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YDA SUMMIT 2 0 2 1

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

DOCUMENTATION REPORT

Cebu City | Tagbilaran City | Isabela City | Zamboanga City

December 14-15, 2021



Background

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

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

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

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

Summit Objectives

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

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



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

During the Cebu Hub Youth Development Alliance Summit held in December 2021, Mr. Christian Olasiman of Zamboanga City YDA, recalled the Zamboanga siege in 2013 and how the agencies that came to aid lacked programs that respond to youth's needs in terms of economic recovery and/or survival.

It was then that USAID and EDC created the Mindanao Youth for Development Program (MyDev) in Zamboanga, and the YDA became instrumental in bringing about hope and transformation to thousands of youth.



Alliances and collaborations among local actors allow for the exchange and adaptation of various best practices and innovations in youth programming that could potentially give OSY the opportunity to start a business or a career path, or continue their studies. It also fosters resource-sharing, and a more efficient youth profiling and data gathering for better data-driven programming.

The first Cebu Hub summit became a great avenue for recognizing each YDA member's strengths and weaknesses, and for looking into possibilities of new partnerships to improve services to the youth.

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Opportunity 2.0 and the YDA is a silver lining situation we are in, providing us with a platform to re-evaluate our priorities, and values we hold dear.

Christian Olasiman
Co-Chair, Zamboanga City Youth Development Alliance





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**The strength of the other
can supplement the
weakness of the other.**

Blair Panong, Senior Trade and Industry Specialist DTI Bohol
Tagbilaran City Youth Development Alliance

Summit Highlights

Despite the limitations posed by the pandemic, the YDAs in the cities of Isabela, Cebu, Tagbilaran, and Zamboanga have implemented a number of youth programs, as well as job referrals, special employment programs, Government Internship Programs, livelihood assistance, career guidance and many more, proving their agility in overcoming emergent situations. Other highlights are as follows:

- In Tagbilaran City, the YDA was institutionalized through an Executive Order ensuring the availability of annual budgets, solidifying their direction as an alliance, and strengthening their collaboration and partnership with the business sector.
- The Local Youth Development Council in Zamboanga City has created a youth development plan, and resources were also allocated for staffing and a youth center. They are currently taking steps in the integration of the LYDC to the YDA.
- The discussion on harmonizing the Cebu City YDA is currently underway. It was also proposed that the CCYDA be included in the Cebu City Youth Council Advisory.
- Isabela City shared their journey that led to the passage of the youth code, and practices related to the development of youth organizations and networks.



Challenges Identified

Challenges shared by YDA members include getting the youth's buy-in in development programs, getting the right learner for the right program, decreasing attritions among youth participants, finding relevant programs that fit the market demands and monitoring progress of youth in their respective programs.

Others cited skill supply mismatch with industry needs, difficulty in gaining access to financing, gender bias, and attracting the business sector to engage with the youth, among others.



- In Isabela City, the YDA highlighted the lack of support from the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation for barangay-level programs. In Cebu City, there is the matter of the outdated local development policy, and the local government unit (LGU) not seeing youth programs as a priority.
- Meanwhile, Tagbilaran City YDA cited their concern regarding the unsynchronized services for OSY among LGU offices, and in Zamboanga City, they have concerns regarding the separate leadership and structure of the YDA and the Local Youth Development Council.
- There is also the challenge of navigating activity facilitation amidst the restrictions imposed due to the pandemic. The pandemic has worsened the conditions of families and communities. The rising cases of teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, and sexual harassment that came with it may have also affected the engagement of youth in community activities.
- Finally, the change in political leadership affects the sustainability and implementation of youth engagement activities. We also learned that each YDA shares similar challenges in terms of funding and resources, youth profiling, sustaining the YDA each time new government leadership comes in, and addressing the clientele's (OSY) attrition, among others.

The importance of convergence and contributing capacities and resources to reach the common goal of changing the lives of young people were repeatedly highlighted in each YDA's sentiments. Here, we learned that synergy, in fact, enables YDA members to increase impact of services to OSY, which in turn, will be echoed in their respective communities.

A great example of this would be the Department of Trade and Industry in Bohol and their collaboration with other YDA members to provide support for the agency's youth development programs. O2 collaborated with DTI to create a Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship bootcamp where private sector partners talk about design thinking as applied to the youth's creation of business models, community selling, digital marketing and other entrepreneurship ventures. Here, youth can gain an opportunity to receive funding for their business ideas, launch a start-up, and earn profits.

