfJq5Yz33oUDY
25	31-Mar-23	Mindanao Today	Irene Joy Dayo	OSYDA members meet city exec, take oath	Print only

Annex B. Success Stories

Improved access to training helps young mom upskill, find job

USAID-TESDA collaboration enhance training access for out-of-school youth in Tagbilaran City



Leaving school to be a mom

When Clarice found out she was pregnant at 19, she dropped out of college. She was only in her freshman year. "I felt my parents' disappointment. I was losing hope and I felt dejected. I also felt immense guilt when I thought about becoming a mom at such a young age, and quitting my studies. I didn't believe that I would be able to achieve anything after this."

When their son was born, her partner was working at a local mall as a promodiser. One income was barely enough to support their new family as well as two more families that were relying on Clarice and her partner. She tried job hunting but found she lacked the skills and competencies local jobs required.

Back on her feet

For young people in challenging conditions, a short-term, flexible way of upskilling is through Technical Vocational Education and Training or TVET. Unfortunately for Clarice, the nearest training center to her in Tagbilaran City required fees she could not afford as a stay-at-home mom.

When USAID boosted its support to TVET in the Philippines, it made sure it was more accessible to marginalized youth. USAID and Education Development Center, through the Opportunity 2.0 program, made the TESDA Online Program (TOP) more accessible to out-of-school youth through loaning tablets, distributing copies of printed modules, and engaging community-based facilitators. Youth like Clarice were now able to upskill and pursue a chosen TVET course.



Because of USAID Opportunity 2.0, I found a good job. Even if I will face many challenges in the future, I believe I can take on anything. With my new job, I know we will eventually be more financially stable and be able to provide for our child better.

— Clarice, 24, completed Housekeeping course through TESDA Online Program



Success Story: Improved access to training helps young mom upskill, find job in Tagbilaran City



Clarice (left) during work and business readiness training



Clarice (front, center) with colleagues at JJ Seafood Village Restaurant

USAID and EDC also enhanced the TVET curriculum with TESDA so that trainees gain more life and soft skills along with their technical skills, making them even more work and business-ready.

In Tagbilaran, tourism and hospitality are the leading job generators open to hiring young people like Clarice. When she learned about USAID Opportunity 2.0, she enrolled in a housekeeping course through TOP, and slowly gained back her confidence and drive to support her family. Motivated by previous job rejections where she was told she lacked skills, she successfully completed her TVET course and was finally hired by local restaurant in the city.

"I got to apply the skills I learned in communicating with people and keeping the restaurant up to standard in terms of cleanliness," Clarice beamed.

After an intensive one-month training period, Clarice received positive remarks from her new employer. "Clarice has good communication skills, especially in dealing with customers. She can work under pressure even with less supervision," said Ms. Janice Anore, JJ Seafood Village Restaurant HR Manager.



My parents are so happy that I made it. Because of this opportunity that I had through USAID, I feel as if I completed a four-year degree course. I no longer feel that different from people who actually finished college.

— Clarice, 24, former out-of-school youth from Tagbilaran City



"I believe I can take on anything"

"Because of Opportunity 2.0, I found a good job. Even if I will face many challenges in the future, I believe I can take on anything. With my new job, I know that our household will eventually be more financially stable, and we will be able to provide for our child better."

Stories like Clarice's are not uncommon. Difficult social, economic, familial, and personal circumstances are hindering young people from accessing better opportunities. USAID's support enabled TESDA to ensure holistic training for out-of-school youth and prepare them to become valuable assets in the workplace. USAID and TESDA continue to collaborate in engaging more marginalized youth in TVET courses, and connect them with local businesses to gain employment. As of January 2023, more than 1,200 out-of-school youth have completed TVET courses online across 12 Philippine cities.

Opportunity 2.0 is a five-year (2020-2025) program that aims to improve the learning and earning outcomes of out-of-school Filipino youth by working with key stakeholders in government, industry and academia to strengthen education, training, and employment systems at national and local levels.

OSY to Business Owner: Building Communities One Cup of Coffee At A Time

Cagayan de Oro City is a bustling city in Misamis Oriental, south of the Philippines. It hosted a Food and Travel Festival in 2018 as the economic hub and gateway to the Northern Mindanao region. While the city grows, so too its out-of-school youth (OSY) population. "I stopped school because there was no one to support me," said John Cayman Dungog, 22, a former OSY from Cagayan de Oro.

