



QUARTERLY
PROGRESS
REPORT

APRIL - JUNE

2022

OPPORTUNITY 2.0

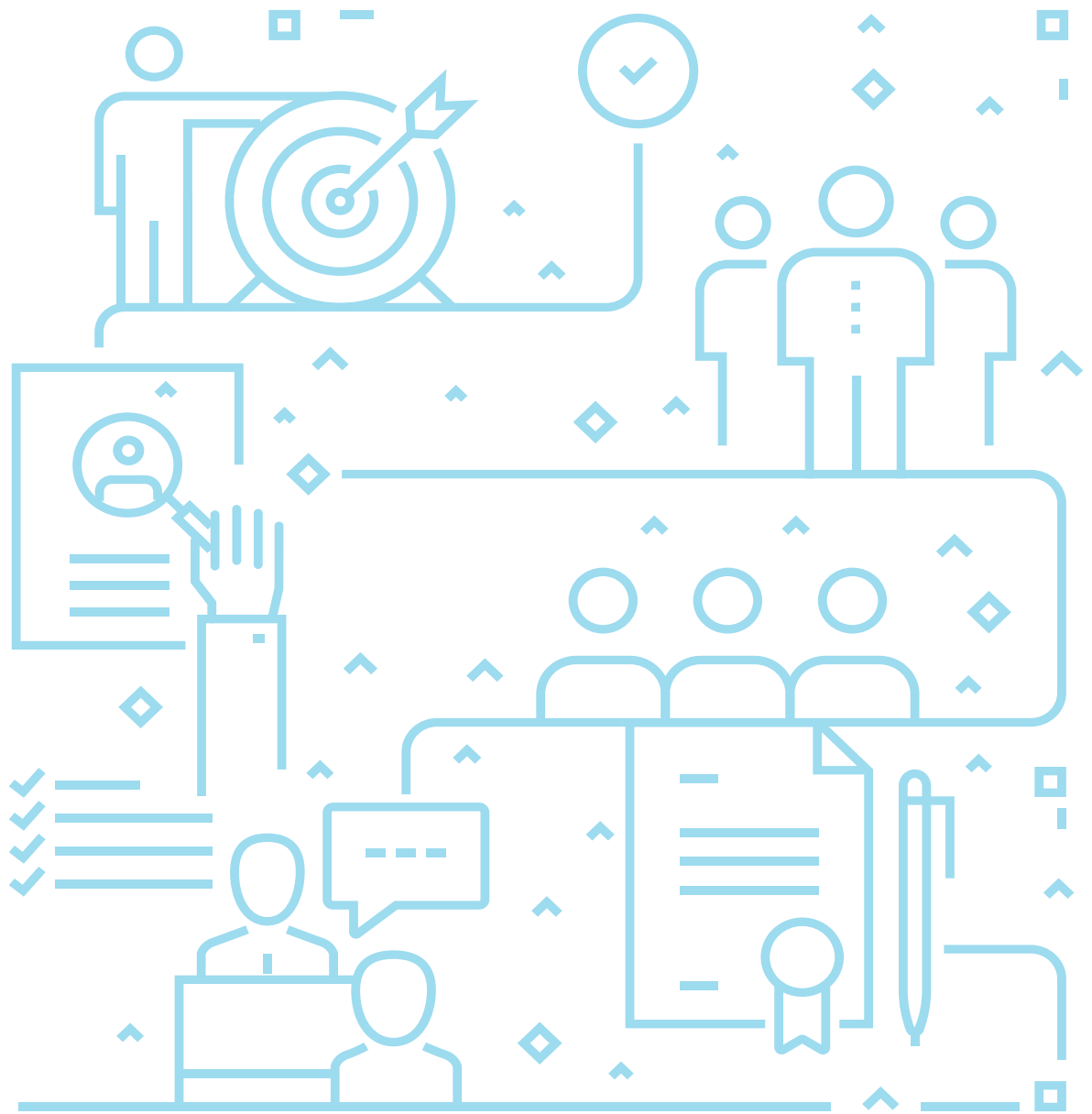
SECOND CHANCE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Education
Development
Center



Contents

Acronyms & Abbreviations	i
Executive Summary	ii
Summary of Progress (Indicators)	2
Technical Programs Progress	8
IR1: Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to deliver second-chance education programs for OSY	10
IR2: Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to develop, deliver and monitor workforce readiness and technical-vocational training for OSY	15
IR3: Improve an enabling environment for positive youth development at both national and local levels	22
Progress on Cross Cutting Activities	29
Higher Education Institutions	29
Private Sector Engagement	32
Grants Program	34
Monitoring, Evaluation, & Learning	36
Outreach and Communications	37
Partnerships	39
Administration & Operations	43
Look Ahead	46
Annexes	49
Annex A: O2 in the News (April-June 2022)	50
Annex B: Success Stories	52

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AIP	Annual Implementation Plan
ALS	Alternative Learning System
BAE	Bureau of Alternative Education
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
BCPD	Banilad Center For Professional Development
BSMED	Bureau of Small and Medum Enterprise Development
BU	Bicol University
BYOB	Be Your Own Boss
CAMANAVA	Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela City
CAVU	City Agricultural Veterinary Unit
CDO	Cagayan De Oro City
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
COBSAT	Cagayan de Oro (Bugo) School of Arts and Trades
COVID-19	Corona Virus 2019
CPD	City Planning and Development
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSWDO	City Social Welfare and Development Office
CYDO	City Youth Development Office
DepEd	Department of Education
DDG	Deputy Directory General
DICT	Department of Information, Communication, and Technology
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DTE	Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
ECOP	Employers Confederation of the Philippines
EDC	Education Development Center
EIM	Electrical Installation and Maintenance
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HERO	Higher-level Education or Training Readiness Orientation
IAI	Interactive Audio Instruction
IDEALS, Inc.	Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services
IR	Intermediate Results
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
ISAT	Iloilo Science and Technology University
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender
LGU	Local Government Unit (LGU)
LLMA	Local Labor Market Assessment
LOP	Life of Project
LRIR	Local Resource Inventory Report
LSP	Local or Learning Service Provider
LYDC	Local Youth Development Council
LYDO	Local Youth Development Office
MC	Miriam College
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MSME	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NC	National Certification
NCR	National Capital Region
NEAP	National Educators Academy of the Philippines
NSTP	National Service Training Program
NYC	National Youth Commission
OCAT	Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool

OM	Operations Manual
OSY	Out-of-School Youth
PDA	Portfolio Development and Assessment
PESO	Public Employment Service Office
PLP	Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig
POPCOM	Population Commission
POY	Pathways Orientation for Youth
PYAP	Pag-Asa Youth Association of the Philippines
PYD	Positive Youth Development
QC	Quezon City
QCU	Quezon City University
QSO	Qualifications and Standards Office (TESDA)
RA	Republic Act
RD	Regional Director
SDO	Schools Division Office (DepEd)
SEAMEO INNOTECH	Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology
SEEDS	Strengthening Education, Employment and Development Support (O2 Grants Program for HEIs)
SHS	Senior High School
SILC	Saving and Internal Lending Communities
SK	Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council)
SSA	Soft Skills Assessment
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
SY	School Year
TA	Technical Assistance
TBD	To be determined
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
TOP	TESDA Online Program
TOT	Training of Trainors
TPD	Teacher Professional Development
TTI	TESDA Training Institutions
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
UA&P	University of Asia and Pacific
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
USTP	University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines
VFJ	Virtual First Job
VSO	Voluntary Service Overseas
VYDA	Valenzuela City Youth Development Alliances
VYNEC	Valenzuela Youth Network Executive Council
WBL	Work Based Learning
WFD	Workforce Development
WORQ	Workforce Outcome Reporting Questionnaire
WRLSS	Work Ready and Lifeskills Skills Survey
WRN	Work Ready Now!
YDA	Youth Development Alliance
YDO	Youth Development Office
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YNEC	Youth Network Executive Council (Legazpi City)
ZSCMST	Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology



The Education Development Center (EDC) is pleased to submit the Opportunity 2.0 (O2) Program's Quarterly Progress Report covering the period of April 1 to June 30, 2022 (FY22 Q3).

Progress continues to be good in most of the program activities. COVID-19 remains an influence, particularly in targets related to youth engagement but this continues to ease as the pandemic seems to be receding.

O2 provides technical assistance to BAE to support their organizational strengthening

O2 is providing assistance to the Department of Education (DepEd) Bureau of Alternative Education (BAE) to support their organizational strengthening. A needs assessment of the BAE covered topics such as strategic direction setting (vision, mission, core values); value proposition and design principles; organizational capacity development priorities; organizational risk assessment and mitigation; data management priorities; and, change management priorities. The outcome of this work is a roadmap for BAE to guide its development as a new bureau. Following a BAE review, the capacity development program will be rolled out.

O2 continues to support BAE on policy formulation and implementation of the ALS 2.0 policy reform agenda

O2 also continues to provide support on policy formulation and implementation of the ALS 2.0 policy reform agenda, which is designed to enhance the accessibility, quality, and governance of the DepEd Alternative Learning System (ALS). This support includes finalizing four policies to assist the BAE to address the requirements of Republic Act 11510 – An Act Institutionalizing the ALS designed to strengthen their System.

O2 continues to support TESDA with its first-ever Futures Thinking Program

Launched in March, TESDA continues to implement its first-ever Futures Thinking Program with the support of O2 and the Center for Engaged Foresight through masterclasses, attended by 25 TESDA officials, to introduce concepts of futures thinking, strategic foresight, the discipline of anticipation, anticipatory leadership and governance. Topics included the Association of Professional Futurists (APF) Foresight Competency Model, six critical steps to building a foresight driven mindset and competencies for leadership, professionals and organizations, learn by doing strategic foresight tools and methods.

YDAs gaining greater recognition and reach

The Youth Development Alliance (YDA) concept continues to gain wider recognition in O2 sites as a mechanism for local leadership and synergy among stakeholders to address the concerns of out-of-school youth (OSY). The Legazpi City YDA expanded membership to 33, with several new organizations from all sectors represented. The May meeting of the Quezon City YDA was attended by over 50 representatives, including some new organizations. The new Valenzuela YDA continues to grow and thrive while the Tagbilaran YDA added government departments, namely Information, Communication, and Technology as well as Interior and Local Government to its membership. In June, in view of O2's work to engage a wide range of stakeholders through the YDA mechanism, O2 received formal recognition as a key partner in youth development during Tagbilaran City's Charter Day celebration.



WBL and BYOB to be implemented in ALS

In April, the DepEd Bureau of Alternative Education issued a Memorandum to Schools Division Offices in O2 sites to start implementing Work-Based Learning (WBL) and Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) starting School Year (SY) 2022-2023. The pilot implementation will set a precedent for the eventual national roll-out of WBL and BYOB in DepEd.

'Youth Access to TOP' continues to deliver

The 'Youth Access to TESDA Online Program (TOP)' program continues to be popular with 350 youth enrolled this quarter. This brings the total to 832 OSY who have accessed technical-vocational education and training (TVET) through the scheme. Enrollees also participated in a three-week training on 21st Century Skills facilitated by a local TOP facilitator. They also took part in Pathways Orientation for Youth (POY) workshop, which builds their ability to identify and pursue opportunities available to them through continued engagement with O2.

O2 SILC program grows and is well received

Ten new Savings and Internal Lending (SILC) groups were organized this quarter in Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu City, Davao City, Cotabato City, and Quezon City with 30 new youth engaged bringing the total OSYs in SILC programs to 298 as of June 30. OSY members are now trained in Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) and SILC program saving up and starting their savings cycle. Among the SILC groups, two in CDO have completed the first savings cycle as of this quarter where youth received their share-out amounting to Php 15,166, which also includes their group income.

Preparation for new O2 sites continues

This quarter, O2 started awareness and partnership building in the new sites of Iligan City, Pasig City, and Iloilo City to prepare for the formation of YDAs. O2 paid a courtesy visit to Mayor Vico Sotto on June 24 to provide a program brief of the program, including success stories of OSY. In addition, exploratory meetings were held with 20 stakeholders representing national and local government agencies, higher education institutions, youth groups, and youth serving groups took place with very positive responses. In Iloilo, O2 met with Mayor Geronimo "Jerry" Treñas and presented the program to the mayor along with the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation, Youth Development Council, TESDA, and the Iloilo Science and Technology University (ISAT). The City Mayor agreed to work on local legislation to establish and institutionalize the YDA. Drafting of the Executive Order has started and the signing is planned on or before September.

HERO being delivered to OSY through student volunteers

Higher Education engagement continues to grow, with O2 partnering with Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST) and Bicol University (BU) to deliver Higher-level Education or Training Readiness Orientation (HERO) by utilizing college students as volunteer facilitators. A total of 85 college student volunteers were trained from both institutions, who then delivered HERO to 131 DepEd ALS Youth.

