



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**EDC**

Education  
Development  
Center



FEBRUARY 2020 - MARCH 2021

# Year 1 in Retrospect

**USAID OPPORTUNITY 2.0 PROGRAM**

Second Chance Opportunities for Out-of School Youth

# About the Program



Opportunity 2.0 is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) program designed to better the chances of Filipino out-of-school youth to gain education, livelihood, and employment.

In five years, we aim to make an impact for at least 180,000 young people in the Philippines. Additionally, through this project, we will train more than 1,600 teachers and engage 2,200 employers in 12 cities and hubs sites including Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, as well as Metro Davao.

To do this, we are supporting the Philippines' national and local capacity in providing earning and learning services for the Filipino out-of-school youth. This entails great collaborative work with the Department of Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, City Governments, Business Sector, Academe, NGOs, and the youth themselves.

## Progress So Far

Data as of March 2021



# 15,829

Total youth reached through self-directed modules

Self-directed modules written, produced, and shared by O2 to DepEd ALS and TESDA provided 15,829 youth the opportunity to study work readiness skills from wherever they are.



# 3,134

Teachers and trainers capacitated

A total number of 3,134 Alternative Learning System (ALS) teachers and TESDA trainers have been trained to deliver self-directed modules on ALS Life Skills and Work Readiness on 21st Century Skills to OSY across the Philippines.



# 31

Modules developed

In addition to ALS Life Skills modules (used by DepEd) and Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills (used by TESDA), the program also produced modules for the Work Based Learning (WBL) and Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) trainings.

# Progress So Far

Data as of March 2021



## 200

Local stakeholders oriented on Positive Youth Development

Through the continuing series of Positive Youth Development (PYD) orientation workshops in all program sites, a total of 200 members of Youth Development Alliances (YDAs) have been acquainted with the potentials of out-of-school youth (OSYs) to demonstrate employable skills.



## 162

Employers engaged

Through events like "Upskilled and Ready: An Agile Workforce for the Economic Reboot" and one-to-one exploratory meetings, O2 has engaged the Private Sector in discussions and partnerships on relevant workforce development for the fluid world of work.

Various industries, from Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to large companies, both national and multinational, have expressed support to provide employment and self-employment opportunities for youth.



## 8

Youth Development Alliances established

In January 2021, with the signing of an Executive Order, Valenzuela City joined the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Cotabato, General Santos, Isabela, Legazpi, Tagbilaran, and Zamboanga that have formally created Youth Development Alliances (YDAs).

YDAs are mechanisms for local stakeholders to collaborate on youth development initiatives.

## AN ALS TEACHER'S TESTIMONIAL

**"This may seem a little funny, but would you believe that some of my learners are very happy [to finally be able to] fill out a biodata, and make a resumé by themselves?"**

Seven months since first training on how to deliver Self-Directed Life Skills Modules, Rosemarie Rubia, ALS Coordinator from the DepEd Zamboanga Peninsula, is impressed by the difference this made on her students. Rosemarie was one of the teachers trained to deliver new content and mode of teaching developed by DepEd through O2.

*"With the Self-Directed modules, mas madali ang pagtuturo sa kanila kahit pa minsan lang magkita, kasi kayang intindihin ni learner ang module nang mag-isa."*  
(With the Self-Directed modules, teaching is easier even if we only meet once a week, since they already have a module that they can easily understand.)

"The struggle is not on the delivery of the modules but on how to keep the fire burning for our OSY," she added.



# Year 1 Milestones



**March 2020**

◀ Leadership is onboarded



**April - July 2020**

Coordination meetings with key partners at national, regional, and local levels

Implementation staff onboarding



**September 2020**

◀ Self-paced ALS modules are delivered and teacher training is rolled out

Grants program engaging community-based youth-serving organizations launched



**October 2020**

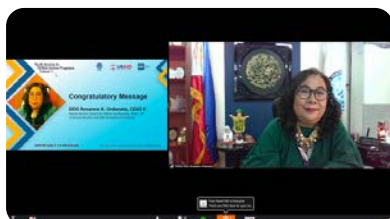
◀ 150 laptops handed over to DepEd ALS supporting education continuity plan amid COVID-19

Support to TESDA Online Program commenced



**December 2020**

◀ Upskilled & Ready online forum engaged up to 200 business sector representatives to learn about OSY as a valuable workforce in rebuilding businesses post-pandemic