"Because of the pandemic, everything stopped," John recalls. "There were fights in the family also. I didn't know what to do, so I was looking for a way to support myself. I was selling bananas as a source of income."

He also tried applying to more than 10 jobs but was not accepted to any of them. This was around the time when he saw an opportunity on social media to join USAID's Opportunity 2.0 program, an initiative that aimed to uplift OSYs like John in the country. The program focused on improving systems around youth so that they have better opportunities in employment, education, and entrepreneurship.

The program tapped and capacitated local schools and training institutions to roll out work and business readiness trainings to marginalized youth. In Cagayan de Oro City, through a local technical-vocational training center that specialized in food and beverage courses, Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) modules were added into the training curricula. BYOB, adopted from the Education Development Center, is a module that is proven to equip learners with essential entrepreneurship skills like business planning, financing, and growing clients, among others.

John was described by his peers during the training as quiet, keeping to himself. However, he would approach his trainers at Jamaican F&B Training Center after each session and ask about coffee bean quality, roast types, and methods of creating drinks. During one of their performance evaluations, he had his first taste of brewed coffee from his trainers.



I wanted the people of my community to experience the things that were taught to me.

— John Cayman Dungog, 22
Former OSY in Cagayan de Oro City



OSY to Business Owner: Building Communities One Cup of Coffee At A Time

"Our instructor had us taste espresso as part of our training program to determine the acidity and sweetness of the coffee. I didn't like the taste at first... But he had us taste a Spanish latte for the first time. I was surprised that it tasted good, that it comes from the same espresso we had earlier!" The experience, he said, changed him.

John fell in love with coffee as a product and thought about establishing it as a business. He saved up his allowance from the BYOB training and used it to purchase coffee beans and equipment. He practiced at home and sold coffee from there. After he saved around Php 3,000 (USD 54), he opened his first popup store in the town plaza.



Part of the reason why he established his business in the town of Jasaan is his love for his local community. He wanted to be able to share his story and his opportunities with those around him, which is why included them in his business model, applying BYOB skills. He hires his staff locally and utilizes the *habal-habal* (motor bike) drivers in his delivery services, letting them keep the delivery fee for themselves.

His popup, ingeniously propped on a motor bike, became very popular on social media. Local bloggers shared about it so much he had difficulty accommodating so many customers. He would have people traveling all the way from different parts of the province to try his coffee.

With each cup of coffee he sold, and he put his money back in to the business, just like what he learned from BYOB. The bloggers and the idea of making his family proud encouraged him. "From my popup, all the income I had, I put into the business, even if it was only five pesos (0.08 cents). If I can buy three cases of milk, I would be happy," John said.

After just a few months, his hard work paid off—The Brew Box Café launched in January 2023. He designed his own logo and interiors, and even did the carpentry for the tables and chairs. He also expanded his menu with non-coffee based drinks, pastries, and snack food such as Korean-style sandwiches and lasagna.

To date, USAID through its local partners has reached more than 3,000 out-of-school youth and engaged with over 120 employers across the public and private sectors in Cagayan de Oro City alone. Through its Opportunity 2.0 program, USAID has successfully introduced BYOB in the technical vocational curriculum in the Philippines. In partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority as well as local private training institutions, learners across the country can now be more business-ready through BYOB.



My end goal is to help others, like with my staff and the local riders and their families. want to be able to offer them jobs and opportunities. I want to build a community as well.

— John plans to build more branches across Cagayan De Oro City in the next five years.

Opportunity 2.0 is a five-year (2020-2025) program that aims to improve the learning and earning outcomes of out-of-school Filipino youth by working with key stakeholders in government, industry and academia to strengthen education, training, and employment systems at national and local levels.

USAID opens new possibilities for young breadwinner in Cebu



Yna (left), young freelance make-up artist in Cebu, takes a selfie with a client.

Yna Marie Cabañog, 20, started working since the age of ten. She took up jobs washing dishes and grilling barbecues. “My family is poor, and we almost always don’t have enough for the expenses, so I had to work at an early age to help support my siblings’ schooling,” recalls Yna as the eldest among seven children, with a stay-at-home mom, and a father who did construction work.

