



QUARTERLY
PROGRESS
REPORT

APRIL - JUNE

2021

OPPORTUNITY 2.0

SECOND CHANCE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Education
Development
Center



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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

ADZU	Ateneo de Zamboanga University
ALS	Alternative Learning System
ATI	Agricultural Training Institute
ATF	ALS Task Force
BSMED	Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development
BYOB	Be Your Own Boss
CDO	Cagayan De Oro City
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
COC	Certificate of Competency
COVID-19	Corona Virus 2019
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSWDO	City Social Welfare Development Office
DA	Department of Agriculture
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DepEd	Department of Education
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
EDC	Education Development Center
EO	Executive Order
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HERO	Higher-level Education or Training Readiness Orientation
IAI	Interactive Audio Instruction
IR	Immediate Results
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
LAC	Learning Action Cell
LLMA	Local Labor Market Assessment
LOP	Life of Program
LRIR	Local Resources Inventory Report
MOOC	Massive Open Online Course
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSME	Medium, Small, and Micro Enterprise
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NC	National Competency
NCR	National Capital Region
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
NITESD	National Institute for Technical Education and Skills Development

NSTP	National Service Training Program
NTTA	National TVET Trainers Academy
OCAT	Organizational Capacity Assessment
OSY	Out-of-school youth
PESO	Public Employment Service Office
PIA	Philippine Information Agency
POY	Pathways Orientation for the Youth
PYAP	Pag-asa Youth Association of the Philippines
PYD	Positive Youth Development
Q3	Quarter 3
RA	Republic Act
SDO	Schools Division Office
SEAMEO INNOTECH	Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology
SEEDS	Strengthening Education, Employment and Development Support for Out-of-School Youth Grants
SHS	Senior High School
SILC	Saving and Internal Lending Communities
SK	Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council)
TAYO	Team Albay Youth Organizations, Inc.
TESDA	Technical Education And Skills Development Authority
TOP	TESDA Online Program
TOT	Training of Trainers
TTI	TESDA Technology Institutions
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
VSO	Voluntary Services Overseas
WBL	Work-Based Learning
WRN	Work Ready Now
YDA	Youth Development Alliance
YLC	Youth Leaders Circle
YPPF	Youth Pathways Profiling Form
Y2	Year 2

USAID OPPORTUNITY 2.0 PROGRAM SITES

LUZON

- > Angeles City
- > Quezon City
- > Valenzuela City
- > Legazpi City

VISAYAS

- > Cebu City
- > Tagbilaran City

MINDANAO

- > Cagayan De Oro City
- > Cotabato City
- > Davao City
- > General Santos City
- > Isabela City
- > Zamboanga City



Executive Summary

Education Development Center (EDC) is pleased to submit the Opportunity 2.0 (O2) Program's Quarterly Progress Report covering the period April 1 to June 30, 2021 (FY21Q3).

We are happy to report that the systems strengthening approach to support out-of-school youth (OSY) has advanced with significant success as described through the three Intermediate Results (IRs) herein. I would like to highlight a few significant achievements:

USAID's O2 receives youth service award from DepEd Quezon City in June and recognized by the Quezon City Department of Education (DepEd) as an "Outstanding Stakeholder" as part of the Gawad Kaagapay which highlights contributions to promoting quality, accessibility and lifelong education for learners.

Support to DepEd Alternative Learning System Taskforce (DepEd ATF) through Teacher Professional Development, providing ALS teachers training and learner's kits, along with co-developing a post-training curriculum package for ALS completers. To date O2 has trained 2,564 ALS teachers, reaching 15,923 ALS learners. ALS is relying on flexible delivery modalities through DepEd's eSkwela program which O2 provided equipment in XX cities, along with developing Inter Interactive Audio Instruction (IAI) in collaboration with the new DepEd IAI Technical Working Group.

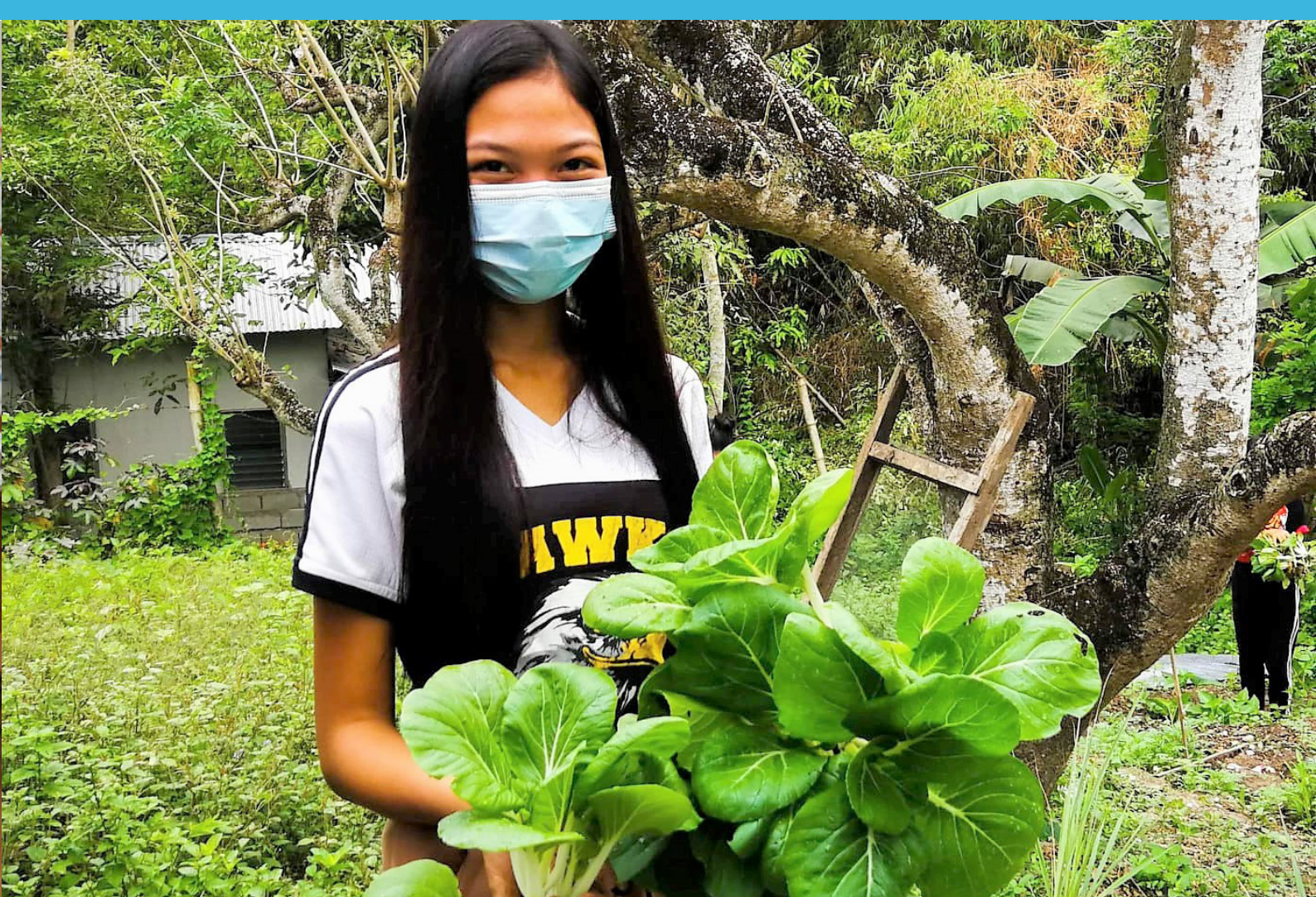
TESDA is another key partner with **O2 supporting TESDA Online Programs, re-designing workforce and entrepreneurship material for online**, and O2 expanded access to the TESDA Online Program to youth in Zamboanga, Isabela, and Cotabato and included Digital Citizenship and Ethics training delivered by Facebook Digital Tayo. Responding to the COVID-19 restrictions, O2 collaboratively re-designed instructional materials for online delivery of Work Based learning (WBL) and Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) so youth can continue to improve their skills and knowledge despite the challenges posted by the pandemic. Youth from Cebu City and Tagbilaran City were the first cohort of trainees to receive the online training.

DTI and O2 signed an agreement signed by Secretary Roman Lopez, to integrate O2 content into DTI's Youth Entrepreneurship Program, making EDC's BYOB and Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship accessible to more youth across the country.

I am pleased to share our work to build an enabling environment continues through the Youth Development Alliances (YDAs) conducting **YDA Strategic and Annual Planning** with nine cities having developed strategic and annual plans that will guide youth services. These plans incorporated a new level of data through O2's local labor market assessments (LLMAs) with youth-led data collection and multi-stakeholder analysis.

A final highlight is the **development of Guidebooks supporting youth's transition to continuing education** with Department of Education ALS Task Force and our higher education partners. The Higher-level Education or Training Readiness Orientation for Senior High School (HERO for SHS) guides were developed for learners and facilitators. HERO for SHS is a 16-hour orientation that serves as a foundation for further education counselling for ALS learners and completers.







Summary of Progress (Indicators)

Opportunity 2.0 (O2) continues to make significant progress to annual and life of project targets and effectively adjusting activities to comply with COVID-19 restrictions. This quarter, O2 has exceeded annual targets for five of the indicators.

- Indicator 7 (ES. 1- 12) – This quarter, 28 education administrators were trained to deliver 21st Century Skills, Life Skills, Work-Based Learning (WBL), and Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) bringing the total to 102 education administrators and officials trained which exceeds the Year 2 target of 100. These trainings included officials and managers of eight local training service providers receiving Youth Workforce Readiness Grants.
- Indicator 11 (ES 2 -52) – O2 trained 46 managers and trainers of Youth Workforce Readiness Grantee organizations to deliver the workforce readiness modules mentioned above. This surpasses the Year 2 (Y2) target of 30.
- Indicator 12 (ES. 2-54) – O2 onboarded eight HEIs that will serve training of teachers, pedagogy, tracking youth/monitoring which will lead to a community of practice for engaging youth. The program achieved double of its Year 2 target of four partnerships with HEIs to address local development objectives.
- Indicator 21 (Number of youth-friendly laws and policies) – While process on this indicator was not expected until Year 3, Legazpi City and Tagbilaran City passed local policies to benefit out-of-school youth (OSY). O2 lobbied with Team Albay Youth Organizations (TAYO) Inc., a youth-led

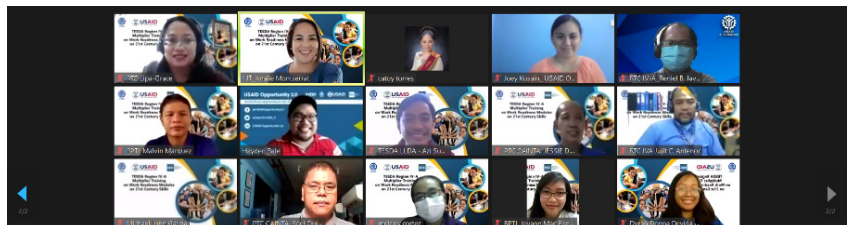
16,219

Youth reached



3,192

Teachers and trainers trained



186

Employers engaged



NGO, to include O2 youth in their programs and activities. As a result, TAYO passed six resolutions to engage O2 youth as volunteers in Legazpi City programs on health, environment, and peace and order, youth leadership. Through similar advocacy efforts, O2 persuaded the Tagbilaran City Livelihood Development Unit to prioritize OSY in their programs. Consequently, the Tagbilaran City Government passed a resolution releasing fund for a souvenir item manufacturing business for OSY.

- Indicator 24 (Number of YDAs established) - In Q3, O2 supported the Quezon City government in forming the ninth Youth Development Alliance, exceeding the LOP target of eight.

In terms of youth, educators, and employers reached in Quarter 3 (Q3):

- O2 increased the number of youth reached to 16,219 (40% of Y2 target) by expanding the TOP program in six sites and providing WBL and BYOB for Alternative Learning System (ALS) completers. In addition, there is an increase in ALS teachers using M&E Insight to record the youth participating in Life Skills. O2 is working with TESDA to finalize a data sharing agreement which will align TESDA data collection with O2 data collection and reporting.
- There are now 3,192 (188% of LOP target) educators that completed professional development activities with the addition of TESDA trainers and local training service providers trained to deliver workforce development modules.
- The number of employers engaged climbed to 186 (62% of Year 2 target). In addition, the program met over 400 private sector firms and hopes to deepen their engagement in the remaining months of Year 2 to reach the target of 300.

The table below summarizes the program's progress toward meeting Year 2 and LOP targets.

No	FAF # / Custom	Indicator	Y2 Target	Q3 Progress	LOP Target
1	Supp-15	Education system strengthened – policy reform	Yes	N/A	Yes
2	ES. 1-46	Percent of individuals who transition to further education or training following participation in USG-assisted programs	20%	0%	25%
3	EG. 6-11	Average percent change in earnings following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs	TBD	0%	TBD
4	EG. 6-12	Percent of individuals with new employment following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs	20%	0%	25%
5	EG. 6-13	Percent of individuals with improved soft skills following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs	80%	0%	80%

No	FAF # / Custom	Indicator	Y2 Target	Q3 Progress	LOP Target
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IR1: Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to develop, deliver, and monitor second-chance education programs for out-of-school youth

6	Supp-16	Education systems strengthened – Data Systems	No	Nationwide M&E training for key ALS personnel started in June	Yes
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Sub-IR 1.1: Second-chance programs teach innovative learning content that is more relevant and responsive to youth aspirations for education and jobs

7	ES. 1-12	Number of education administrators and officials who complete professional development activities with USG assistance	100	102	300
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8	ES. 1-6	Number of educators who complete professional development activities with USG assistance	1,350	3,192	1,700
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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

9	Custom	Number of youth participating in USG-funded training program	40,000	16,219	180,000
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10	ES. 2-1	Number of host country higher education institutions receiving capacity development support with USG assistance	3	18	15
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11	ES. 2-52	Number of host country higher education institutions receiving capacity development support with USG assistance	30	64	150
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12	ES. 2-54	Number of USG-supported partnerships that address regional, national, and/or local development objectives through or with higher education institutions	4	8	14
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Sub-IR 1.3 ALS supported to test flexible delivery modalities to meet the needs of diverse out-of-school youth populations

13	Custom	Number of individuals reached through flexible delivery modalities	6,000	16,219	6,000
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IR2: Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to deliver workforce readiness and technical-vocational training for out-of-school youth

14	Supp-12	Percent of individuals who pass a context-relevant assessment in a technical, vocational, or professional skill set following participation in USG-assisted programs	N/A	N/A	75%
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Sub-IR 2.1 National and local systems provide foundational skills in Work Readiness and Entrepreneurship

15	Custom	Number of teaching and learning materials (TLMs) that are inclusively representative produced with USG assistance	0	31	20
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No	FAF # / Custom	Indicator	Y2 Target	Q3 Progress	LOP Target
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Sub-IR 2.2 National and local youth workforce development systems are responsive to employers and prepare youth to transition into better jobs

16	EG. 6-14	Percent of individuals who complete USG-assisted workforce development programs	75%	0.7%	80%
17	Custom	Number of employers engaged	300	186	2,200

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

18	GNDR-2	Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, or employment)	50%	46%	50%
19	EG. 4.2-7	Number of individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance, or lending programs	125	28	500

Sub-IR2 2.4 Capacity of local training and accompaniment service providers built

20	Custom	Number of work experiences facilitated by USG-funded development program	200	0	2,000
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IR3: Improved enabling environment for Positive Youth Development at both national and local levels

21	Custom	Number of youth-friendly laws and policies	0	7	16
22	GNDR-3	Proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG-supported training or programming	60%	0%	60%

Sub-IR 3.1 Stakeholders sensitized to the potential of vulnerable youth

23	Custom	Number of individuals who participate in orientation workshops promoting positive youth development	150	200	150
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Sub-IR 3.2: Services, support networks, and relationships are more responsive to youth needs

24	Custom	Number of Youth Development Alliances (YDAs) established	5	9	8
25	CBLD-9	Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance	50%	0%	100%
26	Custom	Number of youth engaged in leadership activities	130	78	430

Sub-IR 3.3: Sustainable pathways for youth engagement created

27	Custom	Number of youth participating in volunteer activities	1,500	0	62,250
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Technical Programs Progress



O2 has made notable achievements in all program areas while continuing to adapt and pivot to address the COVID-19 restrictions. The team continues to apply adaptive management methods and approaches to ensure that program delivery is changing and evolving based on partner needs.