Private sector activity continues to gain momentum

Activities have been in full swing across program sites, engaging the Private Sector in meaningful ways that would ensure systematic and institutional support to youth transitioning to wage employment or self-employment. A total of 916 companies have been reached and, out of those, 782 companies have supported a range of activities from initial engagement. Private Sector partners led mock interviews and reviewed resumes during WBL trainings and judged BYOB business plan presentations. They also hosted youth for work immersion, judged pitch competitions during Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship (DTE) Boot Camps, and hired youth for full time employment and linked youth to businesses where they could sell their products.

Summary of Indicators

In Q3, O2 has met or exceeded the targets for more than half of project indicators, either through its annual targets or LOP targets, which is equivalent to 13 of the now 25¹ indicators. Below is a summary of the program's accomplishments in terms of outcome and output indicators.

Outcome Indicators

- O2 continues to support strengthening ALS policies through the development of the Operations Manual (OM) and supporting the set-up of a school-to-work transition mechanism. OM consultations with ALS teachers were completed in May and the final OM draft is under review. O2 expects the OM will be finalized and presented to the new Department of Education (DepEd) officials by Q4. In addition, O2 supported the Bureau of Alternative Education (BAE) to pilot Work-Based Learning (WBL) and Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) modules in June. BAE has a plan to roll out WBL and BYOB nationwide next school year thus establishing its school-to-work transition mechanism.
- In terms of youth transition outcomes, initial results indicate low transitions to new employment 13.4 percent and further education or training 7.4 percent. The low transition rate to further education could be explained by the timing of data collection, which happened within the school year, whereas enrollment in, for example, senior high school, is expected to be observed around August to September 2022. As for the transition to employment and average percent change in earnings, more data need to be collected and factored into the analysis before the program could see a solid trend. The WORQ survey tool will be purposively administered among learners in the upcoming DepEd ALS SY 2022-2023 starting this August along with the Work Ready and Life Skills Survey (WRLSS). The percentages changed from the previous quarter and were in fact lowered, as these are contingent on the number of responses that were gathered within the reporting period and the actual responses relating to the transitions being measured.²

Intermediate Results 1 (IR1)

O2 continues to train education administrators (ES 1-12) in TESDA and educators (ES 1-6) in DepEd ALS. TESDA officials have started a new series of training on Futures Thinking in June while ALS teachers continue on their professional development course under SEAMEO INNOTECH. The program has exceeded the number of education administrators trained after the end of the Futures Thinking seminars. The figure significantly increases from only 126 teachers and administrators in Q2 to 422 this Q3 (LOP is 300). The number of educators who completed professional development activities (ES. 1-6) also increased, now posted at 3,339.

O2 continues to work with BAE and TESDA to collect data on Custom Indicator 8. With a data sharing agreement with TESDA in place, O2 is beginning to receive additional learner data and is expecting to significantly advance data collection on the number of youth participating in program activities. O2 is in discussions with BAE to establish a similar data sharing agreement.



[1] In June 2022, USAID advised the program to drop GNDR-3 indicator (percent of female youth participants with increased self-efficacy) reducing the number of indicators from 26 to 25.

[2] In quarter 2, for both EG 6-12 and ES 1-46, data shows 11 out of the 75 WORQ respondents (with valid responses), had transitioned to new employment (male=29.2%; female=7.8%) and further education (male=16.7%; female=3.7%). For this quarter, 28 respondents out of 373 (7.4%) for ES 6-12 (new employment) and 51 out of 373 respondents (13.4%) for transitions to further education (ES 1-46). While the overall proportions are below the expected targets, it is important to observe a greater proportion of young women moving into employment, and a greater proportion of young men into further education, both of which are indicated in the O2 Gender and Disability Strategy as the efforts that the project would like to focus on.

Intermediate Results 2 (IR2)

The number of soft skills and life skills training completers (YOUTH-1) increased by more than 50% from the last quarter from 10,432 to 15,730. Out of this number, only 49% were observed to have improved their soft skills (EG 6-13) after completing the Work Ready Now! (WRN) modules. O2 assessed the initial project assumptions and the assessment skills and recognized that the methodology of measuring soft skills assessment needs to be recalibrated to reflect soft skills training the youth are gaining. The WRLSS tool that will replace the Soft Skills Assessment (SSA) Tool was found more appropriate in assessing the variables intended to be measured under this specific indicator (EG 6-13) i.e., improvement in soft skills. The SSA Tool was based on the WRN Credential Test.



Completion of workforce development (EG 6-14) is at 1569, with 47% of these being female youth participants (GNDR-2). O2's commitment to prioritizing the recruitment of female youth participants in workforce development programs has contributed to achieving almost equal enrollment and completion of workforce development programs.

This year's cumulative target for the number of employers engaged (Indicator 16) has been met and exceeded with 901 employers engaged which is an increase of about 21% from the previous quarter (Y3 target is 900). With increased mobility due to relaxed COVID-19 alert levels, more partnership activities have materialized. Youth (203) were also able to engage in work immersion (Indicator 19) opportunities.

As for supporting youth entrepreneurs, and with the more favorable COVID-19 situation, the originally identified SILC pilot site in Quezon City opened thereby increasing the number of SILC participants to 298. SILC benefits are also starting to be felt as total accumulated savings have reached at least Php 186,333.00 with 51% (Php 95,812.00) of it already disbursed as small loans to its youth members. A total of Php 21,603.00 was accumulated for social fund.

The commencement of SILC implementation in Quezon City and the displayed current trend of SILC implementation (Indicator EG. 4.2-7) is a promising step towards achieving the 325 SILC youth target for this year and the overall LOP target of 500.

Intermediate Results 3 (IR3)

Among the three result areas, the program is performing best in the area of building an enabling environment for positive youth development with the help of its key local partners. Almost a thousand youth (994) participated in leadership activities, and over 3,000 youth volunteered for civic activities.

YDA partnerships began to reap benefits for the youth in a few of the program areas. With the increased monitoring of YDA counterpart in program co-implementation, it has been accounted that at least Php 1,876,215.04 or USD 257,295 have been contributed in terms of donated staff time, food, and facility for OSY-focused activities, vehicles for local ALS school division, and TESDA scholarships.



No	FAF # / Custom	Indicator	Y1-Y3 Target	Cumulative Accomplishment as of Quarter 3	LOP Target
Goal/Outcome Indicators					
1	Supp-15	Education system strengthened – policy reform	N/A	Yes	Yes
2	ES. 1-46	Percent of individuals who transition to further education or training following participation in USG-assisted programs	25%	7.4%	25%
3	EG. 6-11	Average percent change in earnings following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs	TBD	TBD	TBD
4	EG. 6-12	Percent of individuals with new employment following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs	25%	13.7%	25%
IR1: Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to develop, deliver, and monitor second-chance education programs for out-of-school youth					
5	Supp-16	Education systems strengthened – Data Systems	N/A	ALS M&E Framework document produced and distributed	Yes
<i>Sub-IR 1.1: Second-chance programs teach innovative learning content that is more relevant and responsive to youth aspirations for education and jobs</i>					
6	ES. 1-12	Number of education administrators and officials who complete professional development activities with USG assistance	200	422	300
7	ES. 1-6	Number of educators who complete professional development activities with USG assistance	1,700	3,339	1,700
<i>Sub IR 1.2: National and local educational systems deliver new content with quality, at scale, and in a manner that is engaging to youthz</i>					
8	Custom	Number of youth participating in USG-funded training program	90,000	21,063	180,000
9	ES. 2-1	Number of host country higher education institutions receiving capacity development support with USG assistance	10	38	15
10	ES. 2-54	Number of USG-supported partnerships that address regional, national, and/or local development objectives through or with higher education institutions	14	38	14
<i>Sub-IR 1.3 ALS supported to test flexible delivery modalities to meet the needs of diverse out-of-school youth populations</i>					
11	Custom	Number of individuals reached through flexible delivery modalities	1,000	18,603	6,000

No	FAF # / Custom	Indicator	Y1-Y3 Target	Cumulative Accomplishment as of Quarter 3	LOP Target
IR2: Strengthened capacity of national and local systems to deliver workforce readiness and technical-vocational training for out-of-school youth					
12	EG. 6-13	Percent of individuals with improved soft skills following participation in USG-assisted workforce development programs	80%	49%	80%
13	YOUTH-1	Number of youth trained in soft skills/life skills through USG-assisted programs	70,000	15,730	144,000
<i>Sub-IR 2.1 National and local systems provide foundational skills in Work Readiness and Entrepreneurship</i>					
14	Custom	Number of teaching and learning materials (TLMs) that are inclusively representative produced with USG assistance	5	31	20
<i>Sub-IR 2.2 National and local youth workforce development systems are responsive to employers and prepare youth to transition into better jobs</i>					
15	EG. 6-14	Percent of individuals who complete USG-assisted workforce development programs	80%	73.22%	80%
16	Custom	Number of employers engaged	900	901	2,200
<i>Sub-IR 2.3: National and local youth workforce development systems prepare and support youth to start their own businesses/self-employment opportunities</i>					
17	GNDR-2	Proportion of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, or employment)	50%	47.01%	50%
18	EG. 4.2-7	Number of individuals participating in USG-assisted group-based savings, micro-finance, or lending programs	325	298	500
<i>Sub-IR2 2.4 Capacity of local training and accompaniment service providers built</i>					
19	Custom	Number of work experiences facilitated by USG-funded development program	550	286	2,000
IR3: Improved enabling environment for Positive Youth Development at both national and local levels					
20	Custom	Number of youth-friendly laws and policies	6	12	16
<i>Sub-IR 3.1 Stakeholders sensitized to the potential of vulnerable youth</i>					
21	Custom	Number of individuals who participate in orientation workshops promoting positive youth development	N/A	238	150

No	FAF # / Custom	Indicator	Y1-Y3 Target	Cumulative Accomplishment as of Quarter 3	LOP Target
<i>Sub-IR 3.2: Services, support networks, and relationships are more responsive to youth needs</i>					
22	Custom	Number of Youth Development Alliances (YDAs) established	N/A	12	8
23	CBLD-9	Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance	80%	100%	100%
24	Custom	Number of youth engaged in leadership activities	230	994	430
<i>Sub-IR 3.3: Sustainable pathways for youth engagement created</i>					
25	Custom	Number of youth participating in volunteer activities	7,500	3,027	62,250

OPPORTUNITY 2.0 PROGRAM SITES

▶ NCR HUB

Angeles City
Valenzuela City
Quezon City
Pasig City
Legazpi City

▶ CEBU HUB

Cebu City
Tagbilaran City
Iloilo City
Zamboanga City
Isabela City

▶ DAVAO HUB

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



Technical Progress

This quarter, O2 built good working relationships with local actors and conducted activities towards establishing Youth Development Alliances in expansion cities, Iligan City, Iloilo City, and Pasig City.

Marked by the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, O2 is now being conducted largely through in-person activities. Orientation meetings were done to support the smooth transition of change in leadership of key agencies at national and local levels in response to the elections in June.

This report will focus on technical activities supporting O2's three intermediate results (IRs) in the following pages.



IMPACT: Improved learning and earning outcomes for Filipino OSY by 2025

IR1



Strengthening second chance education

IR2



Strengthening workforce readiness and tech-voc education

IR3



Improving the enabling environment



Cutting across these IRs are activities that engage private sector, engage universities and address gender and disability challenges.



STRONG SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION

O2 STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION





IR1: Strengthening second chance education for OSY

This quarter, O2's activities impacted DepEd's ALS advances in three key components: (1) ALS curriculum enhancement through piloting WBL and BYOB and conducting focus groups for IAI programing; (2) continued capacity building for BAE through ALS Speakers Bureau, commencing of TPD second course and Portfolio Development and Assessment workshops; and, (3) policy development through M&E workshops, supporting the policy reform agenda, and providing technical support during the National Policy Workshops.

DepEd ALS started piloting WBL and BYOB as part of ALS Curriculum



We plan to have a national roll-out of WBL and BYOB, just like what we did with the Life Skills Modules.

— Dir. Marilette Almayda
Bureau of Alternative Education
Department of Education

DepEd Bureau of Alternative Education issued a Memorandum (OM-OAGA-2022-055) in April to Schools Division Offices (SDOs) in O2 sites to start implementing WBL and BYOB starting SY 2021-2022. All ALS implementers who have undergone the training of trainers last 2021 were instructed to implement.

The pilot implementation will set a precedent for the eventual national roll-out of WBL and BYOB in DepEd. Implementing guidelines were issued on June 24 through Memorandum OM-OAGA-2022-086 to provide more detailed guidelines on its implementation, including the data necessary to be collected to inform the national roll-out.

Interactive Audio Instruction delivery was reviewed with youth



EDC's Kit Yasin led the review of Life Skills delivery using IAI.



An Interactive Audio Instruction (IAI) focus group workshop was conducted with 13 ALS Learners in Tagbilaran City to review the IAI episodes produced to complement the Life Skills modules. The IAI episodes were demonstrated in three parts: pre-lesson motivation, actual lesson through IAI, and post-lesson processing. After the demo, an evaluation was completed and showed that learners liked the IAI episodes as a way to learn Life Skills lessons, especially the songs and the characters. Ms. Bhing Rosil, DepEd Tagbilaran City ALS Focal Person, also expressed positive feedback about the IAI episodes and looked forward to its adoption by DepEd.