The youth's attrition is often due to causes like pregnancy, marriage, having to choose jobs over education, and losing interest in the program, among others. For YDA members, among the shared challenges were getting the youth's buy-in in development programs, getting the right learner for the right program, which programs are relevant and how their progress can be best monitored. This then posed a question to the YDA members on how they would be able to lead the youth to their preferred exits.

In reviewing the O2 curriculum, members had the opportunity to share experiences and raise issues barring the youth in pursuing employment or further education. In O2 Youth Pathways, three possible routes or "exits" were identified for OSY after completing O2 programs:



That's the beauty of an alliance. Convergence is realizing that it's not about boundaries; it's not about limitations as to what you're supposed to do in an alliance. It's what more of what you can contribute beyond what's been given to you. You have a role. But you're not limited to it. You always step up, you give more than what's given to you.

Jamju Rivera, Chairperson, Basilan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Isabela City Youth Development Alliance

As was gleaned from the discussions, graduates of two-year degree courses most likely end up either unemployed or underemployed. "School leavers" are required to apply for voucher programs to be able to enroll in a private school for Grade 11, as opposed to "non-leavers" who can enroll right after Grade 10.

For graduates of two-year degree courses, O2 offers the Higher-Level Education Readiness Orientation (HERO) comprising three levels: HERO for Senior High School, for Upskilling and Multiskilling, and for College.

Meanwhile, the tedious process on enrollment after leaving school has already been communicated with the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC) by O2. This will in turn be communicated with the concerned personnel at the Department of Education Alternative Learning System.

O2 was also challenged to lobby guidelines for OSY parallel to that of the school system. For instance, programs for ALS must be parallel with formal school. However, we (O2) may need to gather stories and experiences from members to be able to build a strong case for when we bring this concern to PEAC. In the meantime, O2 will adhere to the law, and the policies imposed by Youth Development Councils in each covered city. To guide the youth in their pathway of choice, the following programs will continue to be implemented in the hub:

- **Education:** HERO, scholarships, mentorship and counselling through partner agencies and service providers;
- **Employment:** Work-Based Learning Activities, job fairs, community linkages, and work productivity and leadership training;
- **Entrepreneurship:** Design Thinking for Entrepreneurship Bootcamps, for Entrepreneurship Mentoring and Coaching, and for Start-Ups.

A sensitization campaign will also be implemented to counter the stigma against OSY, and invite more private sector partners to invest in their value as potential assets in the workforce. Currently, we have engaged at least 167 employers in the Cebu Hub and we hope to link our youth with them for possible work immersions where they can acquire workplace skills from performing actual tasks.

Recommendations in moving forward

At the end of the two-day summit, a number of recommendations were gathered from the hub:

- Create overall OSY/Learner Engagement Framework (Pre-, During-, and Post- Training) to identify youth profile, how to engage with them, how to get their buy-in, and who would be doing what
- Go beyond raising awareness campaigns to get the buy of the youth
- Increase the number of days for the hands- on training of TOP
- O2 TOP to be harmonized in TESDA TOP;
- Database System for the OSYs- consolidated database
- Strengthen our messaging/ marketing to build awareness and engage the youth
- Cluster the youth according to their business/training interests (e.g. food business, garments, agriculture livelihood, etc.)
- Level- up from immersion to employment;
- Solicit job opportunities from micro, small enterprises
- More private sector engagement as key employment generators
- Create programmatic, comprehensive approach for developing OSY policies and programs inspired by the Positive Youth Development Framework (Tagbilaran City, Cebu City)
- Revisit existing policies and plans; synchronize and harmonize existing plans and programs to OSY activities
- Implement youth profiling to inform policies and programs
- Execute coherent and tangible actions to support youth along their transition pathways
- Create secretariat to operationalize YDA;
- YDA to serve as a catalyst for operationalizing support and enriching the LYDC to ensure youth participation and engagement
- Finally, as was constantly emphasized during the summit – for the youth to be empowered, they have to be part of the whole transformation process

In closing, O2's Senior Education and Youth Development Advisor Dr. Miriam Pahm reminded the hub that the YDA is a "constantly evolving mechanism."