This report will focus on the technical activities supporting the Intermediate Results (IRs):

- ✓ **IR 1: Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to deliver second- chance education programs for out-of-school youth (OSY).**
- ✓ **IR 2: Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to deliver workforce readiness and technical-vocational training for OSY.**
- ✓ **IR 3: Improved enabling environment for positive youth development at both national and local levels.**

Cutting across these IRs are activities that address improving life skills for youth, strengthening the private sector, and greater university engagement in youth development.

PROGRESS ON IR1

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

Supporting new content delivery systems

This quarter O2 focused on supporting DepEd ALS content delivery systems which include Teacher Professional Development, M&E systems strengthening and rolling out flexible delivery modalities.

Capacity Building Program for DepEd ALS Implementers presented to and approved by DepEd ALS Task Force. O2 consortium's partner SEAMEO INNOTECH presented a proposed capacity building program to the Department of Education ALS Task Force (DepEd ATF) on April 29. The capacity building program was based on the results of a learning needs assessment, conducted in Q2 and validated in a series of activities with DepEd ALS Regional and Division ALS Focal from O2 sites. DepEd ATF approved the proposed five-year 'Capacity Building Program for DepEd ALS Implementers' in O2 sites with some minor refinement such as including resource kits and changing the order of course implementation. The inclusion of Learning Action Cells (LAC) for ALS teachers will also be incorporated in the program. LAC serves as a community of practice for teachers where knowledge, experience, and solutions can be shared within the group.

The capacity building program is designed for DepEd ALS implementers including Mobile Teachers, Coordinators, Master Teachers, Education Program Specialists, and Focal Persons.



I cannot overemphasize how important M&E is in the ALS program as we strive to provide second-chance education that is relevant and respected by the public and our stakeholders.

—DepEd Assistant Secretary for ALS G.H. Ambat



Participants during the opening program of Designing and Managing an M&E System Course for DepEd ALS on June 2021.

O2 provided Technical Assistance to DepEd ALS Task Force on M&E. In conjunction with SEAMEO INNOTECH, O2 provided technical assistance to DepEd ATF in setting up their Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System. SEAMEO INNOTECH Senior M&E Consultant Mr. Rey Macalindog conducted a series of consultations with ASec GH Ambat, Dir. Marilette Almayda, and their M&E team which led to the ALS M&E Work Plan and draft ALS M&E Capacity Building Plan which was submitted by Mr. Rey Macalindog to the DepEd Task Force on April 27. The Work Plan details the strategies, timetable, processes and tools for developing the M&E framework. The ALS M&E Capacity Building Plan outlines the training design and related capacity building activities to roll out the new ALS M&E system.

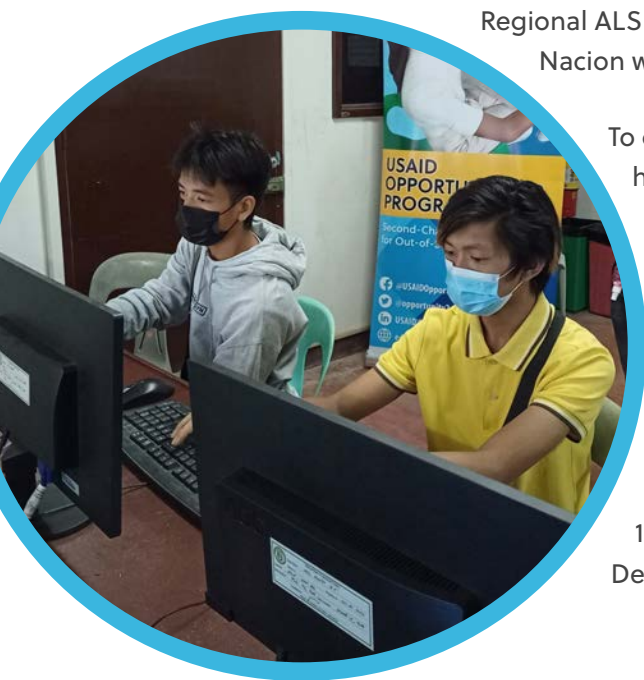
A Technical Working Group (TWG) was created through DepEd Memorandum (OM-OAGA-2021-0091). This TWG is chaired by ASec G.H. Ambat and co-chaired by Dir. Marilette Almayda.

DepEd ALS begins Course on Designing and Managing an M&E System. After preparatory activities with DepEd ATF, the first course on designing and managing a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system workshop titled 'Formulating an M&E Framework' was conducted on June 17 to 25. Three other courses on M&E systems and processes, M&E tools and techniques, as well as M&E scope of work are to follow in the next quarters. At the end of the five-month course, an enhanced M&E System for DepEd ALS will be established, where ALS learners' progress can be tracked.

The course was facilitated by SEAMEO INNOTECH and will continue with 50 ALS implementers representing various governance levels, central, region, division, district and community learning centers, 32 of whom are members of the newly created DepEd ALS M&E TWG.

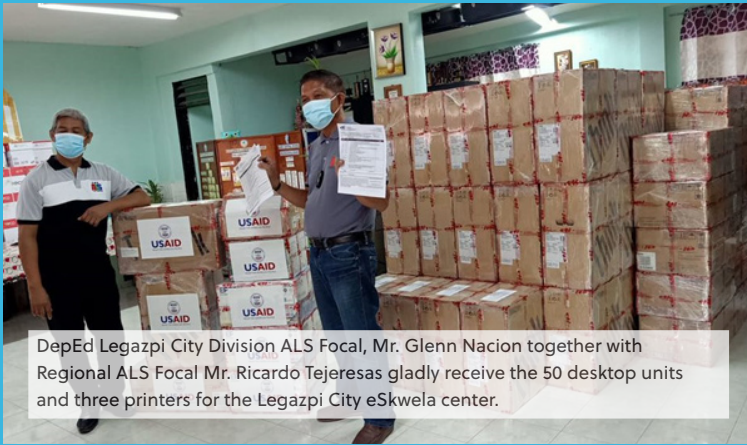
Supporting flexible delivery modality testing

Delivery of distance learning equipment for eSkwela Centers completed. To support DepEd ALS's learning continuity plan, O2 accelerated its support for the community-based eSkwela program, making education more accessible for this generation technology savvy learners who are affected by the COVID-19 crisis. O2 delivered 50 desktop units and three printers to the Legazpi City eSkwela Center in Albay Central School on June 2. The equipment will provide ALS teachers and learners the necessary equipment to provide quality education during these challenging times. DepEd Regional ALS Focal Mr. Ricardo Terejasas and Division ALS Focal Mr. Glen Nacion were on hand to receive this support.

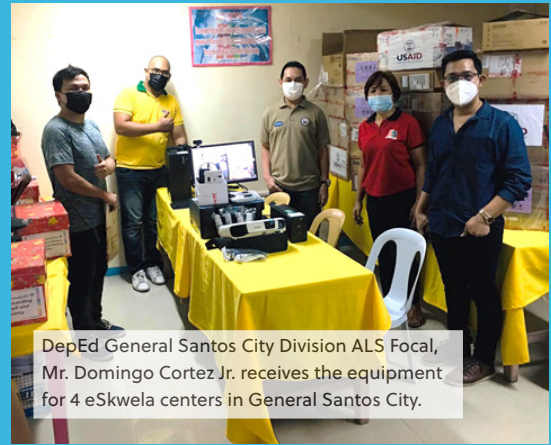


To date, 270 desktops, printers, LCD projectors, and screens have been successfully delivered to the five O2 pilot sites with information technology components: Davao City, General Santos City, Cagayan de Oro City, Legazpi City, and Angeles City.

Additional ALS Self-Directed Life Skills Modules delivered in NCR Hub sites. O2 accelerated activities on flexible learning modalities and distance learning and provided 13,095 additional printed copies of self-paced ALS Life Skills Modules 1-9 to Quezon City, Valenzuela City, Angeles City and Legazpi City. Deliveries in Cebu and Davao hubs will follow in July 2021.



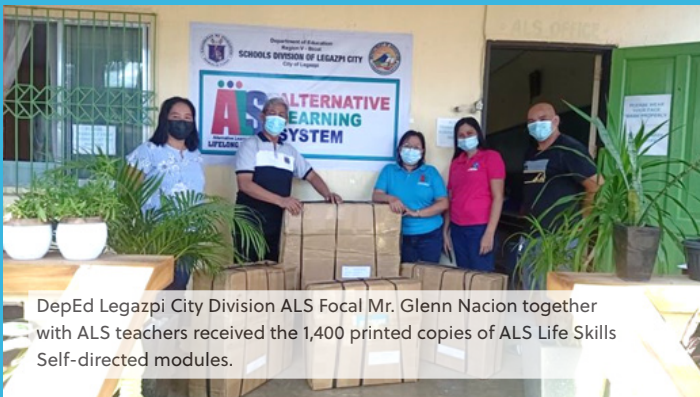
DepEd Legazpi City Division ALS Focal, Mr. Glenn Nacion together with Regional ALS Focal Mr. Ricardo Tejereras gladly receive the 50 desktop units and three printers for the Legazpi City eSkwela center.



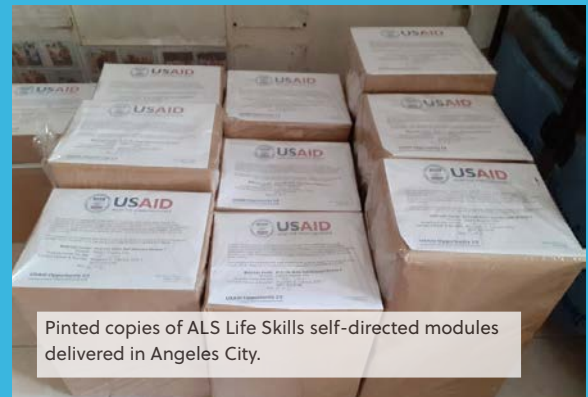
DepEd General Santos City Division ALS Focal, Mr. Domingo Cortez Jr. receives the equipment for 4 eSkwela centers in General Santos City.



DepEd Angeles City Division ALS Focal, Mr. Reynaldo Cabrera receives the eSkwela equipment for Angeles City.



DepEd Legazpi City Division ALS Focal Mr. Glenn Nacion together with ALS teachers received the 1,400 printed copies of ALS Life Skills Self-directed modules.



Pinted copies of ALS Life Skills self-directed modules delivered in Angeles City.

In support to DepEd ALS, O2 is also providing

- ✓ Teacher Professional Development for ALS teachers
- ✓ Development of ALS Life Skills self-directed modules
- ✓ Provision of learner's kits to support the continuity of learning, and
- ✓ Development of post training curriculum package for ALS completers, among others.

To date, O2 has trained

2,564
ALS teachers

reaching
15,923
ALS learners

These ALS Life Skills modules were developed to be self-paced for learners so they can continue their education when face-to-face classes are not in session. O2 facilitated a series of trainings for ALS implementers and teachers on how to deliver the new content using new flexible modalities.

TWG for Developing Interactive Audio Instruction (IAI) created. An 18-member TWG was established through the Memorandum OM-OAGA-2021-0099, signed by ASec G.H. S. Ambat on June 24. This TWG will support the development and review of IAI to accompany the ALS Life Skills Curriculum. This TWG is led by ASec G.H. Ambat, and joined by Dir. Marilette Almayda, Mr. Eric Labre, Senior Program Specialist from Bureau of Learning Resources Quality Assurance Division, Mr. Julie Lumogdang, ALS Division Focal of Schools Division Office (SDO) North Cotabato (who developed the first Radio-Based Instruction for ALS in the Philippines), and Mr. Reuben Herrera, Principal of Marikit Elementary School (who pioneered the first school-based radio instruction in the country).



The IAI TWG with ASec G.H. Ambat and Dir. Marilette Almayda, with O2's DCOP on Technical Programs, Dr. Maria Theresa Mokamad during their first online meeting on June 24.

After a series of meetings, the IAI TWG convened on June 24 to finalize the terms of reference outlining the timeline and process of review, revision, validation, and finalization of IAI episodes. EDC's Dr. Kit Yasin conducted a review of a pilot episode and presented findings to the IAI TWG. An initial 60 IAI episodes will be created in collaboration with the TWG, along with capacity building workshops to support DepEd in long term development of IAI programs, ensuring learning continuity and access to education for vulnerable youth despite the pandemic.

Support on policy-making initiatives of DepEd ALS Task Force

DepEd ATF makes group strides in finalizing the ALS Law Implementing Rules and Regulations.

DepEd ATF held a National Online Consultation Meeting for the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 11510 (also known as the ALS Act) on June 15. The meeting convened a broad range of ALS stakeholders included USAID Opportunity 2.0, SEAMEO INNOTECH, BRAC Philippines, E-net Philippines, Solar Learning, Save the Children, UNICEF, Arnold Jansen Catholic Mission Foundation, De La Salle University, Xavier University, Silliman University, Don Bosco University, Bicol University, and Miriam College. Stakeholders provided inputs and comments on the draft IRR to ensure it is responsive and relevant to the needs of Filipino learners and communities.

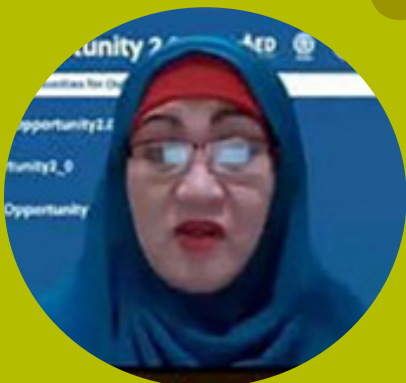
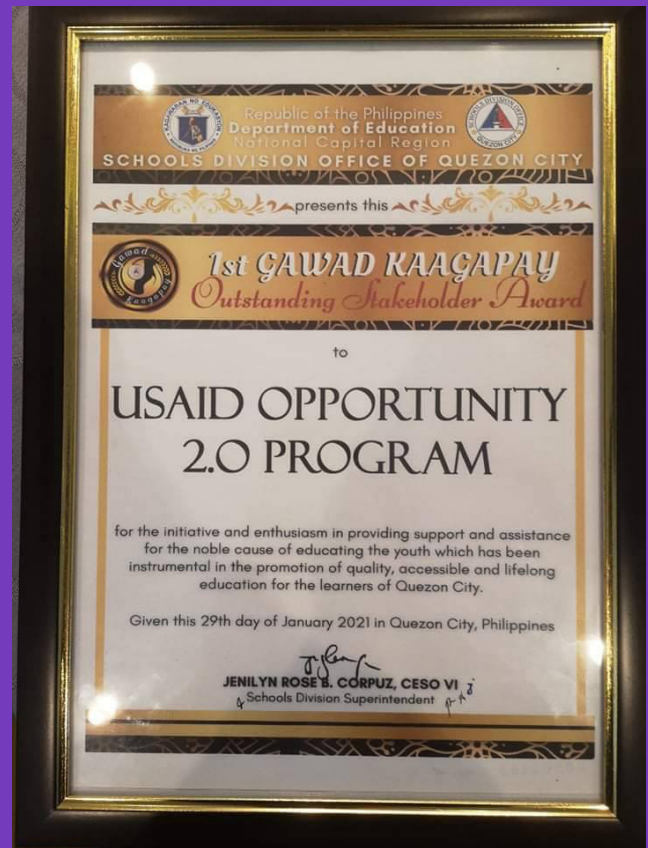
O2 Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP) Dr. Maria Theresa Mokamad participated in the meeting and provided significant support prior to the meeting, as did O2's Senior ALS Consultant, Mr. Nicki Tenazas and O2 partner SEAMEO INNOTECH. Mr. Tenazas will support DepEd ATF as they finalizing the RA 11510 IRR and will develop the ALS Policy Agenda and finalizing the ALS 2.0 Manual of Operations.