DepEd ALS Core Trainers were trained on facilitation thru a Speakers' Bureau



Continue to unlearn, learn and relearn as we move forward in the implementation of the ALS Act and its IRR.

— ASec. GH Ambat echoes American writer Alvin Toffler as she encouraged ALS implementers at the Speakers Bureau in May.

Following the successful roll-out of ALS Act and its IRR Roadshow in 12 O2 sites, DepEd ALS conducted the Speakers Bureau to train the DepEd ALS Core of Trainers in rolling out the Roadshow in their respective sites. O2 trained 203 ALS Implementers and Officials from across the 17 regions in the three-day training on facilitation and presentation skills, and content and delivery of the Roadshow on RA 11510. The training was conducted in three legs: May 2-4 in Legazpi City for the Luzon Cluster, May 17-19 in Iloilo City for the Visayas Cluster, and May 23-25 in Davao City for the Mindanao Cluster.



ALS Teacher professional development course expand

O2, through SEAMEO INNOTECH, delivered the first of three Teacher Professional Development (TPD) courses for ALS Teachers. The first course on developing ALS 2.0 learners began in January and ended on March 31. The closing ceremony for Course 1 was held on June 22 with completion rate of 93 percent (a total of 387 ALS teachers). These ALS teachers received six academic units from Miriam College and is recognized by the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) which contributes to their professional growth, adding to their qualifications needed for potential promotions and license renewal.

TPD Course 2 began on June 25 and will cover Facilitating ALS 2.0 Teaching and Learning lessons. It is co-implemented with West Visayas State University. A total of 442 ALS Teachers from across the country enrolled.



387
ALS Teachers completed TPD Course 1 on developing learners

442
ALS Teachers enrolled to TPD Course 2 on crafting lessons.



Enhancement Course on Portfolio Development and Assessment was conducted for DepEd ALS Teachers



To whom much is given, much is expected. Hoping that after the course, teachers will be able to provide necessary guidance to ALS learners.

— Dr. Ramon C. Bacani
Center Director
SEAMEO INNOTECH

280

ALS Teachers joined the course on Portfolio Development



In addition to the three TPD courses, SEAMEO INNOTECH conducted a four-day online Enhancement Course for Portfolio Development and Assessment on June 8-13, with 280 ALS teachers completing the training.

The ALS teachers expressed their appreciation, sharing that they were able to apply this new knowledge immediately since they are currently validating learner portfolios at the time of the workshop. Participants learned from sharing with co-ALS teachers and were able to voice their challenges with working with learners who were preparing their portfolios. At the end of the four-day course, participants presented their enhanced plan for portfolio assessments.

This course helped ALS teachers:

- ✓ Understand the value of developing a portfolio to highlight learner skills and how portfolios fit in the ALS 2.0 assessment framework,
- ✓ Recognize good practices, and
- ✓ Identify actions to further improve practices at division and implementer levels.



A Workshop on Operationalizing the ALS M&E System was conducted

ALS M&E system pilot began with O2 as SEAMEO INNOTECH conducted a Training-Workshop on Operationalizing the ALS M&E on June 13-17. Twenty-eight members of the ALS M&E technical working group (TWG) participated, representing Community Learning Centers, DepEd Division Offices, Regional Offices, and Central Office units.

O2 M&E Consultant Dr. Rey Macalindog facilitated the four-day training-workshop and focused on three aspects for the pilot implementation: Planning, Baselining, and Most Significant Change. Dr. Macalindog provided the foundation concepts including alignment with the Basic Education Development Plan 2030, then the plan was contextualized by the TWG members. At the end of the training workshop, six pilot sites were selected of which two are O2 sites (General Santos and Iloilo). A follow-on workshop is scheduled on mid-July to determine clear operational definitions of the agreed M&E indicators.



Dr. David Hall and Dir. Marilette Almayda led the opening ceremony. Dr. Hall recalled how DepEd, USAID, and O2 have been great partners during the pandemic to reach the ALS learners and provide quality education. He also expressed continuous support by USAID and O2 to DepEd BAE.

O2 supported BAE policy formulation and implementation



Through O2's technical assistance, the following policies were finalized:



DepEd Joint Memorandum DM-CI-2022-126
Presentation Portfolio Assessment for ALS Accreditation and Equivalency Elementary and Junior High School Learners for School Year 2021-2022



DepEd Order on the Guidelines on the Implementation of the Alternative Learning System Senior High School (ALS SHS)



DepEd Order No. s. 2022
Guidelines on the Provision of Transportation and Teaching Aid Allowances to Alternative Learning System Teachers and DepEd-Engaged Community ALS Implementors Starting School Year 2021-2022 and Thereafter

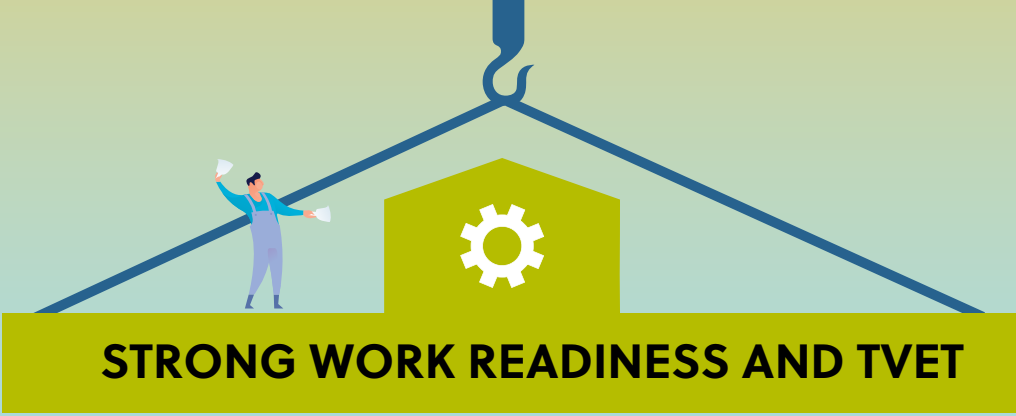


DepEd Joint Memorandum DM-CI-2022-231
Conduct of Nationwide Inventory of ALS Community Learning Centers

The DepEd BAE's Senior Management Team is making great advances in formulating and implementing its ALS 2.0 policy reform agenda on enhancing accessibility, quality, and governance.

O2 Senior International Technical Advisor, Dr. Philip Purnell, worked hand-in-hand with BAE to address requirements of the ALS Act (Republic Act 11510). Dr. Purnell also provided technical assistance to the DepEd BAE in the planning, design, and facilitation of a National ALS Policy Consultation Workshop held in San Fernando, Pampanga, from June 21-24 which covered several new policies to be finalized in the coming weeks.

Moreover, concept papers on Academic-Focused Bridging Programs and Functional Education and Literacy Programs (FELP), which are two new national ALS programs required under RA 11510 were drafted and submitted to DepEd as part of O2's policy support to BAE. Next steps are to conduct desk research and of a series of policy workshops, to inform and validate the new ALS policies which should be completed in next six months.

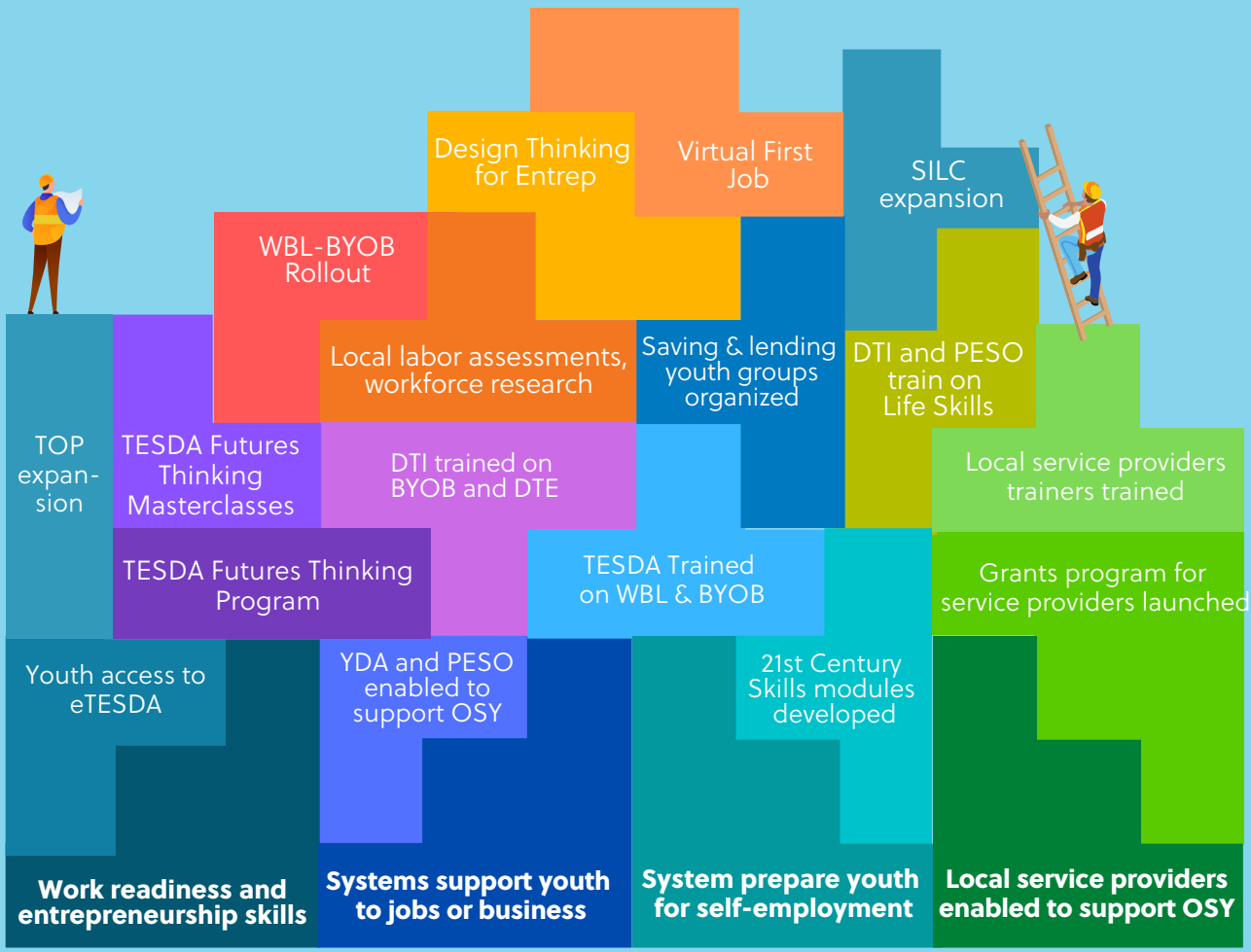


STRONG WORK READINESS AND TVET

O2 STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION



HERO modules for upskilling





IR2: Strengthening workforce readiness and tech-voc education for OSY

O2 continues to strengthen workforce readiness systems for OSY through supporting the TESDA Online Program (TOP), integrating virtual internships, supporting saving and lending communities, along with capacity building for TESDA, through curriculum enhancement, policy development, and Futures Thinking training.

Youth Access to TESDA Online Program (TOP) reached 350 more OSYs



This quarter

350

OSYs enrolled to TOP

144

OSYs completed TOP

112

TOP completers were assessed

102

TOP completers were TESDA certified

Three hundred fifty more youth were enrolled this quarter in O2's 'Youth Access to TOP' across 12 project sites, bringing the total of OSY who accessed technical-vocational education and training (TVET) through the program to 832. OSY have been able to upskill through self-paced online technical classes utilizing the eTESDA platform.

Youth completers this quarter were certified in the following:



The excellent performance of the TOP youth completers is a notable development in an online training environment, proving that trainees can excel at TESDA's assessment and certification process despite learning their skills through blended approaches under a challenging pandemic situation.

To date

832

OSY TOP completers

555

TOP completers have been assessed

513

TOP completers are TESDA certified

Remaining completers are waiting for the availability of the assessment schedules in local assessment centers.

92%

Certification rate

TESDA's national average certification rate is also 92 percent (TESDA 2021 Summary Report).



The most recent Youth Access to TOP graduation was in Valenzuela City on June 21 led by USAID Philippines Acting Education Director of the Office of Education Yvette Malcioln, O2 Chief of Party Dr. David Hall, and TESDA CAMANAVA District Director Rolando V. Dela Torre who were also joined by the city's YDA members represented by Councilor Chiqui Carreon. All TOP completers have gone through WBL and BYOB program, and other post-training learning sessions to support their transition to employment and self-employment.



As part of Youth Access to TOP, youth were loaned tablets and supplied 21st Century modules and other learning materials. They participated in a three-week training on 21st Century Skills, facilitated by a local TOP facilitator using a blended learning approach. They also took part in Pathways Orientation for Youth (POY) workshop which builds their ability to identify and pursue pathways available to them through continued engagement with O2. The orientation introduces the WBL, BYOB, Higher-level Education or Training Readiness Orientation (HERO), and the Work Immersion Program dimensions so youth can make an informed choice and select the best training to suit their goals.