Having been an out-of-school youth, Yna was discriminated against. “I lost confidence in myself. I settled for less because I believed I was not worthy of more,” she said. But Yna was not one to give up in the face of adversity. She found a second chance through alternative education and through USAID.



I joined USAID's Opportunity 2.0 to learn about available opportunities and discover what else I'm capable of.

— Yna, 20, former out-of-school youth from Cebu City



Yna (right most) and her training batchmates posing with training materials

Through USAID’s Opportunity 2.0 program, out-of-school youth like Yna are able to gain life and work skills as well as a support system through peer groups. Training programs were adopted from the Education Development Center to help ease youth into better opportunities in employment, entrepreneurship, and higher education. Launched in 2020, the program was meant to boost local education and workforce development systems to cater to the conditions of marginalized youth.

After training in Opportunity 2.0, learning about development pathway and now more work-ready, Yna is studying in Lahug Night School while working as a house help and a make-up artist on the side. “It gets tiring, but I have to do this for my family.”

USAID opens new possibilities for young breadwinner in Cebu

Yna started dabbling with make-up as a hobby in 2018. "I feel like I can freely express myself when I do make-up. It boosts my confidence, and I also like boosting my clients' confidence by giving quality service. It really makes me happy." She followed make-up artists and schools on social media, learning techniques and styles from their content. She also dreams of attending one of their master classes one day. "I enjoy doing it. I made it my hobby and eventually my side hustle. As a working student, it allows me to work around my schedule."

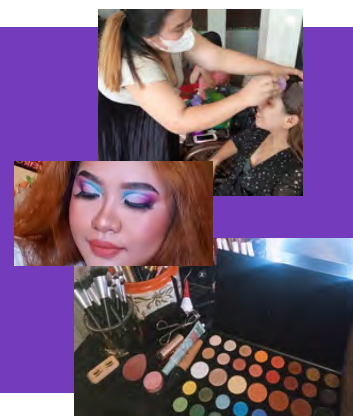
In addition to functional skills gained through the Philippine alternative education system, USAID Opportunity 2.0 added content that equips learners with soft skills—something highly sought after in the world of work and business.

Using Life Skills modules, Yna learned interpersonal communication, how to practice leadership, operate in a team, begin work habits, as well as health and safety practices in the workplace, among others. This Work-Based Learning approach also allowed her to link with professionals in fields she is interested in, establishing that valuable mentorship and guidance in a chosen career path. Yna used these skills and insights to boost her make-up business.



O2 helped me get to know myself better. I now fully understand the skills I do best. We were able to interview professionals and managers, which I'm really thankful for because it really boosted my confidence.

— Yna, 20, on her work and business readiness training



Following tips from accomplished make-up artists in Cebu City, Yna has started marketing her services on social media. Through this, she began receiving clients for events like graduations, school celebrations, and weddings.

In addition to upskilling, Opportunity 2.0 also incorporates opportunities for youth to interact with others from their community. Meaningful youth engagement empowers young people by fulfilling their full potential, and solidifies their success along their chosen development pathway. During training, Yna developed into a peer coach. She was able to share her experiences with fellow youth who were also struggling.

"I am super proud that I became a peer coach!" Yna realized that she has the indispensable ability to connect and effectively communicate with other people. In the end, through Opportunity 2.0, Yna gained her confidence back and was able to build on her leadership skills. Currently, she is the Class President at her night school and is the top student at her year level. Upon graduating senior high, Yna plans to apply for a scholarship and pursue a Social Work degree.

"I never saw myself as a leader. *Grabe talaga*, the program motivated me and made me believe that I can do so much better."



Opportunity 2.0 is a five-year (2020-2025) program that aims to improve the learning and earning outcomes of out-of-school Filipino youth by working with key stakeholders in government, industry and academia to strengthen education, training, and employment systems at national and local levels.

EDC Unit 2901, Antel Global Corporate Center Building (29th Floor)
Dona Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines

www.opportunity.org.ph

Follow us

🐦 @opportunity2_0
f @USAIDOpportunity2.0
in USAID Opportunity 2.0



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Education
Development
Center