O2 RECEIVED YOUTH SERVICE AWARD FROM DEPED ALS QUEZON CITY.

The Department of Education Schools Division Office (SDO) of Quezon City held its inaugural Gawad Kaagapay awarding ceremony.

Gawad Kaagapay is a DepEd awards program designed to give due recognition to individuals, organizations, institutions, and offices that contribute to promoting quality, accessible, as well as lifelong education for learners. USAID Opportunity 2.0 received recognition as an “Outstanding Stakeholder.” O2 DCOP Dr. Mokamad received the award on behalf of the program and delivered an inspirational message.

In Quezon City, O2 has reached 3,184 OSY through flexible delivery modalities, trained 25 ALS Implementers on the content and delivery of the ALS Life Skills Modules and provided 25 laptops to ALS Implementers to execute blended-learning approaches. O2 was also recognized for their support to the Youth Development Alliance members during Local Labor Market Assessment (LLMA) and Strategic Planning workshops.



We would not be able to achieve what we have achieved so far—especially having to overcome a pandemic—without DepEd itself, and all great leaders and champions who make up the Opportunity 2.0 collaborative program.

—Dr. Maria Theresa Mokamad, USAID Opportunity 2.0 DCOP in a message accepting the Gawad Kaagapay award from DepEd Quezon City.

PROGRESS ON IR2

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

Supporting capacity building for TESDA

Nationwide TVET Trainers Inventory survey conducted. In partnership with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority's National TVET Trainers Academy (TESDA-NTTA), O2 conducted the TVET Trainers inventory survey to gather information on training needs and support to TESDA Technology Institutions (TTIs) trainers. A total 1,867 out of 2,076 TTIs staff responded to the online survey conducted between January and April 2021. The results found that the TESDA trainers poses strong technical skills and receive high quality training in selected topics provided by TESDA. The results also identified five technical areas to that could be improved including: industry immersion activities, further training on 21st Century Skills, management and supervision skills, research skills and improved technical training programs in welding and agriculture. The full report will be presented to TESDA Central Office in July this year. This research provides the foundation for O2 to tailor support to meet TESDA's priority initiatives.

537

TESDA trainers trained
as of June 2021

103

TESDA master trainers trained
to roll out Work Readiness modules

17

All regions covered



O2 trained more than 500 Trainers on 21st Century Skills. As of June 2021, 537 TESDA Trainers across 17 regions completed the training on the content and delivery of the nine TESDA Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills for National Competency (NC) Levels I and II. The O2 team in partnership with TESDA-NTTA trained 103 TESDA Master Trainers who will continue to support the follow-out of the 21st Century Skills throughout the Philippines.

These TESDA Master Training and O2 staff provided support to the Regional Facilitation Team to train a total of 434 TESDA Trainers. The following TESDA Regional Directors led the opening and closing ceremonies of trainings in their respective regions: Atty. Balmyrson Valdez (Region III), Engr. Manuel Wong (Region IV-B), Atty. Andrew Bido (Region VII), Gamaliel Vicente (Region VIII), and Tarhata Mapandi (Region XII).

The training equipped TESDA Trainers on the content and pedagogy of 21st Century Skills developed by O2. They are now poised to use the materials for TESDA’s Basic Competency Framework across all the TESDA courses and programs for NC I and II. This will ensure that TESDA youth have the soft skills needed to be successful in the world of work, thereby contributing to stronger and more effective skilled workforce in the country.

TESDA and O2 expands the use of Work-Based Learning (WBL) and Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) training. O2 Master Trainers, in coordination with TESDA-NTTA, has trained 30 TESDA Trainers on the content and delivery of WBL and BYOB curricula between June 14 to June 25. Of this cohort, 21 Trainers were new to the O2 curricula, thereby increasing the total TESDA Trainers who completed training to 558.

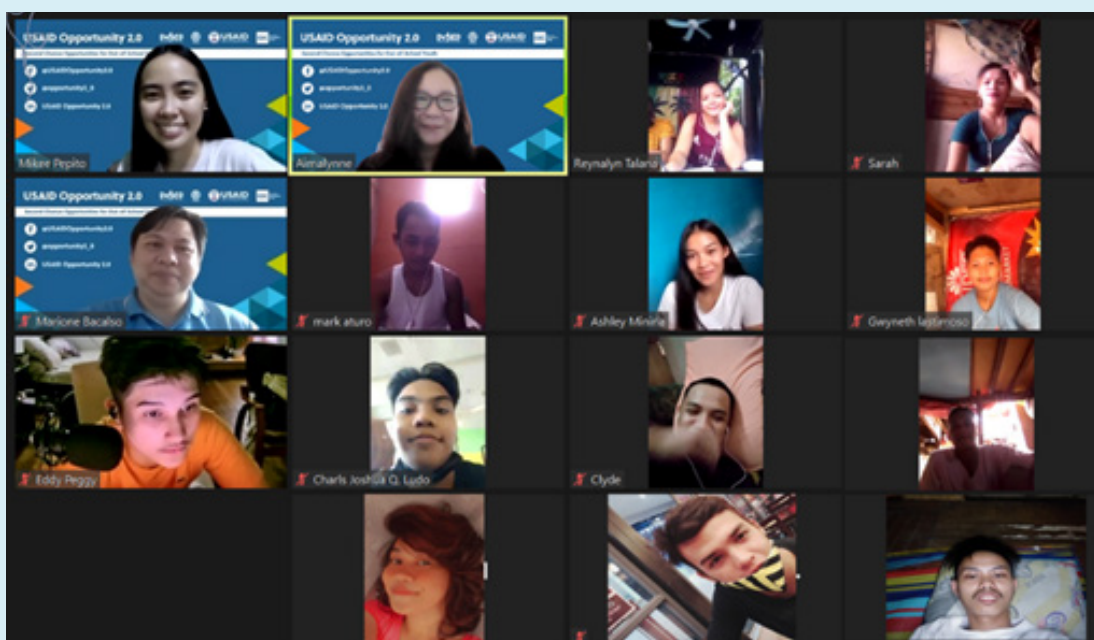
In preparation for the WBL and BYOB training, O2 conducted a series of consultations to share how BYOB and WBL curricula contribute to the youth’s transition to employment or entrepreneurship.

During the opening ceremony, USAID Director of the Office of Education, Dr. LeBlanc and O2 COP Dr. Hall and handed over the WBL and BYOB modules to Acting Assistant Director Chief Ed dela Rosa of TESDA NITESD.

O2 and TESDA take BYOB and WBL online. In response to the varying restrictions on conducting face-to-face training due to COVID-19, instructional materials for the online delivery of WBL and BYOB curricula have been developed. The 20 day training sessions of BYOB and WBL were re-designed so that the learning of youth entrepreneurship and work readiness can continue despite the challenges posted by the pandemic. Youth from Cebu City and Tagbilaran City were the first cohort of trainees who received BYOB and WBL training through the online delivery.

TESDA OFFICES CONSULTED ON WBL/BYOB TRAINING FOR OSY:

- ✓ National Institute for Technical Education and Skills Development (NITESD)
- ✓ Curriculum and Training Aids Development Division
- ✓ National TVET Trainers Academy
- ✓ Qualifications and Standards Office



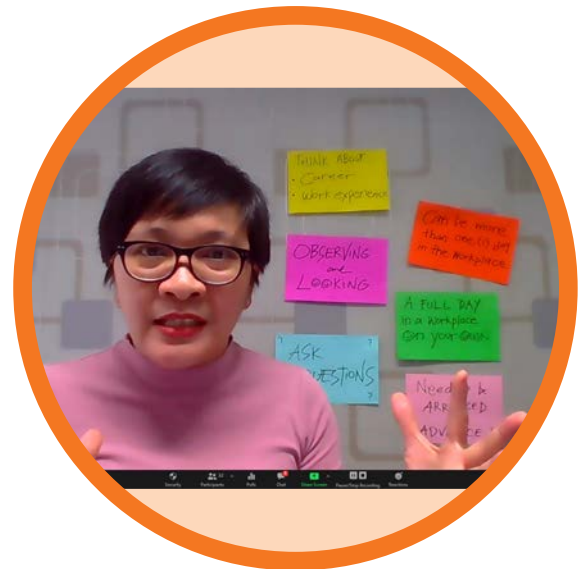
O2 Facilitation Team in Cebu with the BYOB and WBL Youth Participants during their Getting To Know You Activity on June 16.

Supporting capacity building for Technical and Vocational Institutions (TVIs)

As part of the strategy to get as many youth on their path to success, O2 made great strides in expanding the work readiness programing through providing grants to local TESDA training providers and train staff on the work readiness materials and interventions, in addition to local capacity building on M&E tools and systems.

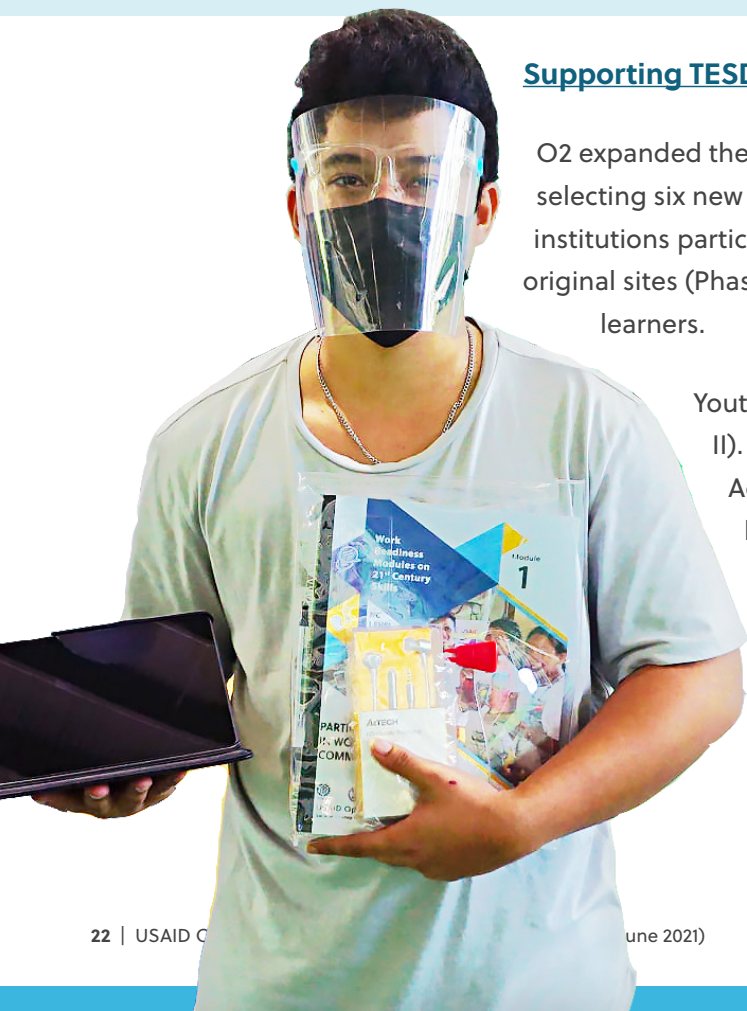
Eight Learning Service Providers for the Youth Workforce Readiness Grants supported. O2 staff trained 46 lead instructors, managers, and staff from eight training service providers of the Youth Workforce Readiness Grants. The 96-hour training focused on the content and delivery of the following O2 Curriculum:

1. O2 Pathways for the Youth
2. ALS Life Skills Self-Directed Learning Modules
3. TESDA Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills NCs I and II
4. BYOB Youth Entrepreneurship Training Program
5. WBL Work Readiness Training Program
6. Monitoring and Evaluation Tools



Training service providers aim to engage more than 500 youth from the following O2 sites:

Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City, Cebu City, and General Santos City to equip them with necessary skills to be work-



Supporting TESDA Online Program

O2 expanded the successful pilot of the TESDA Online Program through selecting six new sites for Phase 2, providing equipment for the TESDA institutions participating in Phase 2, reaching more youth in the three original sites (Phase 1) and providing Digital Citizenship training for TOP learners.

Youth Access to TOP expanded to six more O2 sites (Phase II). After the successful implementation of Phase I of Youth Access to TOP, the initiative expanded to six more O2 sites beginning May. Sites include the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Cebu, Tagbilaran, Legazpi, and Quezon. This allowed TOP to reach more OSY in hard-to-reach areas within the sites and allowed for them to learn new skills while living in different levels of community quarantine. A ceremony of equipment handover to mark this progress was organized in the six cities.

Events were attended by members of the Youth Development Alliances in each city. Additionally, at least 150 OSY have been virtually onboarded and inducted to TOP on June 14 using loaned tablets funded by O2.

TOP learners received Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills via blended learning. O2's local TOP facilitators in the Phase II sites delivered Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills to 150 OSYs in Cohort 2 using self-directed modules and blended learning approaches. Face-to-face sessions were held in adherence to local health protocols. Work Readiness on the 21st Century Skills are prerequisites for every TOP learner before proceeding to their chosen TOP course.



Youth Access to TESDA Online Program (TOP) reached 120 OSYs in three pilot sites (Phase I). O2 expanded the Youth Access to TESDA Online Program to 60 additional youth, increasing their chances to overcome economic difficulties amid the pandemic. TOP provides OSYs employable skills and national certification. These 60 OSY from the cities of Zamboanga, Isabela, and Cotabato were in the second training cohort to complete the program and graduated on May 18. The online graduation ceremony was led by Director of the Office of Education of USAID Philippines, Dr. LeBlanc; and the Chief of Party of O2, Dr. Hall; and TESDA Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning Rosanna A. Urdaneta.

TOP completers have access to post-training activities to support their successful transition to employment and livelihood through O2's local Youth Development Alliances (YDA) and private sector engagement initiatives.

Of the 120 youth who participated in TOP innovative approach to providing skills training experiences during COVID-19, 74 youth completers from Cotabato City, Isabela City and Zamboanga City have undergone assessment and certification by local TESDA with 68 youth have been issued with National Certificates (NC II) or Certificates of Competencies (COCs) which registered a 92% certification rate for TOP completers. The other 38 youth participated in agriculture-based TVET courses so they received a certificate of completion and basic skills which will prepare them for self-employment thru farming or introduction to agri-entrepreneurship. The remaining completers are still waiting for the availability of assessment schedules in their sites. The following table shows the assessment results of TOP completers.

Graduation of TESDA Online Program OSY completers on May 18



“

You are now closer to better employment and earning opportunities.

Because of your dedication at success, we are working to expand this initiative to other cities so we will be able to help more youth across the country.

Dr. Thomas LeBlanc
Director, Office of Education, USAID Philippines
gives a message to Filipino out-of-school youth who completed the TESDA Online Program on May 2021.



“

We have much to improve, but your success today gives us inspiration to do more.

This is only the beginning of your journey towards a more prosperous future.

Continue striving for excellence!

DDG Rosanna Urdaneta
Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning, TESDA
gives a message to Filipino out-of-school youth who completed the TESDA Online Program on May 2021.



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

“

The trainings helped us become more self-reliant, in finding jobs or starting our own business.

So to my fellow out-of-school youth, dream big and never stop dreaming!

Wenilyn Bendol, 20 years old
TESDA Online Program Completer
On May 2021, 60 out-of-school youth graduated from the TESDA Online Program through USAID support.