I am now an NC 2 holder because of the guidance and effort of the USAID Opportunity 2.0. I wish they could help many more out-of-school youth in the future.

— Jason Gaviola, Housekeeping NC II Completer, General Santos City



I thought it would be difficult for me to fulfill my dreams because I already have a child. I lost all hope of studying again. I am grateful to be part of USAID Opportunity 2.0. I have high hopes for the future of my family.

— Joyce Ann Ravis, Single Parent, Computer System Servicing and Food and Beverage Services Completer, Valenzuela City



Much of this success is due to the high level of engagement between the trainers and their groups. O2 is documenting outcomes strategies and results for TESDA. In the meantime, O2 is scouting for a receiver of the Youth Access to TOP initiative and is in discussion with local TESDA Training Institutes (TTIs) and YDA members. Handover of tablets and training of trainers is anticipated to take place by the end of the year.



Kayo po ang nagbibigay inspirasyon sa amin at nag momotivate sa saamin sa time na pinanghihinaan na kami ng loob. Maraming salamat po sa inyo mga sir at sa bumubuo ng programa ng USAID.

— Noronisa A. Amba, Computer Servicing Trainee, Cotabato City



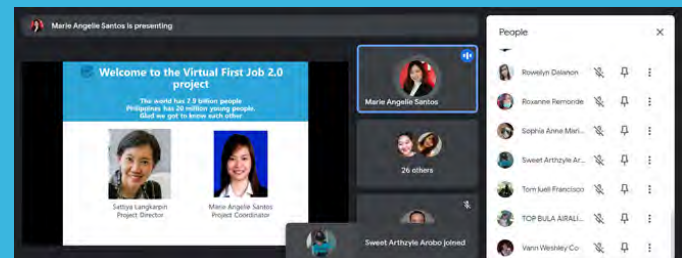
Ang bigat ng responsibilidad bilang electrician nagpapasalamat ako sa USAID dahil namulat kami sa ganitong sitwasyon at pagbubutihin namin sa susunod na pagkakataon at oportunidad

— Christal Mae M. Copereros, Electrical Installation and Maintenance Trainee, Cotabato City



Virtual First Job 2 (VFJ2) reached 80 O2 Youth in four expanded sites

O2 reached 80 new youth for phase two of the Virtual First Jobs (VFJ) program in the cities of Angeles, Valenzuela, Cagayan De Oro, and General Santos. Participating youth are alumni from service providers and the TOP program who are either starting work or an internship or are still looking for work. Youth are paired with a virtual mentor for a period of six weeks. OSY learners are loaned tablets and internet connectivity allowances. Professional volunteer coaches will be engaged to support youth along the six-session virtual coaching underway from June to August 2022.



VFJ is a collaboration with EDC and Bank of America to support youth in the Philippines and Indonesia that aims to address the challenge of youth opportunity by connecting young people entering the workplace with trained virtual mentors recruited from private sector partners. The mentors help youth find success in the workplace by offering insight, guidance, and practical advice as youth learn to apply technical training in workplace settings.

Youth participation in Savings Groups increased through SILC program

Through CRS's Savings and Internal Lending (SILC) program, 10 new savings groups were organized this quarter in Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu City, Davao City, Cotabato City, and Quezon City. SILC members are trained in BYOB. Among SILC groups, two groups in CDO have completed the first SILC cycle as of this quarter which takes eight to 12 months.

Cagayan de Oro (Bugo) School of Arts and Trades (COBSAT) in CDO City and TESDA Wangan National Agricultural School in Davao City will continue the SILC program while supporting and encouraging the youth in planning and starting their income generating activities.

To share success stories, identify issues and challenges in SILC roll-out, O2's consortium partner CRS and the five TTI pilot partners will be participating in the mid-term assessment of the program in July this year as it nears the December 2022 program conclusion. The program is now looking forward to scale up and expand to other O2 sites.

This quarter

10

New OSY SILC groups organized

30

More OSY participate in savings groups

₱ 15,166

Savings from savings cycles completed this quarter in CDO



When we introduced SILC, many hesitated because money was difficult during the pandemic. After a year, SILC members realized the importance of saving for their future. They built new friendships. They thought of possible businesses they could explore.

— Joyce Aila Lerog
CRS field agent
Davao, Philippines



To date

24

OSY SILC groups have been organized, 10 of which were organized this quarter

298

Total OSY members of SILC in 5 O2 cities and trained on BYOB

₱ 186,333

Total savings by SILC groups organized through O2

Youth had loaned to finance small-scale livelihood ventures and various personal and family needs.

₱ 95,812

Futures Literacy Masterclasses conducted for TESDA Officials

Through O2's partnership with Center for Engaged Foresight, TESDA is implementing its first-ever Futures Thinking Program, launched in March and will run until August 2022. Twenty-five TESDA officials selected from different executive offices, regional, and provincial offices attended a series of Futures Literacy Masterclasses from April 29-May 17.

This workshop series is designed to increase the anticipatory knowledge and capacities of its participants. It aims to provide TESDA leadership with the knowledge and insight to use futures as an asset, resource, and tool to transform TESDA into an agile and futures-ready agency and manager of TVET sector in the Philippines. TESDA is expected to create a TESDA Strategic Foresight Task Force within the agency to ensure futures thinking is institutionalized in the agency.



(In TESDA) there is a need to reinforce the foresight capabilities of our regional and provincial directors. So I thought of coming up with a set of standards on a strategic foresight thinking.

— Lorenzo Guillermo
Executive Director of Qualifications and Standards Office (QSO), TESDA

Lessons in TESDA's Futures Thinking Masterclasses

- ✓ Futures thinking concepts
- ✓ Strategic foresight
- ✓ The discipline of anticipation
- ✓ Anticipatory leadership and governance
- ✓ The Association of Professional Futurists (APF) Foresight Competency Model
- ✓ The six critical steps to building a foresight-driven mindset
- ✓ Competencies for leadership, professionals, and organizations
- ✓ Learn-by-doing strategic foresight tools and methods



Modules on 21st Century Skills, BYOB, and WBL provided to TESDA offices



O2 continues to support TESDA's safe and excellent delivery of their Basic Competencies training through the provision of printed copies of Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills. These modules are designed to be delivered through self-directed learning, ensuring learner's access to the material at their own pace, time and place.

Through the issuance of TESDA Board Resolution No. 2019-37, and TESDA Circular No. 97 s. 2019, and with the commencement of the series of regional-level multiplier training of trainers across the country, all of the 183 TESDA Training Institutions across the country have started to use the Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills in their delivery of Basic Competencies.

342

Sets of Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills provided in 17 regions

202

Training institutions benefited

125

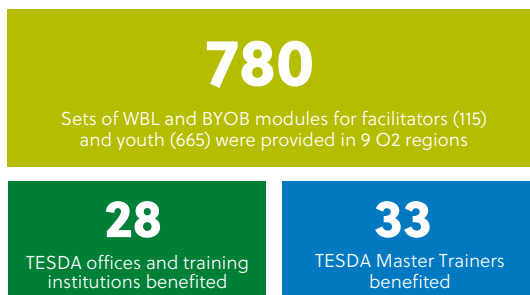
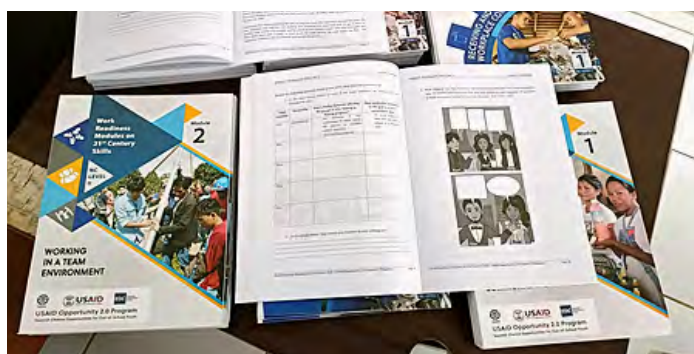
TESDA Trainers benefited

Recent discussions with TESDA include amending the Training Regulations to officially reflect all the nine competencies in the Work Readiness Modules to be included in the required basic competency for all TESDA qualifications. Budgetary allocation for TESDA course offerings and scholarships to ensure that the additional hours for Basic Competency will also be covered.

As part of our partnership with TESDA, TTIs are expected to reproduce more copies of the modules using their funds to support the delivery of BYOB and WBL to their TESDA learners.

At the moment, discussions have been made with three O2 sites (Zamboanga, Quezon City, and Davao) on the pilot implementation of BYOB in select TTIs in their cities as a post-skills training intervention for qualifications under scholarships and could be used for self-employment.

Training Institutions administrators are currently considering how to best integrate BYOB's practical and learner-centered approach and activities for youth entrepreneurship into their existing materials and approaches. Discussions are also being made on how WBL can be infused into TESDA's existing processes, frameworks, linkages, and training approaches.



O2 highlighted 21st Century Skills to Strengthen TVET Curriculum for Global Competitiveness at TESDA Stakeholders Forum

TESD Women Center conducted a virtual Stakeholder's Forum on May 6. With the theme, "Integrating 21st Century Skills to Strengthen TVET Curriculum for Global Competitiveness," the forum gathered relevant information regarding the integration of 21st Century Skills modules in the TVET curricula, and to identify gaps in skills requirement of the industry sectors.



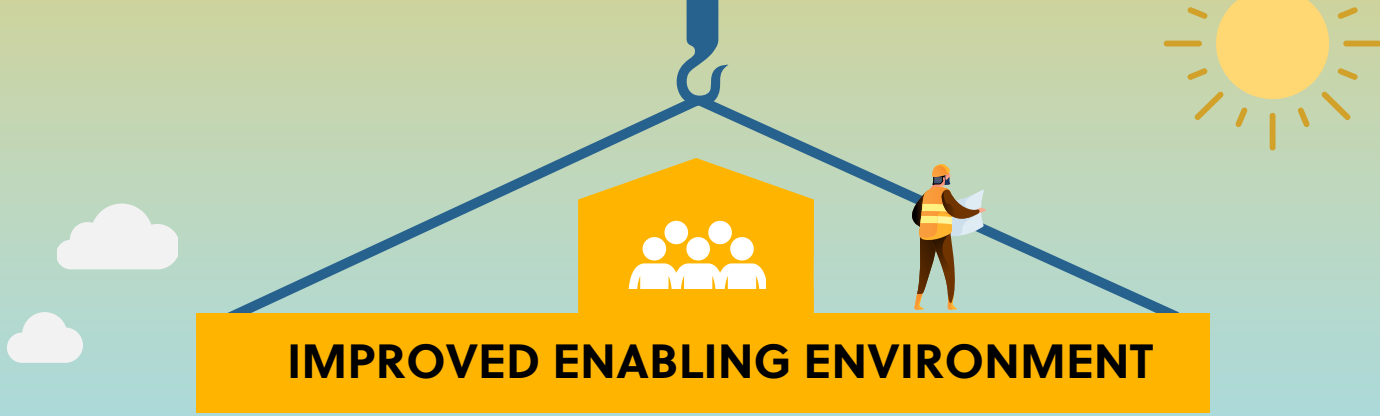
We shall continuously work on this project with USAID to further enhance our learning materials so we can pursue our mandate of providing high technical education and skills development in support of the development of globally competitive Filipino middle-level workforce.

— DDG Rosanna Urdaneta
Deputy Director General for Policies and Planning, TESDA



TESDA Officials participated in the forum which was led by TESDA Deputy Director General on Policies and Planning, DDG Rosanna Urdaneta, TESDA NCR Regional Director Florencio Sunico, Jr., and TESDA Women Center Chief Angelica Gonzales as well as Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) Co-Chairperson Rhoda Caliwara. Private sector partners from different sectors including academe, tourism, marketing, and construction also attended.

EDC presented in the forum, highlighting its partnership with TESDA since 2017 and O2's progress specifically on strengthening the TVET curriculum through the 21st Century Skills, BYOB, and WBL. As initially discussed with TESDA, an Assessment Workshop on the Content, Delivery and Utilization of Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills for NCs I and II is scheduled to happen in September 2022 to be followed by a Writeshop for NCs III and IV in November 2022.



IMPROVED ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

O2 BUILDING STRONGER CITY ALLIANCES





IR3: Improving the enabling environment for positive youth development

The YDA is gaining wider recognition in O2 sites as a mechanism for local leadership and synergy among stakeholders to address the concerns of OSY. This quarter, YDAs expanded membership, worked on legislation to ensure its sustainability, and demonstrated an increase in capacity and functionality while providing opportunities for youth to transition to employment, higher education or training, entrepreneurship, and meaningful engagement.

YDAs catalyzed the collaboration of a broader range of stakeholders to address youth concerns

With a better understanding of the challenges and potential of OSY, more local stakeholders joined their respective YDAs. Four YDAs made significant progress on this as shown below.