**February 2021**

◀ First batch of 60 OSY graduated from TESDA Online Program with program support

**February 2020**

Project is awarded

**March 15, 2020**

Lockdown imposed in Metro Manila due to COVID-19



**August 2020**

▶ Opportunity 2.0 is officially launched



O2 launched in 12 cities ▶

**November 2020**

**Positive Youth Development** orientation began to roll out in 12 cities

▼ **Self-paced Work Readiness Modules** on 21st Century Skills handed over to TESDA and training for master trainers roll out



**January 2021**

Grants program engaging training service providers launched

Laptops for 371 ALS implementers handed over ▶



# Pivoting to Distance Learning

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, USAID Opportunity 2.0 was forced to figure out how to operate and work towards its goals in a different way. We analyzed our content and local situations. We explored options for delivering engaging learner-centered trainings that youth could do at home. We thought about how to build trust in a classroom and how we could translate that trust to a virtual space. In our first year, here's what we've been able to do in support of restoring education to out-of-school youth.



## Supporting key agencies

The program has been responsive to the needs identified by the lead agencies that support Filipino OSY. To restore education and training access for OSY, COVID-19 response priority activities were developed in collaboration with DepEd and TESDA.



## Updating content

Revision of ALS expanded Life Skills modules and TESDA's Work Readiness modules on 21st Century Skills were accelerated to incorporate Self-Directed learning modules and teacher professional development materials for distance learning.



## Capacitating teachers and trainers to deliver new content and modality

Training for ALS and TESDA Master Trainers was conducted to orient them on the new content and activities incorporated in online and blended learning. Training on new modules is rolled out to regions across the Philippines.

Thousands of modules were printed and distributed. Laptop units were also procured to enable ALS implementers to operate online.



## Easing OSY's access to TESDA Online Program

An initiative supporting out-of-school youth was piloted in the cities of Cotabato, Isabela, and Zamboanga. They were loaned tablets and ensured periodic technical support from community-based facilitators so they can participate in TESDA's Online Program. This support is now being expanded to other program sites.



## Supporting research on the effects of COVID-19 to OSY

A "Listening to the Voices of OSY" study was conducted to better understand the effects of COVID-19 on out-of-school youth. This informed Opportunity 2.0's programming amid the COVID-19 crisis.

# Moving Forward

A message from the Chief of Party



“Moving forward, we will continue to adapt, to cope, and to innovate... We will continue to support our excellent partners, engage with employers and higher education institutions to provide opportunities for and awareness of the OSY in the Philippines.”

The USAID-funded Opportunity 2.0 program kicked off in March 2020 when, with our start-up team still on the ground and only 6 of our personnel in post, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and we all had to return to our homes across the Philippines and around the world. We did not even get a chance to locate a program office!

One year on, and we're still largely working from home, except we now have small offices in Metro Manila and in Davao, we have over 60 staff on board, five excellent sub-contractor organizations activated, and we are making great strides towards our targets of strengthening systems to support Out-of-School Youth (OSYs).

In response to the pandemic, we accelerated curriculum development and delivery modalities, trained many trainers in this new curriculum, improved access to online modules for youth with inadequate technology and poor connectivity, set up Youth Development Alliances (YDAs) in 12 cities, conducted studies into the effect of the pandemic on OSY lives and their employment opportunities, as well as many more achievements. All of this was accomplished while ramping up the program personnel and adapting to the challenges of new ways of working.

Moving forward, we will continue to adapt, to cope, and to innovate. I don't think any of us expected to be still in this situation one year on, but it now seems likely that we really are, to use an overused term, in the new normal. With the continuing, excellent and flexible support we are receiving from USAID Philippines, we will build on our Year 1 achievements to further facilitate the YDAs, to reach many more OSYs to further their education and to equip them with crucial life skills and aid their transition to further education, employment and self-employment. We will continue to support our excellent Government of the Philippines partners, the Department of Education Alternative Learning System Task Force and the Technical Education Skills Development Authority in their valuable work and we will continue to engage with employers and higher education institutions to provide opportunities for and awareness of the OSY in the Philippines.

Thank you for taking the time to read our retrospective. If you think you can work with us please do not hesitate to reach out – we will be very pleased to hear from you.

*Maraming Salamat!*

## We're online!



[Opportunity.org.ph](https://Opportunity.org.ph)



[@USAIDOpportunity2.0](https://www.facebook.com/USAIDOpportunity2.0)



[@opportunity2\\_0](https://twitter.com/opportunity2_0)



[USAID Opportunity 2.0](https://www.linkedin.com/company/USAID-Opportunity-2.0)



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Education  
Development  
Center