Site	Qualifications	Youth Enrolled	No. of takers	Passing Rate	Youth Completion Rate in TOP
TOP Phase 1 - Cohort 1					
Zamboanga City	Preparing Cakes	8	7	100%	100%
	Preparing Hot Meals	2	TBD	TBD	100%
	Basic Urban Gardening	10	N/A	N/A	100%
Isabela City	Food & Beverage Services NC II	7	7	100%	100%
	Preparing Cakes	13	11	100%	100%
Cotabato City	Computer System Servicing	12	11	45%	100%
	Preparing Cakes	6	6	100%	100%
	Preparing Hot & Cold Meals	2	none	none	100%
General Average				89%	100%

TOP Phase 1 - Cohort 2					
Zamboanga City	Organic Agriculture Production	20	TBD	TBD	100%
Isabela City	Food & Beverage Services NC II	12	12	100%	100%
	Basic Urban Gardening	4	N/A	N/A	100%
	Organic Agriculture Production NC II	4	N/A	N/A	100%
Cotabato City	Computer System Servicing COCs & NC II	5	5	100%	100%
	Cookery NC II	15	15	100%	100%
General Average				100%	100%

Completers of the TESDA Online Programs show off their National Certificates and Certificates of Competencies in an awarding at the TESDA Provincial Training Center in Cotabato City on June 25.



O2 and Facebook held Digital Citizenship and Ethics Training for TOP completers. O2, in partnership with the Facebook Digital Tayo, conducted a second training on Digital Citizenship and Ethics to the 60 TOP youth completers from Cotabato City, Isabela City and Zamboanga City. The training, held on May 11, not only highlighted the different ways the youth could protect themselves online, but also taught them on ways to be responsible digital citizens. O2 conducted this training as part of post training intervention offered to the second batch of TOP completers in the three pilot sites.



Innovations in supporting youth entrepreneurship

Saving and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) pilot. To address one of the significant challenges youth have in starting a business, O2 and its consortium partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) successfully conducted BYOB training and SILC induction training with partner training institutions in two out of the five pilot sites (Cagayan de Oro City and Davao City). SILC groups provides youth with basic finance management skills to save, borrow, and increase their income. The first two youth SILC groups were organized with Cagayan de Oro School of Arts and Trades and Wangan National Agricultural School (Davao City).

CRS is currently working with two additional cohorts in the Cebu City TESDA Regional Training Center and the Lingkod Bayan Skills Development Center (Quezon City). They expect to conclude in July.

Facilitators from CRS-SILC Partner Institutions trained on Be Your Own Boss. To support the organization of SILC groups, partner institutions were trained on the content and delivery of BYOB modules which was conducted by O2 master trainers on April 13-16 and June 21-23. A total of 15 trainers from SILC Partner TTIs in Davao City, Cagayan de Oro City, and Cebu City completed the training on BYOB who will in turn train the youth enrolled in their regular TVET programs.



Participants with CRS Program Manager Ms. Chin Nobleza and O2 DCOP Dr. Maria Theresa Mokamad during the Closing Ceremonies of the BYOB training for SILC partners on April 16.

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

Supporting services, networks, and relationships to be more responsive to youth needs

YDA Strategic and Annual Planning conducted. As of this quarter, nine YDAs have developed strategic and annual plans that will guide youth services. The strategic and annual plans apply their learning on effective approaches for building youth assets, formulate how to empower youth, promotes youth self-efficacy, and showcases methods to motivate youth toward meaningful pro-social activities delivery. The YDAs have formulated their mission, vision, and identified their core values as an organization. They also developed their 3-5-year strategic and annual plans.

During this period, YDAs of Cebu City and Angeles City formulated their mission, vision, and identified their core values as an organization as well as their 3-5-year strategic and annual plans. YDAs of Valenzuela, Quezon City and Isabela City will conduct their strategic and annual planning next quarter.

YDAs provided valuable inputs to local labor market assessments by validating information on key local industries, solicits employer needs, maps opportunities for employment, finds entrepreneurship opportunities in communities, articulates youth’s perceptions of local labor markets, details education and training options, as well as determining other economic opportunities. YDAs incorporated LLMA recommendations and refine or updated their strategic plans (see below for more details about LLMAs).

YDAs demonstrated Improved functionality. To measure improvements in the functionality of the YDA, O2 is using the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT), which assesses YDA functionality along six dimensions: 1) Governance 2) Strategic Direction 3) Planning and Services Delivery 4) Resource Mobilization 5) Networking and Advocacy 6) Sustainability.



Assessing the Resource Mobilization dimension requires information to be gathered through the Local Resources Inventory Report (LRIR). The LRIR helps the alliances document and monitor technical and financial assistance, physical facilities, as well as other resources that have been mobilized from or by the alliance members, local governments, and other partners and stakeholders to support training and post-training services for OSY.

OCAT results provide an objective basis for identifying the YDA’s areas of strength, as well as areas for capacity strengthening. Also based on the results, the YDA prepares an action plan for capacity-strengthening and improving the functionality of the YDA. The action plan is integrated in the YDA’s annual plan. The collaborative and youth-inclusive assessment process ensures the commitment of all members to harmonize their efforts.

YDA Strategic Planning in Quarter 3



Angeles City



Valenzuela City



Quezon City



Tagbilaran City



Cagayan De Oro City



Davao City



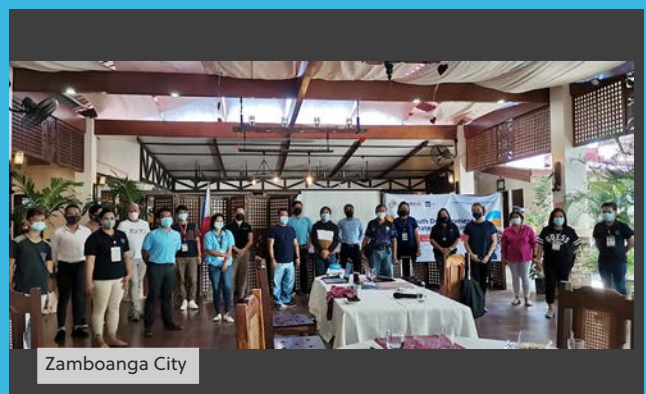
General Santos City



Cotabato City



Isabela City



Zamboanga City

As of this quarter, the YDAs of Davao, Legazpi, Cagayan de Oro and Tagbilaran have assessed their levels of functionality using the OCAT and LRIR. Below are the levels of functionality of these YDAs:

YDA	Score	Level of Functionality
Legazpi City	2.41	Functioning
Davao City	0.51	Getting started
Cagayan de Oro City	1.83	Developing
Tagbilaran City	0.95	Getting started

**Note: A score of 0 – 0.9 corresponds to 'Getting started' level of functionality; a score of 1.0 – 1.9 corresponds to "Developing;" 2.0 – 2.9 to "Functioning;" and 3.0 – 4.0 "Effectively functioning."*

Engaging stakeholders to the challenges and potential of vulnerable youth

YDA strengthening continued. O2 continues to empower local governments, institutions and communities to provide mobilize resources, networks, and services to support OSYs overcome barriers to education and employment. This quarter, Quezon City passed a resolution authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with EDC and establish organizational structure to address OSY issues and concerns and identify appropriate program. O2 provided orientations on USAID's Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework for multiple stakeholders including the Youth Development Office, the Public Employment Service Office (PESO), DepEd, TESDA, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), as well as youth-serving organizations. The PYD approach helps YDAs engage youth along with their families, communities, and governments to empower them to reach their full potential.

With the Quezon City orientations, O2 has provided orientation for PYD framework to 291 stakeholders, exceeding O2's life of project target of 150.

The drafting of the Executive Orders for the creation of YDAs is ongoing in Cebu, Angeles, and Davao City. Ahead of their formal agreements, YDAs in these areas have actively participated in O2 capacity strengthening activities and formed steering committees to set broad directions, guide planning, as well as the implementation activities. Some areas have formed technical working groups responsible for coordinating and documenting YDA activities.



YDAs AND THEIR STATUS

YDA	Status	Completed capacity strengthening activities
1. Angeles City	No EO yet	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning, OCAT/LRIR
2. Valenzuela City	EO is passed and YDA is getting started	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning
3. Quezon City	MOA is signed and YDA is getting started	PYD, LLMA
4. Legazpi City	EO is passed and YDA is functioning	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning, OCAT/LRIR
5. Cebu City	No EO yet	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning, OCAT/LRIR
6. Tagbilaran City	EO is passed and YDA is getting started	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning, OCAT/LRIR
7. Cagayan De Oro City	EO is passed and YDA is in development stage	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning, OCAT/LRIR
8. General Santos City	EO is passed and YDA is getting started	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning, OCAT/LRIR
9. Cotabato City	EO is passed and YDA is in development stage	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning, OCAT/LRIR
10. Davao City	No EO yet	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning, OCAT/LRIR
11. Isabela City	EO is passed with more members to be included	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning, OCAT/LRIR
12. Zamboanga City	EO is passed with more members to be included	PYD, LLMA, Strategic Planning, OCAT/LRIR

Supporting sustainable pathways for youth engagements

O2 identified four priority strategies for developing sustainable pathways for youth engagement: youth involvement with LLMAs, supporting youth led activities, learning more about the youth through the development of youth profiles and improving service delivery to youth.

YDAs validated local labor information generated through O2-developed tools. As reported in the previous quarter, O2 conducted Local Labor Market Assessments (LLMAs) in each O2 site to gather information on key local industries, employer needs, opportunities for employment, and entrepreneurship in communities. Additionally, the LLMA collects data on youth's perceptions of local labor markets, education and training options, as well as other economic opportunities.

During the quarter, a series of workshops with YDAs and the private sector were conducted to present the LLMA results and to develop a shared understanding of top sectors in the respective O2 sites, the gaps between workforce supply, demand of the labor market, and alignment of youth skills programming with job opportunities.

A total of 312 YDA members, including youth representatives, participated in these sense-making workshops. Highlighted below are examples of information validated by YDAs during the sense-making workshops:

- ✓ **Cagayan de Oro City:** During the sense-making workshops in April and May, YDA members identified high opportunity industries include agri-business, logistics, telecommunications, business outsourcing services, tourism services, infrastructure development, as well as health and nutrition services. Private sector industries most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic include the service sector comprising tourism, transportation, hotels, and restaurants. However, this situation did not stop key services but resulted in new services.

The LLMA reports no gender gap on skills and noted that computer skills are the strength of young people today for both males and females. A significant number of youth are very active in social media positioning youth to be successful with time sensitive logistics, communication, and food sector for employment and entrepreneurial activities.

In a bid to boost youth productivity, most companies in Cagayan de Oro provide in-house training to employees, with special focus on enhancing technical skills. Coaching and mentoring are among the many avenues to train the workers. Ninety percent of the companies interviewed confirmed that they engage external training agencies and providers to conduct trainings for staff that are supplemented by free webinars.



312
YDA members (youth reps included) participated in LLMA sense-making workshops



- ✓ **Angeles City:** The key economic sectors are business outsourcing services, food industry, construction, manufacturing, e-commerce, online selling, hotels, restaurants, banks, entertainment, and tourism.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has diminished the gains in many sectors such as tourism, hotels, entertainment, retails, food preparation, restaurants, and manufacturing. The restrictions to movement and travel brought by COVID-19 gave rise to expansion in entrepreneurial activity particularly online selling.

The labor supply is adequate to meet the demand for workers of businesses and industries in the city and in the Clark Free Port Zone. However, demand for labor has contracted due to the protracted COVID-19 pandemic. To navigate during a time of economic and financial hardship, many industries in the city downsized their operation leading to worker lay-offs.

LLMA recommendations informed YDA strategic plans. YDAs of Cotabato, Davao, Cagayan de Oro City, General Santos, Cebu, Zamboanga, Tagbilaran, Angeles and Legazpi have incorporated LLMA recommendations in their respective strategic plans, as highlighted below:

- ✓ **General Santos City:** Strengthening coordinated information-sharing among members, capitalizing youth enthusiasm in internet and digital technology, sensitizing the job-skills matching process, and facilitating stronger industry-TVET partnerships.



- ✓ **Zamboanga City:** Strengthening the coordination and collaboration among local stakeholders including Barangay local government units, Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council), training institutions, private sector actors to address the gaps in labor supply, youth skills development, and information sharing. There is also a need to tap the expertise and resources of the private sector in developing local workforce, reinforce local policies that recognize the credibility of NC II and other training certifications in lieu of a college diploma. Information-sharing was also identified as part of the work of the YDA.



- ✓ **Cebu City:** Actionable points incorporated in the strategic plan include the complete profiling of OSY by gathering information from available sources such as DepEd’s literacy mapping, DSWD’s *Listahanan*, collaborating with SK Federation on youth profiling, provision of skills training by each agency, including entrepreneurship responsive to demands and trends in the industries, creating a training hub at the grassroots level proposed by DepEd, offering of DOLE’s Government Internship Program, Special Program on the Employment of Students, Jobstart, National Skills Registration Program, Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers orientation of potential industry partners that are willing and open to accept OSY, and policy lobbying and negotiation for the creation of the Local Youth Development Council.



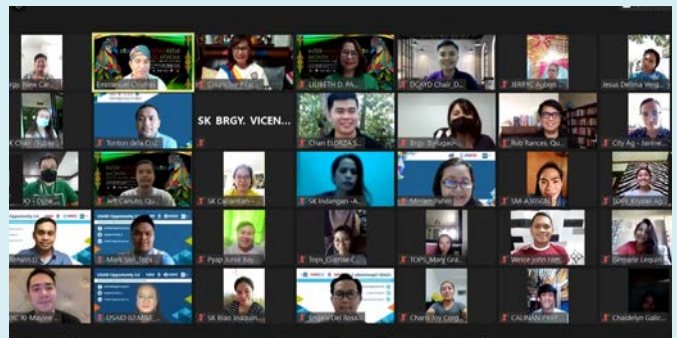
Youth Leadership Activities Initiated. In line with O2's goal of providing opportunities for youth to participate in meaningful youth engagement, O2 prepared a Facilitator's Guide to be utilized by the Youth Leaders Circle (YLC). The YLC is an introductory activity to leadership training intended to provide a venue for youth leaders to meet each other, orient youth on meaningful youth engagement, select youth representatives to the YDA, and orient youth on opportunities for them to further develop their leadership skills. As a learning framework, fun and insightful activities were designed to both build and reinforce youth social and emotional wellness, life skills, communication and active listening skills, building positive relationships, and self-awareness.



On June 21, O2 youth from Tagbilaran City participated in the YLC. Four youth were selected as youth representatives to the YDA. The activity also revived the Tagbilaran 4H Club and the local chapter of the Pag-asa Youth Association of the Philippines (PYAP). Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) Region 7 and CSWDO staff oriented the participants and encouraged them to join either one or both these organizations. The YLC will also be conducted in other O2 sites in the next quarter and will be followed by youth leadership trainings.

Youth profiling began gathering data. A gap emerging from YDA strategic planning and LLMA is the lack of a systematic OSY data collection and information-sharing. To address this gap, YDAs in Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Zamboanga, Valenzuela, and General Santos City initiated youth profiling activities.