Legazpi City YDA added nine new members

New members include Bicol University, its University Student Council, and League of Democrats. The Agricultural Training Institute, Bureau of Treasury and Population Commission, Legazpi City SK, 2D Office of Albay, Probinsyano Partylist, Pag-asa Youth Association of the Philippines (PYAP) Legazpi, and Youth Network Executive Council (YNEC) also joined.



Quezon City YDA gathered over 50 reps

The Quezon City YDA gathered more than 50 representatives for its quarterly meeting in May which included three new members: Local Youth Development Council, UST Angelicum College, and J. Amado Araneta Foundation.



Valenzuela City YDA planned to engage more barangays for OSY programs

Led by the City Council Taskforce on OSY and PYAP Valenzuela City Chapter, VYDA gathered on May 27 to begin the barangay-level visibility of OSY programs in the city. Members agreed to join Barangay Council meetings to present VYDA-initiated OSY programs and gain support of barangay leaders.



Tagbilaran City YDA added three more members, and elected new youth reps

Tagbilaran City YDA extended its membership to the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and City Agricultural Veterinary Unit (CAVU). New O2 youth leaders were also selected by their peers.





In view of O2's work to engage a wide range of stakeholders through the YDA mechanism, the O2 received formal recognition as a key partner in youth development during Tagbilaran City's Charter Day celebration.

YDAs made progress implementing youth developments plans

Last year, YDAs developed annual plans for youth education and skills building, work exposure, employment, entrepreneurship and continuing education opportunities, as well as youth engagement activities, along with policy actions.

Angeles City YDA established a Steering Committee

They meet bimonthly and is composed of six members: Angeles City Chamber of Commerce, DTI Pampanga, SK Federation, DepEd ALS, PESO, TESDA Pampanga, and a youth representative.



Davao City YDA developed a Youth Engagement Plan

This consolidated existing youth programs of the City Social Work and Development Office, the National Youth Commission, PYAP, and YMCA Davao City.



Youth leaders proposed new projects to YDAs in CDO and GenSan

Design Thinking for Innovation workshops conducted with USTP and New Brighton enabled up to 100 youth leaders to input ideas into the youth community engagement plans of both cities.



Legazpi City YDA began OSY mapping

CSWDO, DepEd, and City Youth Development Office guided youth in the mapping activity in 30 of the 70 barangays in Legazpi. Profiles of close to 360 OSYs were gathered, informing the YDA annual plan implementation.



Cebu City YDA finalized its annual plan and budget

This helped ensure budget allocation and integration of YDA plans in the SK Federation's Local Youth Development Plan.



Tagbilaran City YDA has consolidated its annual plan

In accordance with the city ordinance establishing the YDA in Tagbilaran City, YDA members have consolidated sub-committees' annual plans in ensuring that realistic targets are set and budget is allocated to support implementation.



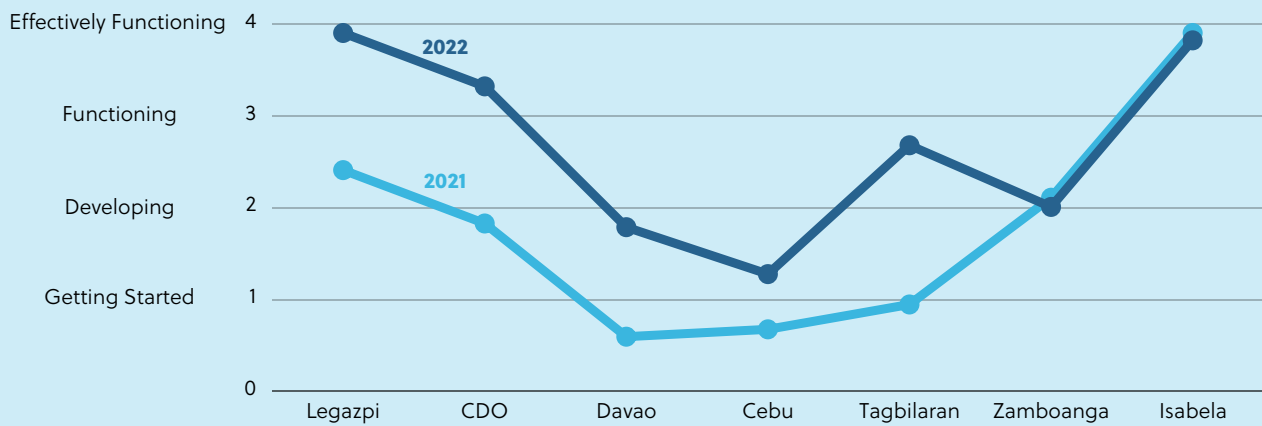
Cotabato City YDA completes data gathering for city youth plans

The Youth Development Office and City Planning and Development Office led and completed data-gathering for the Local Labor Market Assessment. Report development is now underway.

Seven YDAs adapted report card tool to track progress of services delivery

O2 introduced the Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT) and the Local Resources Inventory Report (LRIR) to YDAs last year. This quarter, O2 enhanced the tool by incorporating a Report Card system that made tracking the YDA's progress easier.

YDA level of functionality in 2022 versus 2021.



OCAT-LRIR measures YDA functionality along six dimensions: Governance, Strategic Direction Setting, Services Delivery, Resource Mobilization, Advocacy and Networking, and Sustainability. Using the OCAT, LRIR and Report Card tools, these YDAs identified their level of functionality, as well as their strengths and areas for improvement. YDAs adjust their annual plans according to the results of OCAT-LRIR.



The Cagayan de Oro City YDA was assessed as Effectively Functioning, a significant improvement from its Developing status during its first year of being organized. The YDA aims to mentor youth representatives to more actively participate in the YDA as one of its priorities.

Davao City YDA demonstrated good progress in its functionality, improving from a Developing to Functioning. Members agreed to provide better access to education and training opportunities and work on the passage of an executive order and other youth-friendly policies to ensure resources for youth programming and sustainability of the YDA.



The Legazpi City YDA sustained the active support of its members and progressed from Functioning to Effectively Functioning. Two key successes included Albay DT conducting youth engagement workshops which included business start-up kits, the LGU funding for 150 OSYs and Bicol University implementing the HERO program.

YDAs continued to generate resources for youth development



JCI donated 25 tablets worth Php 225,000 to DepEd ALS

The Junior Chamber International (JCI) Lakambini Davao and DepEd ALS Davao City are working together to support the transition of youth completers to continuing education by making HERO materials more accessible.

Legazpi City YDA generated Php 10 million

The Legazpi City YDA reported contributions from TESDA and the city LGU in June. These included Php 450,000 financial assistance for 150 OSY to help defray costs for further education, employment, or to start a small business. Through their scholarship program, TESDA linked youth to TVET courses.



DTI sets office space for Angeles City YDA

The DTI Pampanga and its Angeles City Satellite Office approved the use of a space within DTI Pampanga's Negosyo Center for a regular meeting place which will help facilitate coordination among alliance members.

CDO YDA generated Php 210,000 with DTI to support youth entrepreneurs

Cagayan de Oro YDA, through its member DTI Misamis Oriental, provided start-up cookery and rice trading livelihood kits for five youth completers of Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship and nine completers of BYOB.



Isabela City YDA facilitates internship opportunities for OSY

DOLE, through its Government Internship Program engaged five TOPs completers in Isabela City. The youth started their internship in June and will work up to six months with possible extension of another three months.

Three new O2 sites prepared for YDA establishment



Orientation meetings in Iligan were conducted to connect with prospective members. Potential activities and key initiatives that will benefit OSYs in their city were explored. There was notable support from the Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology, a CHED Center of Excellence.

O2 paid a courtesy visit to Mayor Vico Sotto on June 24 to provide a brief of the O2 program, including success stories of OSY. In addition, exploratory meetings with 20 stakeholders also took place with positive responses from local agencies and institutions showing great interest in having an inclusive and comprehensive program to address OSY concerns.

Initial planning for an OSY mapping began with DepEd ALS and DRRM Coordinators, Pasig LYDO, CSWDO, and higher education institutions, including the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig (PLP), University of Asia and Pacific (UA&P). A memorandum with DILG is in process to implement this next quarter.



In Iloilo, O2 met with Mayor Geronimo "Jerry" Treñas and presented the O2 program to the mayor along with the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, Youth Development Council, TESDA, and the Iloilo Science and Technology University.

The City Mayor agreed to work on local legislation to establish and institutionalize the YDA. Drafting of an Executive Order has started and is expected to be signed by September. Several agencies and offices as well as HEIs, NGOs, and youth organizations oriented on O2 expressed their interest to be members of the YDA.

O2 and Davao City YDA, led by Dr. Roland Suico and City Councilor Pilar Braga, met with new Mayor Sebastian Duterte. The mayor expressed support to formalize the YDA and also shared his priorities for Dabawenyo youth.



YDAs continued to lay strong foundations for sustainability through local legislation

YDAs continued to advocate for the passage of stronger legislations and youth-friendly policies to strengthen the enabling environment for the sustained delivery and provision of resources for youth development. To date, ordinances establishing the YDA and providing funds for its activities have been passed in three O2 sites: Tagbilaran City, Angeles City, and General Santos City. Other YDAs are making progress toward the passage of a similar legislation.

CDO passed city ordinance ensuring an annual Php 2 million for YDA programs for OSY

Councilors Suzette M. Daba and John Michael Seno sponsored a city ordinance which was approved with a minimum of Php 2 million of annual funds to be allotted to implement this ordinance.



Cotabato City enhanced its youth code

Cotabato City YDA helped make the local youth code more specific in providing services for OSY. Access to livelihood and employment opportunities, governance, and civic engagement for OSY was added. O2 also connected with the Ministries on Basic Education, Trade and Industry, Labor and Employment as well as the Youth Commission to engage them in implementing the new code through YDA membership.

Legazpi City activated the Local Youth Development Council

The Youth Network Executive Council composed of OSY leaders has a seat in the said council.



Agreement establishing the Cebu City YDA is completed

The Cebu City YDA memorandum of agreement signatories were completed with the TESDA representative signing on behalf of the TESDA Director General this quarter.

Pathways for meaningful engagement of youth were paved

Additional youth networks were formed this quarter and more youth participated in volunteerism that addressed a diverse range of community concerns. Youth volunteerism included awareness-building and actions to respond to health and wellness needs of youth, environmental protection, and sustainable agriculture, among others. Youth volunteers also supported values formation and back-to-school advocacy campaigns. These volunteer activities were conducted in collaboration with YDA members and O2 local service providers, and partner HEIs and Technical Vocational Institutes.



Legazpi City Youth Network Executive Council



Valenzuela Youth Network Executive Council

Youth networks continued to be at the forefront of youth volunteerism

O2 held a Youth Leader Circle to organize the last Chapter of the Legazpi City Youth Network Executive Council (YNEC). This event completed the formation of a youth network across all districts in Legazpi City. A total of 40 OSY leaders participated in the event. Similarly, the a Youth Leaders' Circle was conducted in Valenzuela City, where the Valenzuela Youth Network Executive Council (VYNEC) was organized and its officers were elected. This quarter, youth volunteered in health, environment, education, and disaster response-related community activities.



Angeles City youth volunteer in a clean-up drive



Quezon city youth volunteers advocating for reproductive health



Cotabato City youth volunteer in mangrove planting



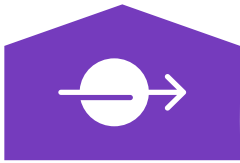
Cebu City youth volunteer to learn about fire prevention



Zamboanga City youth volunteer in a clean-up drive



Gensan City youth learn about community volunteering



Cross-Cutting Activities

Aside from pursuing activities that contribute directly to its three IRs, O2 also conducts three strands of activities that contribute to progress across its three main result areas. These are O2's work on higher education engagement, private sector engagement, and its grants program. This section discusses key updates on these activities this quarter.

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) Engagement

Philippine colleges and universities were engaged this quarter to work with O2 on encouraging OSY to pursue further education and training; implement community solutions to address concerns on education, employment, and entrepreneurship through O2 Grants; and participate in dialogues with local stakeholders through YDAs.

Institutionalization of HERO piloted in two universities

O2 leveraged the national service requirements for college students to serve as volunteer mentors and facilitators of O2's HERO in two universities: Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST) and Bicol University (BU).



Through volunteering, we were not only able to help out a community but also learn something about ourselves. To continue, Bicol University established a corps dedicated to promote and expand HERO to reach more OSYs and help them to be back on track.

— John Mark N. Morilla
HERO Student Volunteer
Bicol University



At the institutional level, O2's HERO was embedded into the National Service Training Program (NSTP) curricula of ZSCMST, while it enabled BU to establish its own National Service Reserve Corps, focusing on delivering O2's HERO as a sustainable program for college student volunteerism. Through HERO's presence in the universities, they were able to enhance their curricula and strengthen the student-driven community extension efforts to support ALS Youth towards further education and training.

Next steps in institutionalizing HERO

- ✓ Replicate HERO institutionalization through NSTP and other community extension efforts in four more universities (City College of Angeles, Quezon City University, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela, and Cebu Technological University)
- ✓ Training of DepEd ALS Teachers on HERO (Year 4)
- ✓ Training of TESDA's Community Training and Employment Coordinators (Year 4)

ALS youth benefitted from positive role models of young people close in age, as well as mentorship and being informed on further education pathways. As per Q3, around 131 DepEd ALS Youth have in the HERO activities delivered by said HERO college student volunteers.

HEIs engaged to foster a deeper understanding and engagement in transition programming, data on OSY, and capacity needs of local stakeholders

Ten HEIs continue to implement their activities through O2's Higher Education Grants to enable them to serve Filipino OSYs by providing support in the improvement of local systems and programs to achieve sustainable, cross-sectoral positive outcomes for and with youth in education, economic growth, governance and socio-emotional development.

The activities implemented by said HEIs focus on three key themes: (1) facilitating youth transitions to education, employment or entrepreneurship; (2) strengthening data and understanding of OSY; and (3) building the capacity of OSY-serving local stakeholders.

Under youth transitions, four grants were focused on supporting OSY with work readiness and entrepreneurship training, 21st Century Skills, wellness activities, and academic-focused bridging.



Angeles University Foundation (Angeles City) assisted thirty (30) OSYs to finish the Alternative Learning System, with a complementary provision of AUF's Wellness Activities.



University of San Carlos (Cebu City) ramped up its Skills Training for Entrepreneurship and Employment Required for the Recruitment of OSY for Better Life through conduct of needs analysis and design of training programs.



Gates Professional Schools (Quezon City) refined components of their grant in delivering TESDA's 21st Century Skills and successfully shepherd youth to education, employment, or engagement opportunities.



Ferndale Colleges (Zamboanga City) trained 30 OSYs on Academic Bridging Classes to prepare them for success in further education.

Under youth data, grants focused on capturing data on OSY through existing and new portals. These databases provide further information on the location, profile, needs, and aspirations of OSYs.



University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (CDO) continued to refine its eMonitorMo portal, a web and mobile-based OSY mapping and monitoring system for efficient youth program design.



University of Southeastern Philippines (Davao City) refined the development of its Learning Management System for ALS Life Skills Modules.



STI General Santos City continued to capture data on General Santos City OSYs through its Online Database Management System "POSYGEN." As of this quarter, around 19,965 youth signed their information up in the portal.



Bicol University (Legazpi City) is set to commence their tracer study of DepEd ALS Completers Cohorts 2019-20 and 2020-21 regarding their prospects for further studies.

Under capacity building of local stakeholders, grants focused in training barangay and faculty leaders on positive youth development.



Quezon City University trained 70 barangay leaders on USAID's Positive Youth Development, which led to the development of seven youth-focused project proposals on education, employment, and entrepreneurship.



Miriam College (Quezon City) capacitated 41 faculty members of Quezon City University to develop four certificate programs designed within the context of Quezon City OSY. Said QCU faculty members received 12 master's degree units.

Next steps on HEI engagement

- ✓ Sharing of best practices from grantee HEIs to other HEIs, as well as continued monitoring grantee deliverables (Q4 Year 3)
- ✓ Launching of the second wave for O2's Higher Education Grants (Year 4)

All activities reported regarding higher education grants and the institutionalization of HERO through NSTP are reported and discussed in their respective YDAs, which inform future programming in their localities. In addition, HEIs such as the University of Asia and the Pacific and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig in Pasig City, Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology in Iligan City, and West Visayas State University in Iloilo City have expressed interest to be part of the YDAs in the three new O2 sites.

The participation of HEIs in YDAs lead to data-driven policies and programs (as exhibited by STI General Santos), innovative and context-specific capacity building opportunities to youth leaders and OSYs (as exhibited by Quezon City University and Miriam College), and amplified information sharing of available opportunities on youth education (as exhibited by Bicol University, City College of Angeles, and Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology).



Private Sector Engagement

Private Sector partners have shifted mindsets about OSY and are engaging these youth into the world of work

Activities in all O2 sites have engaged the Private Sector in meaningful ways that ensured systematic and institutional support to youth transitioning to wage employment or self-employment.

To date

956

Companies have been reached

782

Engaged in various ways

Private sector is engaged in O2 in various ways.



Ryan Pamintuan of Cloudstaff conducts mock interview to Angeles City youth as part of the Work-Based Learning sessions.

- ✓ Participating in WBL classroom training as mentors for mock interviews and resume writing
- ✓ Joining BYOB classroom training as mentors in business plan presentations
- ✓ Hosting youth for work immersion
- ✓ Judging business proposals in the pitch competition of Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship Boot Camp
- ✓ Hiring youth for full time employment
- ✓ Linking youth to business establishments where they could sell their products

Private Sector engagement in numbers

483

Attended sensitization events

235

Provided WBL activities (Mentoring, judging, coaching, talks)

31

Took part in YDA activities

28

Hosted youth in work immersion

5

Hired O2 youth



219

OSY transitioned to jobs through O2's private sector engagement

203

OSY deployed for work immersion

73

OSY set up microenterprises with O2 private sector support

PPI HOLDINGS, INC.



TESDA graduate Dhea Marie Real trained at Pizza Hut Holdings, Inc. She immediately received a job offer after work immersion.



An MSME event in May 2022 in Cebu City



Grants Program

O2 has 58 active grants, including 13 new grants awarded this quarter to support youth engagement in leadership, advocacy and community service, in addition to training development grants and higher education grants which are progressing.

58

Active O2 grants

13

New grants awarded this quarter

New grants

O2 expanded its support, awarding 13 Youth Community Grants to youth-serving organizations, training service providers, and HEIs to support youth engagement in communities. The new grantees will start activities in June and July. The key themes include: (1) Youth Engagement in the 21st century, (2) Enhancing Youth Participation in Community Digital Transformation, and (3) Youth Health and Mental Wellness. Through these grants, the youth will develop and utilize their potential and contribute to their communities in positive ways. New grants are summarized in the table below.

Grantee	Youth engagement in 21st Century	Enhancing Youth participation in digital transformation	Youth health and mental wellness	Target No. of OSY
Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS), Inc.	x	x	x	150
Engadin Corporation		x		70
Technological Institute of the Philippines	x	x	x	40
Ateneo de Zamboanga University	x		x	40
Integrated Resource Development for Tri-People	x	x	x	100
Kuya Center for Street Children	x	x		40
Kutawato Greenland Initiatives, Inc.	x	x	x	200
Pilgrim Christian College	x	x		40
Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc.	x	x	x	30
St. Paul University Quezon City			x	100
Trinity University of Asia	x		x	80
University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines	x	x		45
Youthlead Philippines, Inc.	x			96

Training service providers are capacitating OSY to be ready for the workplace, business and higher-level education

A total of 35 training development grantees are equipping more than 4,000 out-of-school youth with skills that would prepare them for work, entrepreneurship and further education. This quarter, a total of 362 OSY completed their technical vocational skills and work readiness training with four of these grantees, namely, Banilad Center for Professional Development (BCPD) in Cebu City, Holy Child College of Davao and Casuga Integrated School in Davao City, and New Brighton School of the Philippines in General Santos City.



We have modules which we read and assimilated. This molded us to what we are right now. I took the challenge and enjoyed the sessions. This has boosted my self-esteem.

— Yhsel Mae Villacojer
OSY learner at BCPD, Cebu City



Through networking and collaborations with the private sector, government agencies such as DTI, DepEd and TESDA, as well as LGUs, these grantees are also providing opportunities for their graduates to gain employment, start a business or pursue higher-level education or training. As of the end of this quarter, 171 of the OSY graduates have been transitioned to employment and self-employment while 57 are pursuing further education or training.



Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning



Outcome Evaluation

The WORQ survey-based outcome evaluation continues in Q3 with current results still indicating an indefinite trend in terms of transitions to further education and new employment as well as percent change in earnings. Due to the small sample size being limited to youth directly trained by the program staff, TOP facilitators, and local service providers, it has been decided that outcome evaluation should include WRN-takers at least among ALS learners, who comprise the bulk of youth reached. This will be worked out with DepEd BAE before the start of the next school year.

Data Sharing with TESDA

Data sharing with TESDA has started with the agency providing sample data for inspection of the program's MEL team. Through this initial step, the program learned the types of information it could access from TESDA. It also enabled the program's MEL team to define the correct data structure that would be followed by TESDA. It has been agreed upon that TESDA would securely share its TVET training data in bulk to O2 via secure cloud storage thereby making data sharing quick and efficient.

Pilot of YDA Report Card

The new YDA Report Card has been piloted among a select group of YDA member representatives in Legazpi in June. Through the pilot workshop, the YDA Report Card structure had been improved as well as the activity design of the second round of organizational capacity assessments, which also started in June.

Unified Tracker

To better track the journey of O2 youth along the pathways of interventions, a 'unified tracker' has been created that would show in one SharePoint file the status of each youth's training completion, work immersion, and transition. This is expected to help the program officers anticipate who among the youth might need or could be provided with employment or education assistance from the program partners in the YDA and private sector.

MEL Technical Assistance Sessions

In June, EDC's technical advisors visited the local program team to review the M&E plan, targets and results to date. Through a three-week-long series of technical sessions, key M&E issues have been clarified and adjustments in M&E plans and policies have been identified.

Outreach and Communications

More than 12,000 follow O2 online

As of this quarter, O2's Facebook page following grew to 12,356 from 10,000 the previous quarter. Content on youth volunteer activities, TOP graduation events, and WBL-BYOB rollout were among the most popular. Facebook remains O2's most popular platform to reach audiences in the 15 cities in which it operates. O2's LinkedIn and Twitter expand that reach to include practitioners, industry leaders, along with experts in education, youth development, and workforce development. O2 currently has more than 1,200 followers on LinkedIn and 66 on Twitter.

The O2 website had more than 2,600 users this quarter, 2,500 of which are new visitors while the rest are returning users. These users viewed the website more than 5,990 times with 80 percent of the users coming from the United States, 10 percent coming from the Philippines, and the rest from the UK, Australia, Singapore, France, and others.



2,300

New Facebook followers gained this quarter

2,600

Website users in Q3

Support to TESDA Online Program and ALS Law promotion top O2 media engagement

In Q2, O2 was covered 16 times in local media, including national circulation dailies such as Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin, The Manila Times, and Manila Standard. Top story pick-up among the media was about US support to restoring TVET access to OSY and facilitating them to new jobs. The list of O2's media coverage this quarter is provided in **Annex A**.

Four new videos were produced to promote O2 and its progress

Videos developed are shared through social media and screened at relevant O2 activities.

- To highlight Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship, two videos of the boot camp held in CDO and Legazpi City were produced to summarize the activities youth and mentors went through during the three-day DTE event.
- In celebration of Pride Month in June, O2 highlighted a story of an LGBT youth from Cebu who took on a construction course through TESDA, defying gender stereotypes.
- Accomplishments so far of youth who trained on BYOB and were organized through SILC were highlighted through a video as well.
- Promoting the positive impact O2 is making to marginalized youth, a story of a youth who found a job in General Santos City after completing training with New Brighton School of the Philippines was produced through the grants program.

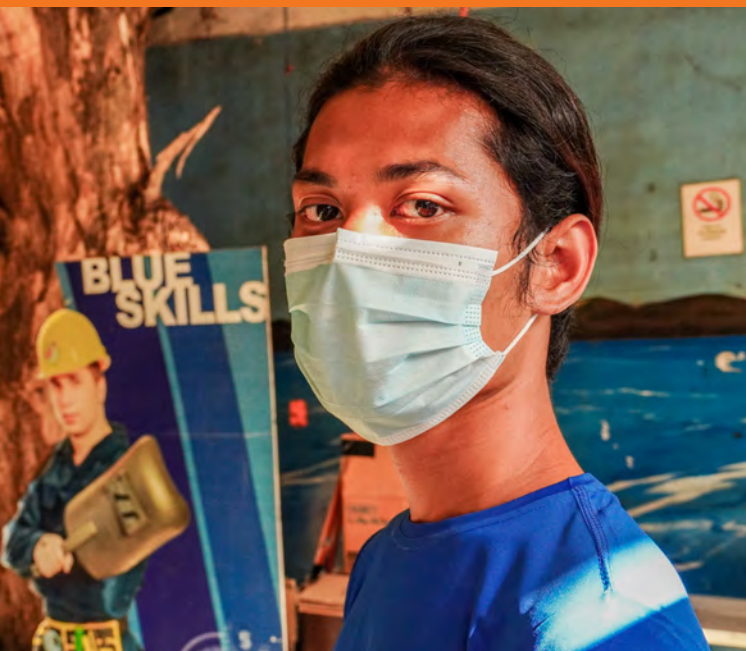
New resources made available on O2 website

This quarter the O2 developed seven stories and briefers to share the tremendous successes and program interventions which were made available on the website. Two new stories were developed with a spotlight on strengthening local systems for work and business readiness of vulnerable youth. (Full stories are provided in **Annex B**); three briefers summarizing MSME events held in O2 hubs were developed, the O2 Program Briefer was updated to show most recent progress, and an overview of the 'Youth Access to TOP' initiative.