- ✓ **Davao City.** The SK Federation, PYAP, and CSWDO launched youth profiling activities in 182 barangays as part of International Youth Month celebration.
- ✓ **Cagayan de Oro City.** The profiling form developed by O2 was revised to include the data requirements of DepEd ALS, TESDA, PYAP, and PESO. The youth profiling activity is spearheaded by PESO that will deploy 800 Special Program of the Employment of Students to assist in the profiling activity. The Special Program for Employment of Students is a DOLE program which aims to provide temporary employment to vulnerable youth.
- ✓ **Valenzuela City.** The city-wide youth profiling with the theme "OSY Awareness Campaign and Youth Pathways Profiling" was launched under the supervision of the Valenzuela City Task Force on OSY led by Honorable Councilor Chiqui Marie N. Carreon and in collaboration with SK Chairpersons. The O2 form will be utilized to profile all OSY in the city of Valenzuela.
- ✓ **Zamboanga City.** The O2 youth profiling form was introduced to 98 SK Chairpersons for massive data collection in partnership with the Local Youth Development Councils and PESO.
- ✓ **General Santos City.** 42 DepEd ALS Coordinators and ALS teachers were oriented on O2's Youth Engagement approach. DepEd ALS committed to provide the list of ALS completers that will be invited to participate in the O2 Youth Alumni gathering to be done next quarter.



YDAs have initiated public events to reach out to OSY in their communities, enjoining them to O2 through the youth profiling form. Davao launched in June to over 180 youth participants (top row) while Valenzuela reached up to 100 in their online event (bottom row) in May.

YDAs collaborated to ensure youth services delivery. Collaboration among systems actors is a cornerstone to O2's YDAs efforts. This quarter two sites made great strides in identifying opportunities for OSY.

- ✓ **Legazpi City.** Congressmen Joey Sarte Salceda and Alfred delos Santos shared possible scholarships for the OSYs in Albay and Legazpi City to transition them for employment, entrepreneurship, and further studies. Also in Legazpi, representatives of a network of youth organizations Team Albay Youth Organizations or TAYO, Inc and of the Office of Senator Grace discussed the possible participation of qualified OSY in a Youth for Agriculture Training in July 2021, led by DA-ATI Region V to be funded by the Office of Senator Grace Poe.



- ✓ **General Santos City.** The Calumpang Youth for Empowerment organization, shared a list of medium, small, and micro enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives for possible work immersion referrals for youth. They will also support other community engagement activities.



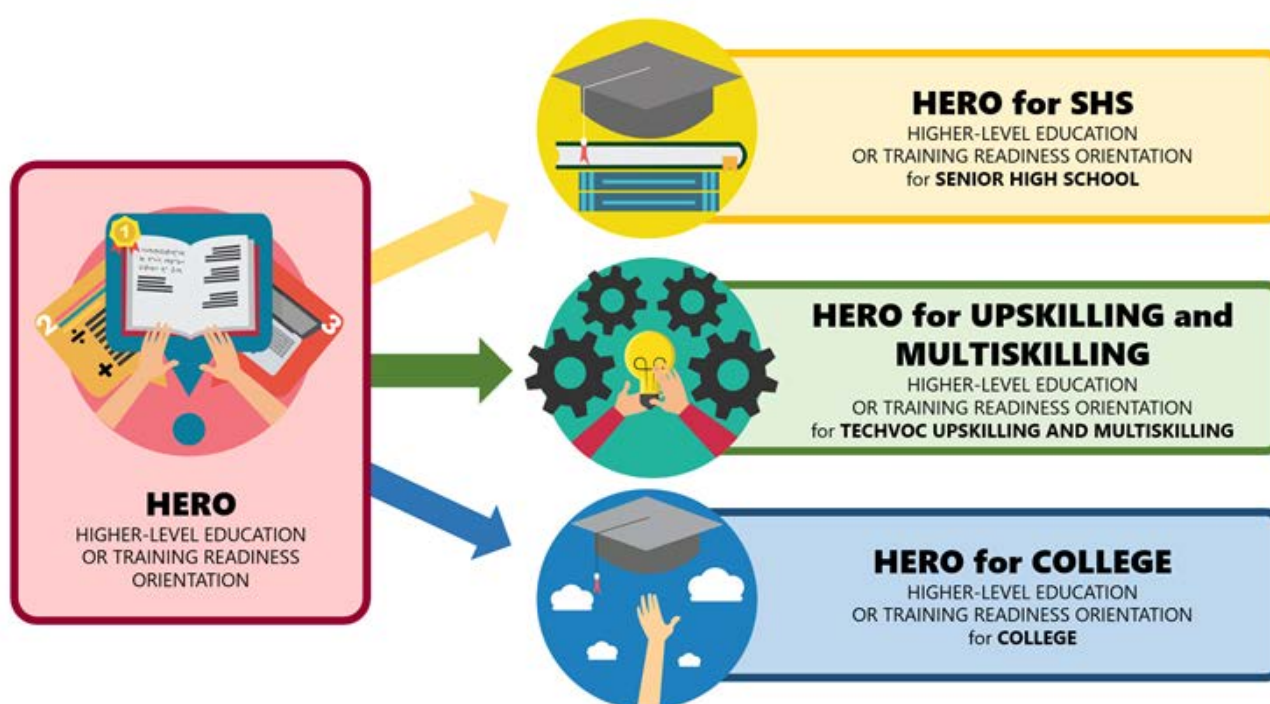
PROGRESS ON CROSS CUTTING ACTIVITIES

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) Engagement

O2 continues to explore partnerships and collaborations with public and private higher education institutions through four broad strategies. Updates on each of the strategies are reported below.

Guidebooks supporting youth's transition to continuing education and training developed.

Guidebooks on the Higher-level Education or Training Readiness Orientation for Senior High School (HERO for SHS) were developed, including one guidebook for learners and another for facilitators. HERO for SHS is a 16-hour orientation that serves as a foundation for further education counseling for ALS learners and completers. ALS learners and completers learn about admission policies, processes, selection of SHS tracks, selection of academic institution, funding and voucher schemes, as well as preparation of documentary requirements.



Partnerships fostered to strengthen HEI capacity to serve OSYs. HEIs are positioned to make a significant contribution to OSYs through providing quality education to ALS implementors. As initially introduced in IR1, the intensive 'Capacity Building Program for DepEd ALS Implementers' has not been developed and O2 has facilitated discussions with Miriam College (Quezon City), Cebu Normal University (Cebu), and University of Southeastern Philippines (Davao City) make this program a credited master's degree units.

In addition, O2 has planned to engage HEIs to implement HERO via the National Service Training Program (NSTP) where college students can be tapped as co-facilitators of HERO for DepEd ALS youth. During this quarter, O2 met with two HEIs (Bicol University and Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology) to explore the potential implementation of HERO via NSTP.

Grants for research and other HEI Initiatives support ALS teachers and learners. Through O2's Grants Program, HEIs are conducting OSY-responsive activities related to research, instruction, or community extension. In Q3, 11 HEIs successfully moved to the negotiations phase, with five HEIs successfully completing the process. More detail on grants can be read in the Grants Program section.

HEIs THAT ARE ACTIVE YDA MEMBERS

1. Angeles City – Angeles University Foundation
2. Quezon City – Miriam College, Quezon City University and University of the Philippines Diliman
3. Legazpi City – Bicol University
4. Valenzuela City – Valenzuela City Polytechnic College
5. Cebu City – Cebu Technological University
6. Tagbilaran City – University of Bohol
7. Davao City – University of Southeastern Philippines
8. Cagayan de Oro City – University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines

HEI provide research-based information in the YDA strategic planning. HEIs continue their active participation in the YDAs, through activities such as LLMA and Strategic Planning, providing technical insights for YDA programs and projects.



“The role of HEIs is we can do a lot of researches... So that programs that we do and design are really data-driven. Our programs will be more responsive to the needs and interest of our youth, and it's going to match what the industry needs as well.”

—Dr. Theresita V. Atienza, President of the Quezon City University

Private Sector Engagement

O2's systems strengthen strategy recognizes private sectors critical role in the successful transition of OSY to employment and entrepreneurship. The private sector's contributions to YDA activities such as LLMA and strategic planning ensure that plans, policies, and youth workforce development programming are relevant and responsive to the needs of local industries and grow local enterprises. This quarter, O2 focused on engaging more private companies and working closely with the DTI to bridge the gap between OSY and private sector.

To strengthen local and national systems that help young Filipinos become entrepreneurs, a landmark agreement was established with the Department of Trade and Industry. Through the Youth Entrepreneurship Program of DTI, which is the Department's flagship program on youth entrepreneurship, more Filipino youth will have access to BYOB, equipping youth with skills on business planning, business start-up, and ongoing business management.

Agreement between DTI and O2 signed. During a virtual signing ceremony on May 18, DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez led the signing, of an agreement to integrate O2 content into DTI's Youth Entrepreneurship Program, making EDC's BYOB and Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship accessible to more youth across the country. In attendance was USAID Acting Mission Director to the Philippines, Pacific Islands and Mongolia Sean Callahan, and USAID O2 Chief of Party Dr. David Hall. The signing was witnessed by DTI Regional Operations Group Undersecretary Blesila Lantayona and USAID Philippines Office of Education Director Dr. Thomas LeBlanc.



Virtual agreement signing between DTI and USAID Opportunity 2.0 in May 2021.
This agreement will integrate O2 content into DTI's Youth Entrepreneurship Program.

BYOB co-development with DTI. Following the signing, a workshop review (May 26-26) the BYOB curriculum to ensure that DTI had an opportunity to work with the modules, clarify any questions and provide inputs from the practitioner's perspective.

The Director of DTI's Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED), Mr. Jerry Clavesillas, opened the two-day workshop. Also in attendance from BSMED were Edwin Pasahol, Chief Trade and Industry Development Specialist of the Program Development Division, Michelle Maramag, and Riz Mapa Trade and Industry Development Specialists. From Regional Offices of DTI, attendees were Maria Victoria Adriatico (Region 11), Lady Katherine Puente (NCR), and Claire Esparcia (Region 7).

Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship introduced to DTI. At DTI's request, O2 facilitated a series of workshops for DTI staff on Design Thinking for Entrepreneurs that will enhance post-training support for budding young entrepreneurs. The first workshop introduced the program materials and the second workshop focused on co-developing and co-designing the Boot Camps with BSMEED and Private Sector partners. The program starts with a three-day boot camp where youth are introduced to the framework of Design Thinking as applied to entrepreneurship.

Bringing private sector to the table. O2 engaged the Private Sector representative, bringing a total of 410 companies contacted and 186 engaged, meaning those that have participated in discussions on top of exploratory meetings.

Construction, Manufacturing, Wholesale and Retail Trade, and Restaurant business top the list across the sites. The majority (30%) of private sector O2 contacted, were small employers in scale, followed by large and medium enterprises at 24%, and micro enterprises at 21%. The main area for collaboration that private sector partners are interested in is Work-Based Learning. Of the 410 contacted so far, 300 cited WBL as a possible way for working with O2 and the youth. Only a few cited education (56), employment (25), and YDA membership (20) as areas for collaboration with O2.

410
Companies contacted

186
Companies engaged

The breakdown of industries contacted per hub can be found in Annex A. Though numbers of companies contacted and engaged have increased amid the restrictions and lockdowns in project sites, there is still a large number of companies that are careful about welcoming youth into their workplaces to date.

Employer's Guide for Work-Based Learning finalized. This guide introduces employers to successful processes and tools that equip them to be good hosts for work immersion. Underscored in the guide are the qualities and competencies of the youth as mobile natives and with natural grit who have been upskilled, through O2 interventions, making them the best cohort to hire in the fluid world of work.

The Employer's Guide on Work-Based Learning is also accompanied by a standardized orientation where companies are acquainted with the different stages of work immersion and the overall value of the experience of hosting youth. Below is an example orientation session with Davao Doctor's Hospital which agreed to host 15 youth for immersion, on rotation, after hearing the benefits of Work-Based Learning for the business.



Grants Program

O2 is implementing three types of grants to support the system: youth community grants, training service provider grants and higher education grants.

Youth Community Grants

The **Youth Community Grants** program, *Out-of-School Youth Education and Development in the New Normal*, provides education and economic assistance as well as socio-emotional support to OSY. O2 granted 6 recipients who are now in the final three months of implementation.

Despite the increasing number of COVID cases in their areas, three grantees, Coland Systems Technology, Inc. and Kutawato Greenland Initiatives, Inc. in Cotabato City, as well as Isabela Foundation, Inc. in Isabela City, Basilan, conducted sessions on effective parenting to parents of OSY.

Ateneo de Zamboanga University

Location: Zamboanga City
Project Title: IP Academy
Target no. of OSY: 50 indigenous out-of-school youth
Grant period: January 4 – July 4, 2021

ADZU focused youth community engagement which included a training program, development of youth-led projects, and coaching and mentoring sessions with 42 indigenous OSY in Zamboanga. Three coaches, one for each covered barangay (Limpapa, Labuan, and Patalon), oversaw nine community-based projects on health, education, livelihood, environment, infrastructure, and culture that benefitted the youth and the local community.



Coland Systems Technology, Inc.

Location: Cotabato City
Project Title: Youth Engagement in the New Normal
Target no. of OSY: 100
Grant period: January 19 – July 4, 2021

Through a learning session on effective parenting skills, Coland Systems Technology, Inc. helped 75 parents of ALS learners in Barangay Poblacion 7, Cotabato City understand how they can become effective and responsible parents to support their children in times of crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The parents realized during the session that they need to change their behavior when engaging with their children in order to create harmonious relationships with them.

Isabela Foundation, Inc.

Location: Isabela City
Project Title: A.R.A.L. (Adapting Resiliency and Accessibility among ALS Learners)
Target no. of OSY: 78 ALS Learners
Grant period: January 4 – July 4, 2021

Isabela Foundation, Inc. completed Self-Emotional Learning and Parenting Skills Sessions with 78 ALS learners and 75 parents to help them cope with the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic. Sessions were conducted over a local radio program with printed modules distributed to the learners and their parents. Through these learning sessions, parents realized the importance of their roles and responsibilities in supporting their children to develop resilience when facing life's challenges.



Kutawato Greenland Initiatives, Inc.

Location: Cotabato City
Project Title: Unlocking the Potentials of Out of School Youth through Alternative Learning System (ALS) in Cotabato City (UP-OSY)
Target no. of OSY: 240 ALS Learners
Grant period: January 4 – July 4, 2021

Kutawato Greenland Initiatives, Inc. conducted reflection sessions on Life Skills topics with 83 ALS Learners and 56 parents. The sessions focused on: 1) Gender Sensitivity 2) Conflict Management 3) Child Rights and Protection, 4) Problem Solving and Decision Making 5) Leadership and Team Work 6) Interpersonal Communication. Parents appreciated the sessions and expressed that these would help them to have better interaction with their children and provide guidance and support, especially in crisis situations.



Zamboanga Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc. (ZABIDA)

Location: Zamboanga City
Project Title: Developing Capacities of Out of School Youth for Barangay and Emergency Response for COVID-19
Target no. of OSY: 30
Grant period: January 19 – July 4, 2021

30 OSY in Zamboanga City, underwent training and awareness sessions on Contact Tracing and youth issues such as reproductive and mental health through the grant-funded project of ZABIDA. As a result of the training, the OSY developed their Youth Action Plans and awareness-raising materials for COVID-19 and other issues affecting the youth in the city.



Nagdilaab Foundation, Inc.

Location: Isabela City
Project Title: Coping with COVID; Empowering Youth and Mental Health
Target no. of OSY: 5 youth radio anchors; 75 ALS learners
Grant period: January 4 – July 4, 2021

Through a radio program Nagdilaab Foundation provided a venue for OSY to discuss and deepen their understanding on significant youth issues, namely: 1) Awareness on COVID-19 vaccination and Introduction on Mental Health 2) Understanding of Anxiety, Stress and Depression 3) Understanding Suicide 4) Psychological First Aid 5) Coping Mechanism. The OSY have found the discussions timely and very helpful in guiding them on coping with the COVID-19 situation as well as issues and concerns that affect their socio-emotional well-being.



Training Development Grants

The first Training Development Grants program, *Youth Workforce Readiness Training*, was awarded to 14 local training service providers. Eight grantees underwent the Training of Trainers for O2's core curriculum including: Life Skills Curricula and 21st Century Skills, WBL, BYOB, Pathways Orientation for the Youth, HERO, and Peer Coaching (see IR2). The remaining six grantees will participate in the July TOT. These training providers will reach at least 500 youth in Q3. This strategy provides O2 with the ability to address local challenges and pilot new approach to engage youth and support them as they transition to further education, employment or self-employment.

The 2nd Training Development Grants program, *Youth Work and Continuing Education Readiness Training for DepEd ALS Completers*, was launched in April, and 14 out of 18 applications received were shortlisted to undergo the pre-award and negotiations process in July.

The Grants for Youth Work and Continuing Education Readiness Training for TESDA TVET Graduates and Trainees, which is the 3rd Training Development Grants program, was launched in the end of June.

Higher Education Institution (HEI) Grants

The HEI Grants program, *Strengthening Education, Employment and Development Support (SEEDS) for Out-of-School Youth*, received a total of 41 applications from public and private colleges and universities as well as training and research institutions across the 12 O2 sites. Pre-award and negotiations with 12 shortlisted HEI applicants started in June. HEI grants aim to strengthen local systems supporting OSY as well as advance the role and capacity of HEIs in achieving sustainable and effective youth development programs. Proposed programs under this grant are varied, ranging from development of databases and systems to track OSY ALS and TESDA learners to delivery of bridging programs to higher-level education for ALS completers to capacity development of HEI faculty and administrators as well as barangay leaders on developing programs for OSYs.

O2 GRANTS IN A SNAPSHOT

85

Total applications received from three calls launched

34

Total number of applicants shortlisted and evaluated from two calls

14

Total applications with grants awarded

Php14.8M

Total amount of subgrants awarded as of June 2021



Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning



Outcome Evaluation. In Q3, the final versions of the WORQ, Soft Skills, and Self-Efficacy assessment tools have been produced in English and local language versions. Baseline assessment was rolled out for the first cohorts of WBL and BYOB trainees. The WORQ data collection included phone interviews by six data collectors reaching 72% of the youth trainees with at least 90% of the eligible respondents completing the baseline soft skills and self-efficacy assessments. In addition, the eight Youth Workforce Readiness Grantees (local training service providers) were trained to use these MEL tools resulting in an exponential collection of baseline data next month once the grantees start conducting surveys and assessments.

Tools Development. New set of tools have been developed to capture and track information on pathways orientation, WBL and BYOB training and accompaniment, and YDA activities.

- ✓ The online Youth Pathways Profiling Form (YPPF) is designed to capture youth's skills profile, employment, and livelihood interests. This information is necessary to matching youth with private sector opportunities. At least one program area—Davao City— has used the skills data from the YPPF to refer youth to a private sector firm involved in health care. After the development of YPPF, local government units of Valenzuela, Davao, and Zamboanga cities recognized the value of the tool and supported the dissemination of the link to the form to increase outreach to out-of-school youth. The consortium partner VSO also disseminated the link in five program areas to help search for youth that could be invited to youth engagement activities. As of June 30, at least 3,462 youth have filled out the form and are beginning to engage in O2 activities.
- ✓ To track work immersion hours, O2 developed the online Youth Transitions Tracker that serves as the platform for work immersion information. The Youth Development Team, Private Sector Team, and the local training service providers will soon be trained in using it in time for roll out in August 2021.
- ✓ To adjust to the blended mode of organizational capacity assessment, online versions of the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT) and Local Resource Inventory Reporting (LRIR) were created and used in four YDAs. Its design allowed for online collaboration of comparing notes and individual scores as well as automatic consolidation and summary of contributions.

Data Management. O2 made two significant advances in data management: launch of the O2 website and rollout of the M&E Insight database which tracks O2 indicator data. These online tools are expected to increase the number of people using this information, increase collaboration among YDA members and serve a sustainable cornerstone knowledge management tool for the YDAs.

The interactive program dashboard was launched in April and shared with USAID and to the wider public along with the launch of the Opportunity 2.0 website, where it could be accessed.

As for the M&E Insight initiative, O2 trained 428 ALS teachers to use M&E Insight, with 50% of the teachers having access to the online database. Teachers from seven program areas began updating ALS Learners records M&E Insight. At least 971 updates on youth data have been added directly by the teachers into the database.

Learning Agenda. The Gender and Disabilities Analysis report was completed in June and is under final review for submission to USAID. This will inform the Gender and Disabilities Strategies to be submitted with the FY22 Annual Implementation Plan.

In March 2021, DepEd ALS and O2 initiated a small-scale assessment of the experience of ALS Learners in using the Life Skills Self-Directed modules. The plan was to have 180 ALS learners from the program sites and 45 ALS learners from non-O2 areas to answer the online Life Skills Survey and present the result to DepEd ALS in time for the new school year opening. Data gathering will continue until next quarter as only 37% of the target respondents have answered the online survey form.

KEY FINDINGS OF O2'S GENDER AND DISABILITIES ANALYSIS REPORT



Financial constraints remain a major impediment

for both young women and men in accessing, retaining, and completing learning and training programs. Early pregnancy and marriage contribute significantly to school dropout.

- ▶ Lack of childcare options
- ▶ Mothers assume the caretaker role
- ▶ Young men forced to drop out to earn as they are expected to provide for the family



Resources that meet the needs of youth with disabilities (YWD) are generally lacking

in education and training institutions, as well as employers.

- ▶ Only some teachers and trainers are trained
- ▶ Inclusive materials are available but uncommon
- ▶ More emphasis on physical disabilities
- ▶ Lacking in safe and inclusive learning spaces
- ▶ Lack of strong peer support systems



Traditional gender norms continue to influence

conceptions about 'suitable' careers for young men and women, and thus influence educational and course choices.

- ▶ While young men and women express progressive views on gender equality, gendered roles and expectations still underpin career pathways.



Levels of civic engagement are low

among out-of-school youth, though the reasons differ for young men and young women. Levels are reportedly even lower among YWD.

- ▶ Youth express interest in certain organizations but face barriers such as balancing their participation in these types of activities with work or school.



Outreach and Communications

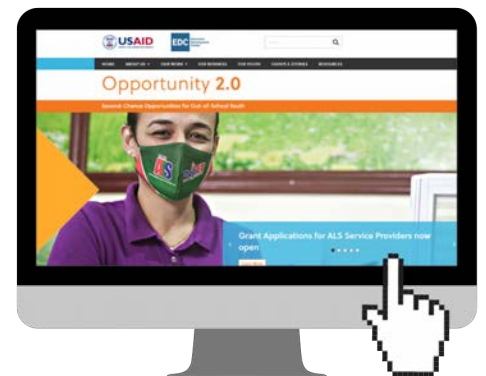


O2 communication team prioritized engaging national and local media outlets, increased online presence through a program website and social media, and the development of new products with the goal of magnifying the information flow to all stakeholder in the Philippines workforce development system.

Media Engagement. This quarter, O2 was featured in 29 news articles from national media covering program activities. The highlight event which garnered the most media attention was the landmark agreement signing with the DTI to boost support for youth entrepreneur. This event was covered by at least seven national media outlets such as Manila Bulletin, The Manila Times, MSN News, and Manila Standard.

Regional media coverage of local handover ceremonies of laptops for ALS implementers continued in Q3. Most O2 activities which attracted media attention were activities that directly engaged OSY such as the conduct of Pathways for Youth Orientations, OSY induction to TESDA Online Program and distribution of tablets and modules, and work readiness trainings with OSY. Annex B shows the complete list and links of USAID Opportunity 2.0 in the news in Q3.

O2 website launched in April. As mentioned in the MEL section, O2's official public-facing platform, where its key resources on youth development, stories, and highlight events are featured. Resources such as briefers, studies, videos, and other communication products are accessible on the website for use of program partners and other actors on youth development, second chance education, and youth work readiness. Aside from serving as a central repository of valuable resources, the website also serves as a contact point for collaboration and engagement, always open for inquiries and propositions for possible collaboration from local industries as well as the vulnerable young people.



O2 exceeds 5000 subscribers on social media. Less than a year on social media platforms, Opportunity 2.0 is reaching more than 5000 people in its social networking platforms, Facebook being the most popular, followed by LinkedIn and then, finally, by Twitter. Most popular posts are on grants and local activities that engage youth directly like TOP, POY, and work readiness training.

New program products developed. To support the technical team in implementing O2 activities, and promote the program's profile, the following products have been developed this quarter:

1. [Year 1 in Retrospect](#) – This product was developed to complement the first annual report in a more easy-to-read, six-page format.
2. [Grants Updates Brief](#) – This brief provides a summary of activities status as of May 2021, and a spotlight on the grantees from the Youth Community Grants.
3. [Youth Access to TESDA Online Program Brief](#) - This brief summarizes what this initiative is all about and what it has achieved so far.
4. [Work-Based Learning for Employers Brief](#) - This brief summarizes what's in store for partner employers and learners who are part of Opportunity 2.0's WBL activities.
5. Videos:
 - ✓ [Highlights of the DTI-USAID Opportunity 2.0 Collaboration](#)
 - ✓ [Introduction to O2 Private Sector Engagement](#)
 - ✓ [Youth Access to TESDA Online Program Overview and Progress So Far](#)
 - ✓ [Private Sector Voices Video Series](#) – Short video formats designed for social media that raise voices from the private sector who champion youth development, fulfill the potential of upskilled OSY, and recognize the vital role of young people in growing and sustaining businesses.
6. Success stories - Two new stories were developed this quarter. One is about [Nor-Anie](#), an ALS completer from Isabela City who was able to train as a radio broadcaster as a medium for youth advocacy and information dissemination to reach her peers. Another is about [Roselle](#) (quoted below), a young mother who learned about gardening through O2-supported TESDA Online Program in Zamboanga City.



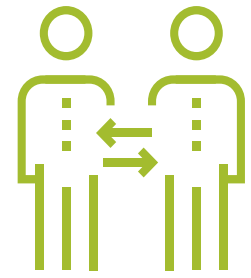
Malaking tulong po talaga sa akin dahil dati po wala po akong alam kung paano magsimula. Pero ngayon po, mas nagustuhan ko na ang pagtatanim.

(This helps a lot because back then, I did not have any idea how to start my own garden. Now, I have grown to like gardening more.)

—Roselle Amancio, 20, Zamboanga City, Completed Urban Gardening training at TESDA Online Program with O2 support.



Partnerships



O2 partnerships continue thrive and expand across its sites, deepening our relationships resulting in significant positive impacts. This quarter O2 formalized many of these partnerships through agreements with organizations that will directly contribute to stronger systems for Filipino OSY.

Government Partnerships

This quarter, work with Philippine government agencies at national and local levels have had significant progress including major progress with DepEd as discussed in IR1, with TESDA in IR2, and city government-led YDAs in IR3. The agreement with DTI formalized this quarter illustrates O2's good working relations with the public sector. The recent recognition awarded to O2 by DepEd ALS also is a testament to the relationships and networks O2 has been able to establish and continue to build on during its second year of implementation.

Consortium Partners

SEAMEO INNOTECH. For this quarter, SEAMEO INNOTECH has successfully conducted the following activities:

- ✓ Presented the Learning Needs Analysis results and the proposed capacity building program to the DepEd Task Force (with ASec. G.H Ambat, Director Almayda) and EDC Management Team on April 29. The DepEd ATF through ASec G.H. Ambat already approved the ALS Teacher Professional Development programs.
- ✓ Conducted initial meetings with three partner universities identified to deliver key capacity building program for ALS implementers: University of Southeastern Philippines; Miriam College, Cebu Normal University. These universities will work together via a consortium Agreement and a memorandum of agreement is being finalized, along with operational guidelines. Each university will co-develop one major course with corresponding academic units. Each ALS implementer is expected to complete 18 academic units leading to a Graduate Diploma on ALS.
- ✓ Conducted Strategic M&E (Module 1): Designing and Managing an M&E System training started June 17 and was attended by 50 ALS implementers representing various governance levels, central, region, division, district and CLCs. Thirty-two are members of the newly created Technical Working Group on M&E.
- ✓ Supported DepEd ALS Task Force M&E Work Plan that details the strategies, activities, and timetable for developing the M&E framework, M&E processes, M&E tools and techniques and the ALS M&E Manual. The work plan also includes the Capacity Building Plan that outlines the training design and related capacity building activities to prepare the DepEd ATF and ALS implementers for roll out of the new ALS M&E system.
- ✓ Provided technical assistance to DepEd ALS Task Force and EDC Management Team through its Senior Technical Advisor, Mr. Philip Purnell.
- ✓ Supported the drafting of the ALS Law (Republic Act 11510) IRR.





Catholic Relief Services (CRS). CRS is supporting O2's entrepreneurship strategies through tailoring their SILC framework to O2 youth. This quarter CRS is working with TESDA Regional Training Center of Cebu City and Quezon City Lingkod Bayan Skills Development Center to deliver the BYOB and SILC Induction this July 2021 in the efforts of organizing more SILC groups. O2 will

also target a private institution in Cotabato City to be its partner for SILC program and preparatory talks will commence in July this year.

Since the planning stage from the previous quarter, the SILC program is coordinated by the O2 team composed of CRS and EDC as joint orientation sessions on SILC program were conducted for select partners in O2 pilot sites. TTIs as well as O2's Master Trainers were engaged during the Training of Trainers on BYOB for SILC field agents and CRS technical staff. CRS and EDC also conduct regular monthly meetings for updating and resolving implementation of SILC activities under O2.



Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO). This quarter, VSO laid the foundations for partnerships in the five sites that it will cover, namely, Davao City, General Santos City and Cotabato City in Mindanao; Cebu City in the Visayas; and in Valenzuela City in Luzon. Through EDC, VSO oriented YDAs on its specific goals and programs, and also started barangay or community- level visits. A total of

250 youth, or 50 youth per site, are slated to benefit from VSO's training and learning activities focused on digital literacy, leadership, peer coaching and mentoring, and network building.

VSO also made progress in linking with agencies and institutions that will support youth volunteer activities to be implemented next quarter. It established linkages with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), as well as with the private sector and civic organizations including the Philippine Coalition of Volunteerism, Inc., Facebook Digital Tayo; Rotary Club; Pfizer Foundation Philippines; Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc., and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.



Accenture. In this quarter, the final draft of the 'employment' research report, led by Accenture was completed and the outcomes were presented to DepEd ATF on April 13 to solicit final input

and feedback. Once further feedback has been received from TESDA and USAID final outcomes will be released, and the report will be launched in July or August.

Work has commenced on a study of the OSY ecosystem in the Philippines. This study will identify perceptions of the different stakeholder groups of the strengths and weaknesses of the ecosystem. The basic ecosystem design was finalized in June and will be followed by key interviews and focus group discussions with key stakeholders in July, August, and September.



Philippine Business for Education (PBEEd). EDC and PBE collaboration this quarter aimed at amplifying efforts to raise O2 youth's profile among the business sector and engage more private sector into the program. This collaboration has led to significant private sector engagement progress as previously discussed in Cross Cutting Activities section.

In relation to this, PBEEd also continued to lead O2's communication efforts on private sector engagement this quarter. The following were successfully accomplished: the publication of a press

release of the DTI MOU signing, resulting in seven media hits, 17 Facebook posts, 16 Twitter posts, and 16 LinkedIn posts; social media features of three business sector partners (Syntactics, Inc. in Cagayan De Oro City, Dennis Coffee Garden in Davao City, and Custard Apple Outsourcing in General Santos City); and supporting two MOU signings (Metro Angeles Chamber of Commerce and Industry MOU signing ceremony and the DTI MOU signing ceremony).

Lastly, to further strengthen awareness and engagement of the private sector with O2 activities, a monthly newsletter for O2 private sector partners and an O2 introductory video for the private sector were developed also mentioned previously in the Outreach and Communications section.