There are many more out-of-school youth in my community. I encouraged them to also pursue jobs in construction. Here, they don't look at your grades but at your skills and what you can do.

— Joel Cuyos, 21
Former out-of-school youth
Cebu City



I see more young entrepreneurs now. They took over the management of their family's farms. That's when my perspective changed and I realized many young people are still interested in agri-business.

— Lori Comeros, 21
Former out-of-school youth, Davao City



Partnerships

In addition to strong consortium partners, O2 expanded partnerships across the country to increase the positive impact of life-long learning for out-of-school youth. Below are a few quarterly highlights.



Accenture

To strengthen the understanding of the power of a strong ecosystem, Accenture facilitated workshops with O2 Youth Development Teams in the three hubs (May 16, May 30, and June 1). They discussed and disseminated findings which equipped the teams to use the study findings with their respective YDAs during their annual planning process. The feedback from the workshops will be used to formulate next steps and strategies to strengthen the youth development ecosystem in each site.

Accenture also commenced the capacity building discovery phase activity with BAE with workshops on May 12, May 27, and June 3. The outcomes of these workshops, describing the capacity building needs of BAE, have been compiled and will be shared with BAE in July to inform the capacity building program itself.

SEAMEO INNOTECH

This quarter, SEAMEO INNOTECH partnership made a significant impact on the teacher professional development interventions through conducting the second of three courses. Another short course on Project-Based Learning for ALS Implementers is currently being developed. In addition, SEAMEO INNOTECH is assisting DepEd BAE in operationalizing the co-developed ALS M&E system. SEAMEO INNOTECH is set to conduct a follow-through workshop on data definition to come up with clear operational definitions of the agreed upon set of M&E indicators.

Philippine Business for Education (PBE)

In addition to PBE's contributions to O2's private sector engagement initiatives, their communications staff created and released information and communication materials covering O2 PST-led activities, such as the quarterly newsletter (January to March 2022), briefers on the joint events with DTI and PESO, and branding and event materials in the conduct of the DTE boot camps in Legazpi (April) and Cagayan de Oro (May).

On social media, the 36 posts specifically targeting potential private sector partners were published from April to June 2022 and have reached 466,164 on Facebook. The overall social media reach in Year 3 (as of June) is 1,504,297, doubling the reach in the whole of Year 2 at 538,986. As of June 2022 (from January 2021 to present), the overall social media reach is now at 2,043,283.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

CRS led O2's progress on establishing SILC with O2 youth in select program sites. This quarter, ten new SILC groups were established, equipping 290 OSY in five cities (CDO, Cebu, Davao, Cotabato, and Quezon City) with valuable financial and entrepreneurship skills as also discussed in IR2.

Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)

To date, 359 youths or 60% of target (600) were engaged since Q1 of Y3. For Q3, a total of 83 youths were engaged in civic volunteering activities. On May 6, 160 O2 youth from cities of Davao, Cotabato, General Santos, Valenzuela and Cebu joined the Young Farmers Challenge of the Department of Agriculture. This is a competitive financial grant assistance program for the youth to engage in new agri-fishery enterprise. Other youth volunteering works include leadership training, mentoring, and digital literacy engaging 230.

VSO is building partnerships with European Chamber of Commerce, Holy Cross of Davao City, Malagos Resort and Restaurant, Bamboo Sanctuary, and has attended meetings with DepEd and other YDA members for youth volunteering activities. VSO is also doing joint civic volunteering engagements in General Santos City, Valenzuela City, and Cebu City.



Public Service Employment Office (Department of Labor and Employment)

PESO has agreed to collaborate with O2 to help strengthen the Youth Engagement Program and Internship Program, particularly in Quezon City.

In April, 30 personnel from Quezon City PESO underwent Life Skills Training of Trainers (TOT) alongside 20 teachers from QC-based ALS NGOs. This is phase one of the capacity-building process. For phase two, more program sites from the NCR Hub will be included in the Life Skills Training of Trainers.



Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

O2 and DTI have continued to collaborate in ensuring that vulnerable OSY who have aspirations to become entrepreneurs are fully supported and guided.

This quarter, two more sites conducted the Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship Boot Camp. In April, DTI-BSMED (Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development) supported and joined the activities as speakers and mentors. DTI offices in select regions provided starter kits to youth to ease some of the initial start-up capital.



Admin and Operations

Recruitment and Onboarding

In April, four new staff joined O2 in the three expansion sites: Youth Development Officers in Pasig, Iligan, and Iloilo cities and the Youth Development Coordinator in Iloilo city. Another three vacancies have been filled in May-June: Higher Education Coordinator for NCR Hub and two Youth Development Coordinators for Davao City and Quezon City.

Interviews have been completed and offer letters sent to the shortlisted applicants in the O2 expansion sites: Youth Development Coordinator and Youth Development Officer in Iloilo City and Youth Development Officer in Iligan City. On June 13, the HR Manager and DCOP Operations conducted an online induction for new staff to orient on EDC and O2 policies and procedures.

By the end of the reporting period, the O2 had reached a complement of 75 personnel. In July, three additional staff will be onboarded: Senior M&E Manager, Finance Officer for Davao Hub, and Youth Development Officer for Legazpi.



Human Resources Information System (HRIS) online portal

On June 9, a virtual information session was held to introduce O2 staff to the HRIS online platform for employee, time and labor management. The online platform is run KRONOS (UKG) and the transition is part of EDC-wide effort to streamline the management of human resources across projects.

In anticipation of the HRIS online platform launch on June 28th, O2 HR trained all staff on how to login and out, access the dashboard, submit time-off (leave) requests, access their leave balance accrual reports and submit timesheets. Sessions were held on June 24 and 27.

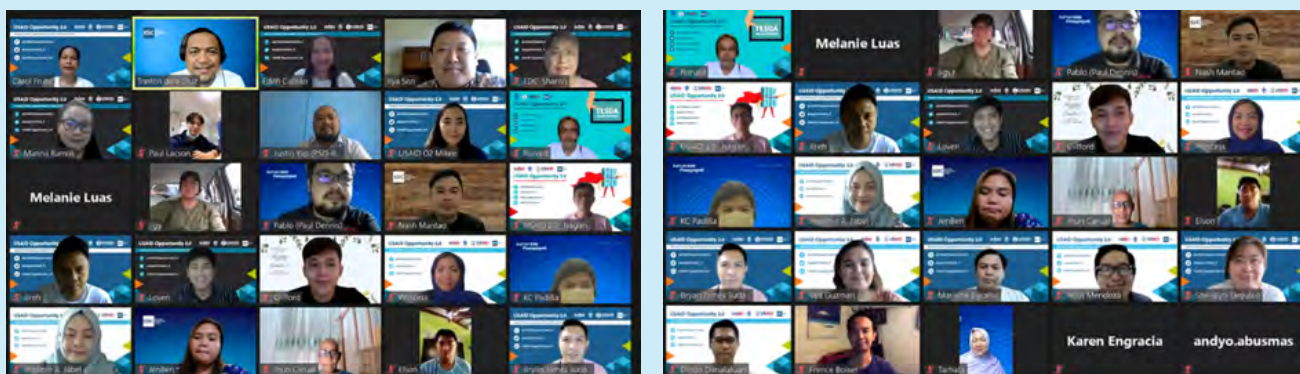


Compliance Trainings

At the invitation of USAID Philippines, all O2 staff joined the OIG Virtual Training on Fraud Awareness and Prevention, Ethics and Countering Trafficking in Persons on April 4. The virtual training was open to all USAID implementing partners in the Philippines and focused on preventative measures against fraud, counter-trafficking, and reporting protocols.

On May 24, an orientation for new staff on EDC's Administrative and Procurement procedures was held online. Although mandatory for new hires, all staff were welcome to join.

A Code of Business Conduct orientation was held on June 23 to remind all staff about the professional conduct and relevant EDC policies such as anti-harassment, anti-discrimination, drug-free workplace, fair employment, code of conduct in purchasing, conflict of interest, property rights, anti-trafficking, and child protection.



Operations

Office Space

On June 8, EDC signed the lease contract for O2 office located at Antel Global Corporate Center in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. A contractor for architectural design and office fit-out services has been selected based on the competitive and open procurement process. The office is anticipated to be opened by the end of September 2022.

The fit-out works at the Davao office have started in June and are projected to finish by mid-August. The office will be ready for full reopening by end of August.

O2 is still in the process of identifying a suitable office space in Cebu City and the goal is to lock in the office lease in Q4 2022.

Cost Share Orientation

On June 16, O2 conducted a refresher cost share orientation for project staff. Teams were able to exchange their experiences, challenges and successes that they are facing and ask questions on documentary requirements, i.e. what can or can't be reported as cost share.

Short Term Technical Assistance (STTA)

EDC Home Office Technical Assistance extended to the O2 project team during the reporting period is highlighted in the table below.

Name	Title	Technical Assistance Provided
Nancy Wallace	Project Director	Weekly calls with COP and home office to address project management matters, strategy, and track financial and programmatic progress. Provided technical guidance on private sector and youth engagement, recommendations for future activities, etc.
Abidemi Oderinde	International Project Coordinator	Weekly calls with COP and home office to provide technical and operations guidance. Administrative, recruitment, procurement, financial, and communications support.
Jasmina Josic	MEL Specialist	Weekly calls with technical support team. Provide guidance on the MEL plan revisions. Met with team in the Philippines.
Brice Ourega	Financial Analyst	Supported financial activities, reports, projections, and fund requests. Monitored program's financial burn rate.
Melanie Sany	Director, Youth and Workforce Development	Provided technical guidance to the team for strategies regarding the O2 targets, FY23 work planning and new initiatives include PSE and green jobs.
Nancy Chervin	Senior Technical Advisor	Provided technical support for distance and virtual learning strategies for Training of Trainers.
Beth Miller-Pitman	Senior Technical Advisor	Supported field team on the use of distance and virtual learning strategies.
Nora Nunn	Technical Advisor	Supported the IAI material development and briefers.
Dr. Kit Yassin	Senior Technical Advisor	Supported the development of IAI episode and reparation for the in-person presented for BAE in July.
Ana Cetina	Audio Technician	Supported the development of IAI materials.
Heidi Kar	Senior Technical Advisor	Finalized the adaptation of Foundations for Resilience materials to address natural disasters and developed a Training of Trainers for BAE.
Jennifer Myers	Technical Advisor	Supported the FOR adaptation and developed a Training of Trainers for BAE.
Evan Lane	Security Advisor	Monitored the COVID-19 and security situations. Provided guidance and support for administrative and technical staff.
Munir Mahomar	M&E Technology Associate	Supported the technical operations for the data sharing agreement and the O2 dashboard.



Look Ahead to the Next Quarter

July

IR1

- Technical Assistance to DepEd BAE on organizational strengthening, policy formulation and implementation and development of additional new ALS programs
- Webinar on Instructional Planning
- Workshop on Data Definition for ALS M&E System
- Follow-through Session on Portfolio Development and Assessment

IR2

- Rollout of Orientation Session and Coaching Sessions for Virtual First Job 2 Youth
- Youth Access to TOP (Continue the Rollout of TOP Phase IV in the 9 O2 sites and in-person Graduation Ceremony of 50 TOP OSYs in Cagayan De Oro City)
- List major activities and outputs slated for IR2 in this month.
- Midterm-assessment for SILC program
- Continuing the savings cycle of the SILC groups across all sites

IR3

- Continuing youth volunteering activities
- Administer Round 2 of OCAT LRIR and YDA Report Card:
 - July 7-8 - Cebu City
 - July 11-12 – Tagbilaran City
 - July 11-12 – Zamboanga City
 - July 14-15 – Isabela City
 - July 26-27 – General Santos City
 - July 27-28 – Angeles City
- Peer Coaching Activities
- Continuing USAID O2 Project Orientation to prospective YDA members in 3 new sites
- Consultation and re-introduction of USAID O2 Project in areas with newly elected LCEs
- All staff planning

HEI

- Expanding partnerships with HEIs on HERO delivery

PSE

- DTI-PESO-GenZ event in Cagayan de Oro City and Tagbilaran City

GRANTS

- Closeout of Training Development Grants

August

IR1

- Start of Pilot Implementation of WBL and BYOB in DepEd ALS
- Technical Assistance to DepEd BAE on organizational strengthening, policy formulation and implementation and development of additional new ALS programs
- Start of Pilot Implementation of ALS M&E System
- Refresher Training of Davao ALS Implementers on POY, HERO, WBL, and BYOB

IR2

- Youth Access to TOP
- Continue the Rollout of TOP Phase IV in the 8 O2 sites
 - Continue the Rollout of TOP Phase IV in the 8 O2 sites
 - In-person Graduation Ceremony of 50 TOP OSYs in Tagbilaran City
 - In-person Graduation Ceremony of 25 TOP OSYs in Isabela City
 - In-person Graduation Ceremony of 25 TOP OSYs in Legazpi City
 - In-person Graduation Ceremony of 50 TOP OSYs in Cotabato City
 - In-person Graduation Ceremony of 50 TOP OSYs in Davao City
- Culmination of Virtual First Job 2 Program
- List major activities and outputs slated for IR2 in this month.
- Continuing the savings cycle of the SILC groups across all sites