Partnerships with other USAID Projects

First collaboration meeting between Opportunity 2.0 and YouthLed conducted. The first collaboration meeting between USAID’s Opportunity 2.0 and YouthLed projects was successfully conducted online on May 11. It was attended by attended by USAID Office of Education Director Dr. Thomas LeBlanc and Senior Technical Advisor Mr. Mir Tillah together with USAID’s Office of Economic Growth and Democratic Governance Mr. Mohamed Dansoko, O2’s Chief of Party Dr. David Hall and senior management team as well as YouthLed’s Chief of Party Miss Natalie Christine Jorge and team.

USAID’s Youth Leadership for Democracy (YouthLed) is a five-year program that aims to increase civic engagement leading to strengthened participation in democratic governance. The program is composed of leadership development, coalition-building civic education and engagement activities among youth ages 15-30.



Meeting between Opportunity 2.0 and Youth YouthLed Project Teams, attended by USAID Philippines Office of Education Director Dr. Thomas Le Blanc and Senior Technical Advisor Mr. Mir Tillah on May 11.

Some points for collaboration identified by YouthLed with Opportunity 2.0 are:

- ✓ Conduct of Local Youth Assemblies (LYAs)
- ✓ Implementation of Fellowship Grants of the 30 Lead Fellows with youth beneficiaries to include OSYs
- ✓ Empower youth through the Local Youth Development Councils
- ✓ Conduct of Annual National Youth Leadership Summit
- ✓ Civic Education Improvement
- ✓ Private Sector engagement
- ✓ Knowledge product exchange
- ✓ Periodic activity alignment

Succeeding meetings are planned to flesh out the details of these activities. O2 is open to partner and collaborate with YouthLed as series of youth engagement activities were also lined-up for implementation in the next quarter starting with Youth Leadership Circle.

Administration and Operations Support



Office space. In early June, O2 has identified a temporary office in Cebu for administrative purposes and provide a limited number of staff with working space, if required. In Davao permanent office space was identified to prepare for return-to-office operations and accommodate a growing number of Davao-based team. O2 anticipates that the office lease will be signed before end of July and office fit-out works will start in August.

Staff Recruitment and Onboarding. Seven new employees joined O2 during April-June 2021, including four Youth Development Officers, one Data Analyst, one M&E Officer, and one Finance Officer. By the end of June, the O2 Project team had reached a complement of 64 personnel, with four new personnel in the pipeline for July-September 2021.

Procurement. O2 operations team provided logistics and procurement support to technical activities outlined in this QPR. This included selection and procurement of venue, lodging accommodations, consultants, transport services, printed materials, and mobile load cards for virtual activities and etc.

In June 2021, O2 has completed the delivery and set up of ICT equipment for e-learning hubs in Angeles, Legazpi, Cagayan De Oro, and General Santos as part of eSkwela initiative. The ICT package includes 210 sets of desktop PC computers with accessories, nine LCD projectors, 12 printers, and other hardware to outfit the e-learning centers.

In anticipation of the TOP expansion to Angeles, General Santos and Valenzuela cities in July, the operations team started the recruitment of TOP facilitators and procured 150 Android tablets that will be set up for TOP learners.

Support for the Grants Program. The Admin and Operations team led by the DCOP for Operations participated in the Pre-Award Assessment and budget review and negotiations stage of the grant selection process.

Safety and Security. EDC continues to treat the safety and security of its staff members with high priority. Although face-to-face activities in all program sites are limited due to Covid-19, O2 regularly monitors the pandemic situation in all project sites and is in close coordination with USAID Logistics Support for Mindanao's project team and the EDC Home Office Security Director based in Washington, DC.

Short Term Technical Assistance (STTA). EDC Home Office Technical Assistance extended to the O2 project team during the reporting period is highlighted in the following table.



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 project design, enhancements of Life Skills materials and approach, recommendations for future activities, etc.
Ricardo Perez-Pineda	International Project Coordinator	Weekly calls with COP and home office to provide technical and operations guidance. Administrative, recruitment, procurement, financial, and communications support. Supported the development of sample IAI episode presented to DepEd and ALS.
Emma Catalfamo	MEL Specialist	Weekly calls with technical support team. Weekly calls with MEL team. Lead the development of the MEL plan and revisions. Lead the design of MEL Insight for effective reporting.
Claudia Nino De Gusman	Financial Analyst	Facilitated the development of the O2 Cost Tracking Manual. Established financial processes to comply with USAID and EDC requirements. Supported financial activities, reports, projections, and fund requests. Monitored program's financial burn rate.
Lisa Oliveri	Security Advisor	Monitored the COVID-19 situation, provided guidance and support.
Nancy Chervin	Senior Technical Advisor	Supported field team to model adaptation of Work Ready Now curricula for Life Skills Curricula. Mapped 11 modules to develop for Opportunity 2.0. Developed distance and virtual learning strategies for Training of Trainers.
Beth Miller-Pitman	Senior Technical Advisor	Supported field team to model adaptation of Work Ready Now curricula for Life Skills Curricula. Mapped 11 modules to develop for Opportunity 2.0. Developed distance and virtual learning strategies for Training of Trainers.
Tania Tzelnic	Senior Technical Advisor	Coordinated with consortium partner Accenture to conduct COVID-19 related LMA. Adapted LLMA tools for YDAs.
Mary Burns	Senior Technical Advisor	Adaptation of the COMET Source Book. Seminar/meeting (Online learning) with ALS Task Force.
Hannah Kuntz	International Project Associate	Worked with field team to adapt EDC's tools for gender analysis.
Jackie Kiernan	Senior Technical Advisor	Worked with field team to adapt EDC's tools for gender analysis.
Chris Murray	Senior Technical Advisor	Coordinated with Private Sector Advisor to adapt entrepreneurship training into the Life Skills materials.
Nora Nunn	Technical Advisor	Supported the development of sample IAI episode presented to DepEd and ALS.
Dr. Kit Yassin	Senior Technical Advisor	Supported the development of sample IAI episode presented to DepEd and ALS.



Look Ahead to the Next Quarter



JULY 2021

Technical Program

IR 1

1. Review IAI Demo Episodes with IAI TWG
2. Begin IAI master planning and Design
3. Train DepEd ALS Implementers on BYOB and WBL
4. Conduct M&E Training on Modules 2 & 3
5. MOOC on Passion for Teaching for DepEd ALS Implementers
6. Provide technical assistance to DepEd ATF on finalizing the ALS Act Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)

IR 2

1. Conduct Multiplier Training on Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills (Modules 6 to 9)
2. Conduct Multiplier Training on BYOB and WBL
3. Deliver Printed Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills to TTIs nationwide
4. Train Youth Workforce Readiness Grantees on O2 Curricula
5. Conduct WBL and BYOB training for TOP Cohort 2 completers in Phase 1 sites (Cotabato, Zamboanga & Isabela)
6. Distribute equipment and learning materials; induct and orient 150 TOP youths in Phase III sites (GenSan, Valenzuela and Angeles Cities)
7. Present TVET Inventory Tool/Survey Results, Findings, and Highlights to TESDA
8. Organize SILC youth group in Cotabato City in partnership with CRS.

IR 3

Conduct consultative meeting with youth leaders and YDA for planning session for local activities

Support and Cross Cutting Activities

Grants

1. Pre-Award and Negotiations with the 2nd Training Development Grants Program shortlisted applicants
2. TOT on WRN Curriculum and M&E for second batch of awardees under the 1st Training Development Grants program

PSE

1. National Training of Trainers of DTI staff on Be Your Own Boss
2. Youth placed in Work Immersion
3. Continue to engage the Private Sector in exploratory meetings

HEI

1. Pilot implementation of HERO for SHS Teacher Training to DepEd ALS Teachers to at least one O2 site
2. Development of HERO for Upskilling and Multiskilling and HERO for College Learner's Guidebooks and Facilitator's Guidebooks
3. Complete the conduct of courtesy calls to all nine (9) CHED Regional Offices and gain support towards participating at the Youth Development Alliance
4. Facilitate grants to more than ten (10) HEIs to implement OSY-responsive activities

M&E

1. Train new grantee organizations on use of M&E tools
2. Continue baseline WORQ surveys, soft skills, and self-efficacy assessments
3. Conduct endline soft skills and self-efficacy assessments
4. Assist in further analysis, report writing, and final presentation of TVET Trainers Inventory
5. Continue support to the conduct of organizational capacity assessments of YDAs
6. Continue support to program units in tracking reach, participation, and completion of teachers, trainers, and youth in various program activities

HR, Admin, and Operations

1. Finalize recruitment of HEI Coordinators, 1 Master Trainer and 1 MIS/IT Officer
2. Finalize and sign the office lease for Davao Hub
3. Continued operations support to the planned activities for July

AUGUST 2021

Technical Program

IR 1

1. Train DepEd ALS Implementers on BYOB and WBL
2. IAI Scriptwriting and Review Process (Episodes 1 to 5)
3. M&E Training on Modules 2 & 3
4. MOOC on Passion for Teaching for DepEd ALS Implementers by partner SEAMEO INNOTECH
5. Provide technical assistance to DepEd ATF on the crafting the DepEd ALS 2.0 Manual of Operations, develop the ALS Policy agenda, and other relevant support ALS 2.0 implementation

IR 2

1. Conduct Multiplier Training on Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills – Modules 6 to 9
2. Conduct Multiplier Training on BYOB and WBL
3. Train Youth Workforce Readiness Grantees on O2 Curricula
4. TESDA assessment & certification of TOP youths in Phase II sites (Davao, CDO, Cebu, Tagbilaran, Quezon and Legaspi Cities)
5. Conduct Virtual Graduation Ceremony of TOP youths in Phase II sites

IR 3

1. Facilitate youth-friendly laws and ordinances to be in-place
2. Conduct workshops and regular meetings with YDAs
3. Hold YDA Summit
4. Hold Youth Events, including leadership trainings
5. Engage VSO and other like-minded organization in youth community volunteer activities
6. Complete youth profiling forms

Support and Cross Cutting Activities

Grants

1. Screen and evaluate the 3rd Training Development Grants Program applications
2. Facilitate the awarding of HEI Grants
3. Conduct TOT on Peer Coaching and HERO for the first batch of awardees under the 1st Training Development Grants program

PSE

1. Train DTI Staff from the 12 Program sites on Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship
2. Implement 3-day Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship Boot Camps in selected sites
3. Continue placing youth in work immersion

HEI

1. Continue implementation of HERO for SHS to three (3) O2 sites
2. Commence implementation of teacher professional development with SEAMEO INNOTECH to DepEd ALS Mobile Teachers
3. Potentially launch grants to be jointly participated in by Philippine and US-based HEIs to advance current interventions for OSYs

M&E

1. Train new grantees on the use of M&E tools
2. Continue baseline WORQ surveys, soft skills, and self-efficacy assessments
3. Conduct endline soft skills and self-efficacy assessments
4. Train TESDA Trainers on M&E Insight
5. Continue support to the conduct of organizational capacity assessments of YDAs
6. Continue support to program units in tracking reach, participation, and completion of teachers, trainers, and youth in various program activities

HR, Admin, and Operations

1. Continue operations support to O2 project activities
2. HR support to any new staff/consultant recruitment needs
3. Start office fit-out works for Davao regional hub

Technical Programs

IR 1

1. Train DepEd ALS Implementers on BYOB and WBL
2. IAI Recording and Review Process (Episodes 1 to 5)
3. M&E Training on Modules 2&3 with SEAMEO INNOTECH
4. MOOC on Passion for Teaching for DepEd ALS Implementers by partner SEAMEO INNOTECH
5. Provide technical assistance to DepEd ATF on crafting the DepEd ALS 2.0 Manual of Operations, develop the ALS Policy agenda, and other relevant support to ALS 2.0 implementation

IR 2

1. Conduct Multiplier Training on Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills – Modules 6 to 9
2. Train Youth Workforce Readiness Grantees on O2 Curricula
3. Conduct Skills Practice sessions for TOP youths in Phase III (GenSan, Valenzuela, Angeles Cities)

IR 3

1. Provide orientation/training of youth on their participation in LLMA data-collection.
2. Organize youth networks, peer coaching and mentoring
3. Facilitate the representation of youth leaders to the YDA
4. Conduct Youth Leadership Training and Volunteer Activities
5. Develop infographics and collaterals from LLMA results

Support and Cross Cutting Activities

Grants

1. Award the 2nd Training Development Grants
2. Pre-Award and Negotiations with the 3rd Training Development Grants program shortlisted applicants
3. Launch the 2nd Youth Community Grants Program

PSE

1. Continue placing youth in work immersion
2. Continue implementing 3-day Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship Boot Camps
3. Hold Private Sector Summit

HEI

1. Conduct pilot implementation of HERO for Upskilling and Multiskilling to at least one (1) O2 site
2. Conduct pilot implementation of HERO for College to at least one (1) O2 site
3. Conduct pilot implementation of HERO for SHS through the NSTP in three (3) HEIs
4. Start monitoring performance of HEI Grantees under SEEDS Grants

M&E

1. Train new grantees on the use of M&E tools
2. Train TESDA trainers in using M&E Insight.
3. Conduct of endline soft skills and self-efficacy assessments
4. Perform massive updating of database for the incoming new batch of ALS learners

HR, Admin, and Operations

1. Continue operations support to O2 project activities
2. HR to lead the annual performance review process
3. EDC's internal audit completed

Breakdown of Private Sector contacted per hub

By Industry	
NCR HUB	123
Business Process Outsourcing	2
Communications	8
Community and Personal Services	4
Construction	32
Crop Farming (rice, corn, vegetables, fruits, etc)	1
Education	4
Electricity, Gas, and Water	1
Finance	1
Finance, Insurance	3
Health	5
Hotels	6
ICT/IT (e.g Computers, Software)	5
Manufacturing (includes food processing)	12
Professional Services	4
Real Estate and Leasing/Renting	1
Restaurant	12
Social Work / Social Development Work	3
Storage, Logistics, Cargo Handling, Couriers	3
Transport	6
Wholesale and Retail Trade	10
CEBU HUB	86
Communications	2
Community and Personal Services	5
Construction	6
Crop Farming (rice, corn, vegetables, fruits, etc)	2
Education	5
Electricity, Gas, and Water	1
Finance	1
Finance, Insurance	1
Hotels	6
Manufacturing (includes food processing)	7
Professional Services	2
Real Estate and Leasing/Renting	1
Restaurant	30
Social Work / Social Development Work	2
Storage and Logistics	1
Transport	1
Wholesale and Retail Trade	10
(blank)	3

By Industry	
DAVAO HUB	201
Business Process Outsourcing	1
Community and Personal Services	13
Construction	17
Crop Farming (rice, corn, vegetables, fruits, etc)	9
Education	12
Electricity, Gas, and Water	4
Finance, Insurance	4
Health	3
Hotels	3
ICT/IT (e.g Computers, Software)	7
Livestock and Poultry	2
Manufacturing (includes food processing)	51
Professional Services	11
Real Estate and Leasing/Renting	2
Restaurant	16
Social Work / Social Development Work	6
Storage, Logistics, Cargo Handling, Couriers	6
Transport	4
Travel and Tourism (e.g Travel agencies, ticketing, rent-a cars, etc)	3
Wholesale and Retail Trade	26
(blank)	1

Breakdown of Private Sector contacted per hub

By Operations	
NCR HUB	123
International	7
National	20
Provincial	32
Regional	64
CEBU HUB	86
National	15
Provincial	56
Regional	15
DAVAO HUB	201
International	12
National	32
Provincial	106
Regional	50
(blank)	1
GRAND TOTAL	410

By Scale	
NCR HUB	123
Large Employer	22
Medium Employer	53
Micro Employer	21
Small Employer	27
CEBU HUB	86
Large Employer	20
Medium Employer	13
Micro Employer	10
Small Employer	40
(blank)	3
DAVAO HUB	201
Large Employer	57
Medium Employer	20
Micro Employer	69
Small Employer	54
(blank)	1
GRAND TOTAL	410