August

IR3

- Hub Detailed Planning
- Resiliency Training with MTs and YDT
- Administer Round 2 OCAT LRIR and YDA Report Card in Cotabato and Quezon City
- Continuing youth volunteering activities
- Peer Coaching Activities
- Continuing USAID O2 Project Orientation in 3 new sites
- Consultation and re-introduction of USAID O2 Project in areas with newly elected LCEs
- Conduct Design Thinking for Youth Engagements training across all sites
- Cagayan de Oro week-long YDA Caravan to support CDO Youth access scholarship, employment and livelihood opportunities.
- Cagayan de Oro YDA designing and piloting an LLMA model that aligns with the context of the OSYs and programming of TESDA.
- Implementation of Youth Engagement activities on Environment, Disaster Preparedness and Mental Awareness, Self-development and Social Media engagement in Davao Hub Sites

HEI

- Conduct of activities related to HEI partnerships on HERO Delivery
- Sharing of best practices between HEIs through Higher Education Learning Sessions

PSE

- Tentative: TOT to PESO on WBL- Industry Linkage Work

GRANTS

- Evaluation of Youth Community Grants Applications
- Closeout of Higher Education (SEEDS) Grants and Training Development Grants

September

IR1

- Technical Assistance to DepEd BAE on organizational strengthening, policy formulation and implementation and development of additional new ALS programs.
- Teacher Professional Development Course 2 closing
- Mid-Program Learning Summit
- Short Course on Project Based Learning
- BYOB and WBL Training of ALS Implementers in the cities of Pasig, Iloilo and Iligan

IR2

- Youth Access to TOP (Graduation in Zamboanga, Cebu, and Quezon City)
- Continue the Rollout of TOP Phase IV in the 3 O2 sites
- Continuing the savings cycle of the SILC groups across all sites
- Workshop on the Assessment of Content and Delivery of Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills – NCs I and II
- Writeshop on Module Design of Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills – NCs III and IV
- Workshop on Capacity-Building Plan of TESDA-NTTA for TESDA Trainers

IR3

- Continuing youth volunteering activities
- Peer Coaching Activities
- Continuing USAID O2 Project Orientation in 3 new sites
- Project launch on 3 new sites (Pasig City, Iligan City, and Iloilo City)
- YDA Annual Planning across all sites

HEI

- Monitoring of final deliverables from Higher Education Grantees

PSE

- Private Sector Summit

GRANTS

- Pre-award and Negotiations for Youth Community Grants
- Closeout of SEEDS Grants and Training Development Grants

ANNEXES

O2 Media Coverage Y3 Q3 (April-June 2022)

Date	Outlet	Author	Title	Link
01-Apr-22	The Daily Tribune	Cherk Balagtas	Valenzuela youth shine	https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/04/01/valenzuela-youth-shine/
22-Apr-22	BUFM 106.3	N/A	CALpihan: Kapihan sa CAL with Dr. Agnes Nace Jacob Nepomuceno and Prof. Lily Malasa	https://fb.watch/cWMh8_mjyF/
06-May-22	Mindanao Today	Irene Joy Dayo	DepEd, USAID orient Oro OSYDA on ALS Law, IRR	https://mindanaotoday.com/deped-usaid-orient-oro-osyda-on-als-law-irr/
13-May-22	DailyGuardian	N/A	US supports General Santos youth to complete technical-vocational training, find employment	https://dailyguardian.com.ph/u-s-supports-gensan-youth-to-complete-technical-vocational-training-find-employment/
13-May-22	PepTV	N/A	48 angeleño na kabataan ay nagtapos ng TESDA online program	https://www.facebook.com/peptv3/posts/3214763155438556
14-May-22	Repetek, Ang Diyaryo ng Pilipino (Puerto Prinsesa)	Vivian R. Bautista	U.S., Sinuportahan ang mga Kabataan ng General Santos para Kumpletuhin ang Technical-Vocational na Pagsasanay	https://repetek.news/?p=10266 , https://www.facebook.com/repeteknews/posts/2209363945896085
15-May-22	Manila Standard	N/A	USAID, TESDA partner to help out-of-school youth get jobs	https://manilastandard.net/news/314228710/usaid-tesda-partner-to-help-out-of-school-youth-get-jobs.html
17-May-22	SunStar Pampanga	N/A	48 Angeleño youth complete Tesda online program	https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1928902/pampanga/local-news/48-angeleo-youth-complete-tesda-online-program

Date	Outlet	Author	Title	Link
19-May-22	Politiko Central Luzon	N/A	48 Angeles youths graduate from Tesda's online program	https://centralluzon.politics.com.ph/48-angeles-youths-graduate-from-tesdas-online-program/
30-May-22	The Manila Times	Leander C. Domingo	US govt supports GenSan youth to complete tech-voc training	https://www.manilatimes.net/2022/05/30/expats-diplomats/%20us-govt-supports-gensan-youth-to-complete-tech-voc-training/1845423
03-Jun-22	PIA	USAID Philippines	USAID grant helps former out-of-school young women, girls find jobs in Cebu	https://pia.gov.ph/press-releases/2022/06/03/usaid-grant-helps-former-out-of-school-young-women-girls-find-jobs-in-cebu?fbclid=IwAR02fWjUjJ2cq9QhZDL7fr-jolOyd8UvjqGaulrQ_mBhcDrPVv-0KcrD9ug
24-Jun-22	106.7 Marino News FM	ZSCMST	USAID Opportunity 2.0	https://www.facebook.com/ZSCMSTPICO/videos/548624096756547/
28-Jun-22	Manila Bulletin	Betheena Unite	US provides tech-voc skills to unemployed Pinoys, OSY	https://mb.com.ph/2022/06/28/us-provides-tech-voc-skills-to-unemployed-pinoys-out-of-school-youth/
28-Jun-22	Journal News Online	People's Tonight	US supports Valenzuela City youth to upskill, find employment	https://journalnews.com.ph/u-s-supports-valenzuela-city-youth-to-upskill-find-employment/
28-Jun-22	Daily Tribune	TDT	US supports Valenzuela City youth to upskill and find employment	https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2022/06/28/us-supports-valenzuela-city-youth-to-upskill-and-find-employment/?fbclid=IwAR0ygfNN68Wp_0g9xFlvzjuGAs_mLecg2KnTivVTc8f_gA51CHJsAZa44wU
29-Jun-22	PhilStar	Pia Lee-Brago	USAID helps 850 Pinoy youths gain training	https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2022/06/29/2191616/usaid-helps-850-pinoy-youths-gain-training

SUCCESS STORIES

LGBT youth finds success in construction

USAID's support to strengthen training institutions is including marginalized youth in local growth



“At first my family was not very supportive. But I asked them not to be like that. I was trying my best to find a job. I just want to support my family. I want to see them happy.”

— Joel, 21
Former out-of-school youth

As the second largest metropolitan area in the Philippines, Cebu is a fast-growing city with international air and sea ports. The construction industry is thriving and presents many career opportunities for young people.

“At first, I really wasn't interested because the opportunity was for men. Training course slots available were on construction,” said Joel Cuyos, a 21-year-old from Cebu City. He first heard about a chance to train for free to be part of the construction industry in Cebu City through a friend. As a young man who identifies as gay, Joel initially thought a career in construction was not for him.

Overcoming misconceptions

Local academic and training institutions like the School of Knowledge for Industrial Labor, Leadership and Service (SKILLS), Inc. have to overcome misconceptions about careers in construction. With USAID's support SKILLS, Inc. is able to do this. Through a USAID grants program, local training institutions are able to open up slots specifically for marginalized Filipino youth in the Philippines.

“I was an out-of-school youth because I didn't have papers. All requirements now require some online filing and I don't have access to that,” he said. Since he couldn't afford to continue education, Joel has been working since he was 19 years old to help his family. He previously worked as a maid and then as a housekeeper. His father is a laborer, his mother is a housewife, and he has nine other siblings.

Through his friend's encouragement, who was an LGBT youth leader in his community, he was persuaded to take up a plumbing course at SKILLS, Inc. in 2021.



Banking on a strong support system

"I almost gave again," recalls Joel. "During work immersion, we had to stay-in at a construction. Somebody touched me and I was uncomfortable." As a member of the LGBT, Joel's initial concerns were valid. Studies have shown that a significant number of LGBT people have experienced some form of harassment, bullying, or discrimination at work because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

With a supportive supervisor, personnel safety procedures were upheld on site. "He stopped," said Joel about the co-worker who stepped on his boundaries. "But I also kept my distance because of it. Other workers there were very supportive and encouraging," he said. They barely had enough budget to commute weekly to work too but his friends helped him make limited finances work to finish their training. Throughout the months of training, Joel found himself thoroughly enjoying his classes. "Almost all my classmates became my friends," he said.

Young people like Joel, who are more likely to face discrimination in the workplace, can overcome challenges when they have peers that support them and workplace mentors who guide them and protect their pathway to success. Training institutions like SKILLS, Inc. is able to provide support to marginalized youth through USAID's support.



If you want to achieve something, go for it. Don't think about your sexual orientation, gender identity, or how you look.

Reaping the fruits of determination

After the work immersion, Joel and his friends were surprised to find that they passed their assessment on the first try and are set to receive national certification from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. "We were offered jobs right after that!" Joel proudly said.

"There are many more out-of-school youth in my community. I encouraged them to also pursue jobs in construction. I said, it isn't so bad to work in a construction site. In fact, the pay is great. Here, they don't look at your grades but at your skills and what you can do," said Joel.

USAID, through its Opportunity 2.0 program in the Philippines, is continuously strengthening local institutions to be able to serve more marginalized youth. It also bridges the needs of the private sector to the training to upskill young people so that the marginalized youth can participate in growing local economies and have better tomorrows.

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

SUCCESS STORIES

Producing Opportunity: USAID Upskills the Next Generation of Filipino Farmers



My father always said, 'Without farming, we couldn't survive. Jobs come and go but we can always rely on our farm for food and sustenance.'

— Lori, 21
Former out-of-school youth



On the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, 21-year-old Lori Fae Comeros wanders through a field bursting with fresh produce. Coconuts rustle in the gentle breeze, and succulent star apples dangle from verdant trees as Lori deftly inspects rows of tomatoes, lettuce, and okra to see if they're ready to be harvested.

The average age of farmers in the Philippines is between 57 and 59 years old, and many young Filipinos do not view a career in agriculture as profitable. But not Lori.

Raised in a family of farmers, Lori has always loved farming. "My father always said, 'Without farming, we couldn't survive. Jobs come and go but we can always rely on our farm for food and sustenance,'" said Lori.

Now, thanks to support from USAID, she can pursue this passion in a way that is both profitable and environmentally sustainable.

Lori was working at a resort to pay her way through college when the COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020. Then her father passed away. With six other siblings, Lori and her family could no longer afford her dream of pursuing higher education.

"When the resort I was working at closed due to COVID-19, I could no longer afford college," she said.

That was when she heard about an opportunity to train at Casuga Integrated Farm School, a USAID-supported technical-vocational institution in Davao City that serves as an incubation hub for agriculture-based enterprises.





Casuga Integrated Farm School received a grant from USAID to help out-of-school youth access education and skills training. Thanks to this support, Lori and 74 other out-of-school youth in the community received scholarships to study organic farming.

“When I heard about an opportunity to train at Casuga, I took it,” said Lori. “I wanted to study because I love farming.”

During the training program, Lori and other trainees learned both technical skills about organic farming and soft skills to make them more work and business ready. In one lesson, Lori learned to make her own organic fertilizer, which is safer for the environment and has a lower carbon footprint. Organic farming practices also keep more nutrients in the soil and produce healthier food.

“My favorite lesson was about gaining self-confidence because through that, we are able to communicate to gain and share our learning—also inspire other out-of-school youth,” said Lori.

With most Filipino farmers in their late 50s and many young Filipinos having misconceptions about a career in agriculture, Casuga’s training course is crucial for ensuring the Philippines’ food security.

After completing the course in 2021, Lori received a national certification on organic farming from the Philippine Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. She also started working as a registrar and administrative officer at the Casuga Integrated Farm School, where she helps inspire other youth to develop a renewed passion for farming and agribusiness.



I see more young entrepreneurs now. They took over the management of their family’s farms. That’s when my perspective changed and I realized many young people are still interested in agri-business.

— Lori, 21
Former out-of-school youth




Thanks to USAID’s partnership with Casuga Integrated Farm School, out-of-school youth like Lori have not only gained the skills they need to thrive as the next generation of farmers, but also to help ensure the Philippines’ food security for years to come.

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

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

www.opportunity.org.ph

Follow us

 @opportunity2_0
 @USAIDOpportunity2.0
 USAID Opportunity 2.0



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Education
Development
Center