By interest	
NCR HUB	123
Content Provider	8
Connection to Members	1
Education	6
Employment	3
LLMA	17
TBD	2
Thought Leadership	1
Work Based Learning	72
YDA Membership	15
YDA Support	7
BYOB/Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship Collaborator	1
(blank)	10
CEBU HUB	86
Content Provider	3
Education	1
Employment	1
Job Fair	3
Work Based Learning	60
YDA Membership	3
YDA Support	1
(blank)	14
DAVAO HUB	260
Connection to Members	1
Education	49
Employment	21
TBD	4
Work Based Learning	168
YDA Membership	2
YDA Support	11
Content Provider	1
(blank)	3
GRAND TOTAL	489

USAID Opportunity 2.0 in the News (April to June 2021)

Media Outlet	Title	Author	Format	Link
APRIL				
PIA (Philippine Information Agency)	USAID O2 turns-over laptops to DepEd		Online	https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1071307
Malaysia Sun	USAID O2 turns-over laptops to DepEd	PIA	Online	https://www.malaysiasun.com/news/268413373/usaaid-o2-turns-over-laptops-to-deped
Manila Metro	USAID O2 turns-over laptops to DepEd	PIA	Online	https://www.manilametro.com/news/268413373/usaaid-o2-turns-over-laptops-to-DepEd
Taiwan Sun	USAID O2 turns-over laptops to DepEd	PIA	Online	https://www.taiwansun.com/news/268413373/usaaid-o2-turns-over-laptops-to-DepEd
Business Week Mindanao	USAID O2 turns over laptops to DepEd	PIA	Online, Print	https://issuu.com/sudaria_publications/docs/bwm_april_5-6_2021
PIA	70 out-of-school youth join Young Pathways Orientation	Joey Sem Dalumpines	Online	https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1072156?fbclid=IwAR3wmDEUj8-ekJEneSJsZPaSa10vfCsIMJcESnihbfrR3LDL0s2dtSnYQc
Under One Ceiling	70 out-of-school youth join Young Pathways Orientation	PIA	Online	https://underoneceiling.com/top-news-and-stories/philippines-news-headline/70-out-of-school-youth-join-young-pathways-orientation/
Mindanao Daily News	Aksyon Edukasyon Interview with DepEd ALS MT Lovelen Gemo and USAID O2 CDO YDC Kotie Bax		Online/ Official Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=299006704936453&ref=watch_permalink
Bohol Island News	40 ALS completers receive USAID Opportunity 2.0's orientation for work readiness		Online	https://boholislandnews.com/2021/04/22/40-als-completers-receive-usaid-opportunity-2-0s-orientation-for-work-readiness/?fbclid=IwAR1Ho7U0fiJZo6wCXbnZoZpuZeC9LVb8P4H_aBxlyZgAlaBpq0O6xpCW4JY
The Bohol Tribune	USAID's Opportunity 2.0 conducts orientation to ALS graduates		Print, Online	https://theboholtribune.com/2021/04/24/usaid-opportunity-2-0-conducts-orientation-to-als-graduates/?fbclid=IwAR3ZY1h2WPKuUdsq-VqSHK7t_3qlZkPohVP2BdNOexs8_GR03SHFDXQnJc8
PIA Northern Mindanao	LLMA Sensemaking Workshop to members of Out-of-School Youth Development Alliance in Cagayan de Oro City		Online/ Official Twitter Page	https://twitter.com/PIA_NorMin/status/1387594563552874502

Media Outlet	Title	Author	Format	Link
MAY				
DWDD 1134 AM Radio	Limang araw na multiplier training sa Work-Readiness Modules sa Region 3		Radio, Online/ Official Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=166541842048745&ref=watch_permalink (8:30-9:50)
PIA	CDO Youth dev't alliance holds LLMA workshop	OSYDA	Online	https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1074100?fbclid=IwAR3pmmelj1Z0RGxL0UO2d_8mNqzIGLrB3kpkk-d-TvIY7XIX06bDr3MORnc
Aksyon Ko Bicol	Programa kan USAID para sa Out-of-School-Youth, nagpapadagos	Aksyon Ko Online TV	Online, Official Facebook and Youtube Page	https://www.facebook.com/AksyonKo/posts/276580987526073 (23:38-26:55), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bDNC4JRqf8
Manila Bulletin	USAID, DTI partner for youth entrepreneurship training	Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat	Online	https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/19/usa-id-dti-partner-for-youth-entrepreneurship-training/?fbclid=IwAR1hx3X4AZNeE770TP7Hj12YF5eHh7Y_V17KURmrKIOirYWdif7nru_PxXw
PIA	USAID and DTI ink partnership to strengthen entrepreneurship training for out-of-school Filipino youth	USAID	Online	https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1075625
Radyo Agila	DTI at US gov't lumagda ng kasunduan para sa biz training sa mga Pinoy out-of-school youth		Online	http://www.radyoagila.com/dti-at-us-govt-lumagda-ng-kasunduan-para-sa-biz-training-sa-mga-pinoy-out-of-school-youth/
Manila Standard.net	Usaid support		Online	https://manilastandard.net/gallery/-news-in-photos/354929/usa-id-support-20210520.html
The Manila Times	Usaid supports youth training	Anna Leah E. Gonzales	Online	https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/05/20/business/business-top/usa-id-supports-youth-training/874142/
MSN News	Usaid supports youth training	Anna Leah E. Gonzales	Online	https://www.msn.com/en-ph/news/money/usa-id-supports-youth-training/ar-BB1gUcKj

Media Outlet	Title	Author	Format	Link
JUNE				
Aksyon Ko Online TV	25 tablet na magagamit kan mga TESDA Online Program enrollees, naresibe na kan mga benepisyaryo hali sa USAID	Christopher Briones	Online, Official Facebook Page	https://fb.watch/697ubsH8wW/ (8:31-11:39)
PTV Davao	Mga out-of-school youth sa Davao City, tabangan nga makabalik og eSkwela	Claudette Loreto	Online, Official Facebook Page	https://fb.watch/6977i1dQb3/
The Bohol Tribune	USAID, TESDA train Tagb's out-of-school youth		Online, Print – Page 6	https://theboholtribune.com/2021/06/19/city-news-49/
The Bohol Times	City Out-of-School youth undergo TESDA, USAID Opportunity 2.0 training		Print, Online	https://theboholtimes.com/index.php/2021/06/20/city-out-of-school-youth-undergo-tesda-usaid-opportunity-2-0-training/
PIA Region 10	OSYDA, USAID O2 hold capacity assessment, resource inventory training		Print, Online, Official Facebook Page	https://issuu.com/piaregion10/docs/nmp_
PIA Region 10	118 ALS completers join pathways completers for youth		Print, Online, Official Facebook Page	https://issuu.com/piaregion10/docs/nmp_june21_
PIA Region 10	25 OSYs participate in Youth Access to TESDA Online Programs		Print and Online, Official Facebook Page	https://issuu.com/piaregion10/docs/nmp_june23?fbclid=IwAR2c-f3p61KTqtH9f2Vd0LRQrQ9a_VbNkINZFEBs32ifxtyeJ6ZWd9lIPc (Page 9-10)
The Monitor Mindanao Today	25 OSYs take part in TESDA online programs		Print, Online, Official Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/themindanaotoday/photos/a.118940426856404/180380994045680/?type=3
Gold Star Daily	25 out-of-school youths join in access to Tesda online programs		Print and Online, Official Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/photo .

Quarter 3 O2 Success Stories

OSY trains as radio broadcaster, advocates for mental health

MAY 2021 | ISABELA CITY, BASILAN

For 21-year-old Nor-Anie Abdullah, attending trainings was one way to cope with the challenges brought about by COVID-19.

"[This] pandemic... parang hindi naging productive ang year ko, [kaya] naging interested ako na mag-explore...," says Nor-Anie. (In this pandemic... It's like my year wasn't productive. So, I was really interested to explore).

She recalls how her graduation from the Alternative Learning System (ALS) of the Department of Education was postponed this year due to the pandemic.



Nor-Anie, who lives in Isabela City, Basilan in southern Philippines is one of the many young people who struggled to adjust to new learning modalities, her interaction with friends and fellow learners limited, and her progress hampered due to COVID-19.

With the encouragement of her ALS teacher, she joined a four-day training about youth empowerment and mental health in March 2021. Here, she and other young people in her community were taught about the importance of radio as a tool for learning and maintaining mental wellbeing. In a time when everyone seems to have mobile gadgets and access to the internet, many Filipinos still do not. In areas where mobile signal remains intermittent and power fluctuates, radio is king.

The training was organized by Nagdilaab Foundation, Inc., a local non-profit, after having won a grant through the USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program.

Nor-Anie was excited looking back at activities she took part in since joining the project. "My favorite lesson was about mental health. People used to treat mental health so lightly and then I learned that anxiety and depression are not something you joke about," she said, adding that she also learned about youth empowerment and gender-based violence as part of the training.

Among these activities, however, Nor-Anie seemed to have enjoyed radio broadcasting the most. "Though it was nerve-wracking at first, I still enjoyed every bit of it, and I learned a lot – from the dos and don'ts of a radio broadcast to the things to say in the broadcast," she said.

She initially had difficulty writing scripts and being comfortable with public speaking. But, with support from anchors and with the rehearsals, she feels she's much better now.

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



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EDC
Education Development Center

OSY trains as radio broadcaster, advocates for mental health

"97.5 Nutriskwela Radyokomunidad: Basta radio, DXNO, informed ka!"

exclaims Nor-Anie with the ease of a seasoned broadcaster. In the weekly radio program which airs every Monday, lessons they learned on mental health are featured.

Best practices on information dissemination are embedded in the broadcasting activity, with the guidance of the local Philippine Information Agency – Isabela Infodesk. The weekly radio program, which targets ALS learners in the area, broadcasts about coping with mental health disorders and aims to help young people by amplifying the youth's own voice through youth radio broadcasters.

"These days, I think the youth are going through mental issues because of the sudden change of the way they live. And I think this program helped them to be aware of this so that they can properly address [these issues] ...," Nor-Anie said. "As we deliver the messages to our fellow youth, I think this helps them gain trust that we understand them as well," she added.



Because of the youth empowerment and mental health training, Nor-Anie has built up confidence, gained new skills and new friends. She has become even more driven to join more training, not just on broadcasting but also youth leadership as well as responsible use of social media.

She said she is now even more determined to pursue a professional career in either teaching, medicine, or social work. Nor-Anie said she has always wanted to become a teacher, and her experience in anchoring has given her more confidence to be one.

"Focus on your goals," she appeals to other young people like her. "If you focus on your goals, you will overcome these changes and challenges. Rest if you need it, and don't push yourself too hard so that you can take care of your mental health."

Nagdilaab Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization based in Isabela City, Basilan that works on peace and development with communities.

Through the USAID Opportunity 2.0 grant, they have capacitated out-of-school youth on psychosocial first aid training and broadcasting skills, enabling them to advocate for mental health wellness through radio in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Opportunity 2.0 is a five-year (2020-2025) initiative that will improve the learning and earning outcomes of out-of-school Filipino youth by working with key stakeholders from government, industry and academia to strengthen the education, training and employment systems at the national and local level. These include DepEd's enhanced Alternative Learning Systems program, TESDA's skills training programs, and local government programs for youth.

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



Quarter 2 O2 Success Stories

Young, stay-at-home mom learns agribusiness online

JUNE 2021 | ZAMBOANGA CITY

"Para po sa kagaya kong out-of-school youth, mahirap po talaga na makahanap ng trabaho o makapagsimula ng kahit maliit lang na pagkakakitaan. Hindi po talaga namin alam kung paano magsisimula," recalls 20-year-old Rosselle Amancio, who is a stay-at-home mom.

(For us out-of-school youth, it is difficult to look for a job or even start a small business. We really don't know how to begin.)

When COVID-19 hit the Philippines, the vulnerable youth was disproportionately affected. Their access to education and training was discontinued as communities went into lockdowns and quarantines, worsening their already vulnerable conditions.

In response to this, the "Youth Access to TESDA Online Programs" was launched in select cities across the Philippines, including Zamboanga City. The project is an offshoot of Opportunity 2.0, a collaborative youth development program of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with local stakeholders including the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). Through this project, out-of-school youth (OSY) are enjoined into the TESDA Online Program (TOPs), provided free online tech-voc and work readiness trainings as well as loaned tablets and community-based facilitators to support their training process.

The local Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council) disseminated information about this initiative in local barangays (villages) and Rosselle quickly signed up, taking up Basic Urban Gardening in TOPs.

The farmer population in Zamboanga is aging, and with the unceasing COVID-19 pandemic, the number of out-of-school youth is also growing since more students are leaving school for work. For most of them, poverty has become an even bigger obstacle as they needed to leave school to help with expenses, but finding jobs also proved to be difficult.

The Youth Development Alliance, led by the City government, along with the barangay and youth councils, have identified that agriculture courses are most in-demand among TOPs learners. So, in addition to their online classes with TESDA, the City Agriculturist Office added a hands-on training component for the OSY, through Kids Who Farm, a local food production and education initiative.



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



Young, stay-at-home mom learns agribusiness online

"We have the potential to sustain agricultural development given the vast farmlands and other resources, and we want the youth to be more involved," says City Agriculturist Arben Magdugo. "USAID Opportunity 2.0 has helped us in motivating and encouraging the youth to really appreciate agriculture. This partnership helped us to reach out to more youth, and have them take part more in the agri-fishery sector."



Kids Who Farm have established community gardens and promotes urban gardening in barangays within Zamboanga City.

Youth who complete TOPs will receive certifications from the City Agriculturist Office and, following TESDA's assessment, can also receive national certificates, which will better their chances for employment or entrepreneurship after the training.

As of May 2021, a total of 40 OSY have signed up for TOPs in Zamboanga, half of them are currently learning about soft skills needed in the world of work and the basics of starting your own business. Work exposure and immersion as well as peer coaching, are also part and an added value of Opportunity 2.0 to TOPs.

"Noong nakapasok po ako sa TOPs, natutunan ko po na ito ang makakatulong sa akin upang makahanap ako ng pagkakakitaan para sa aming pangangailangan araw-araw, kaya hanggang ngayon palagi pa rin po akong sumasali sa aming klase," Rosselle says.

(When I joined TOPs, I learned that this program could really help me find a source of income that could help finance our daily needs, so I make sure to continue learning and join all classes.)

"What we're trying to instill in them is not for them to be a worker in any of our established farms here (in Zamboanga City), but for them to start their own. The reason why we are equipping them technically, why they are really exposed to hands-on training, is for them to gain that experience," Mr. Magdugo says. The City has already anticipated the youth's limited access to capital after they finish training, and in response, they have already readied loan options to help jumpstart their own projects, with the help of the local Department of Agriculture.

"Malaking tulong po talaga [ito] sa akin dahil dati po wala po akong alam kung paano magsimula ng sarili kong garden. Pero ngayon po, mas nagustuhan ko na ang pagtanim at kung mabibigyan po ng pagkakataon, gusto ko pong magsimula ng maliit na garden dito sa bahay naming," says Roselle.

(This helps a lot because back then, I did not have any idea how to start my own garden. Now, I have grown to like gardening more and if given the chance, I would also like to start my own Hydroponics garden at home.)

Opportunity 2.0 is a five-year (2020-2025) program that will improve the learning and earning outcomes of out-of-school Filipino youth by working with key stakeholders from government, industry and academia to strengthen the education, training and employment systems at the national and local level. These include DepEd's enhanced Alternative Learning Systems program, TESDA's skills training programs, and local government programs for youth.

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EDC D-1, 16th Floor KMCS, Cyberscape Gamma
Topaz and Ruby Roads, Ortigas Center
Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines

www.opportunity.org.ph

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