When we hold on tightly to a shared vision, we are able to bring about transformation. We can transform people, structures, and systems.

Miriam Pahm
Senior Education and Youth Development Advisor
Opportunity 2.0 Program, EDC





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

ATTACHMENT 1

Event Program Flow



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

DAY 1 - Tuesday, December 14, 2021

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
8:00 a.m.	Event Registration	
9:00 a.m.	Opening Ceremony	Meeting Link: https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1472825445
9:10 a.m.	Welcome Remarks	Hon. Michael L. Rama Mayor Cebu City
9:20 a.m.	Opening Message	Dr. Thomas LeBlanc Director, Office of Education USAID Philippines
9:25 a.m.	Message	Dr. David Hall Chief of Party, USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program Education Development Center (EDC)
9:30 a.m.	Acknowledgment of YDA Representatives/Delegates	Youth Development Coordinators
9:50 a.m.	Introduction of Cebu Hub Youth Development Team	Mr. Robinson M. Wee Technical Education and Skills Development Advisor, USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
9:55 a.m.	Background and Overview of the Summit	Dr. Maria Theresa C. Mokamad Deputy Chief of Party, Technical USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
10:05 a.m.	Keynote Address YDA: A Power of Convergence and Partnerships	Mr. Christian E. Olasiman YDA Zamboanga City
10:15 a.m.	Photo Opportunity	
10:18 a.m.	Wellness Break	
10:25 a.m.	Introduction of Roundtable Discussion Moderator and Guests	Ms. Denise Marie Albarina Labor Employment Officer TSSD, DOLE Region 7
10:30 a.m.	Emerging Practices of Convergence and Partnerships (A Roundtable Discussion)	Panelists
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 p.m.	Ice Breaker	Mr. Frence Boiser Youth Development Officer for Tagbilaran City USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
1:15 p.m.	Get to Know Your Co-YDA members	Mr. Alex Molas and Ms. Princess Macapantao Master Trainers USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
2:45 p.m.	O2 Youth Pathways	Mr. John Hayden Bale Training Manager USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
3:15 p.m.	Wellness Break	
3:30 p.m.	Private Sector Engagement	Ms. Angelique H. Roux Private Sector Advisor USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
4:00 p.m.	Reflection and Processing	
4:30 p.m.	Instructions for Recognition Night and Day 2	Mr. Robinson M. Wee TESD Advisor USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
5:00 p.m.	Preparations	
6:00 p.m.	Dinner	
7:00 p.m.	Recognition Night	
8:00 p.m.	Closing	

DAY 2 - Wednesday, December 15

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
8:00 a.m.	Event Registration	
8:30 a.m.	Preliminaries, Recap, and Instructions for Thematic Sessions:	Mr. Hayden Bale and Mr. Carlo Fernando Training Manager and HEI Lead Coordinator USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
9:00 a.m.	<u>Thematic Sessions (Breakout):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> YDA in Employment and Entrepreneurship YDA in Education and Training YDA in Governance for Youth Development YDA in Youth Community Engagement 	Meeting Links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1493741155 (Entrep) https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1487875269 (Educ) https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/4313623523 (Gov) https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1478620766 (Comm)
10:30 a.m.	World Cafe: Best and Emerging Practices (Wellness Break)	Youth Development Coordinators and Officers
11:30 a.m.	Presentation of the Highlights from Thematic Sessions	Representatives
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Break	
1:00 p.m.	Synthesis	Dr. Miriam Pahm Senior Education and Youth Development Advisor, USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program, EDC
1:15 p.m.	Video Messages	Mayors of Cebu City, Tagbilaran City, Isabela City, and Zamboanga City
2:00 p.m.	Closing Reflections from the YDA	YDA Delegates
2:20 p.m.	Message of Gratitude	Mr. Jhun Carual Youth Technical Director USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
2:30 p.m.	Photo Opportunity	

Event Hosts:

Aima Radores and Paul Maningo
Private Sector Coordinator and TESD Coordinator
USAID Opportunity 2.0 (Cebu Hub), EDC



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ATTACHMENT 2

Speakers and Panelists



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

Roundtable Discussion

Emerging Practices of Convergence and Partnerships

December 14, 2021 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Moderator



Ms. Denise Marie Albarina

YDA Cebu City

Labor Employment Officer

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Region 7

Panelists



Mr. Blair L. Panong

YDA Tagbilaran City

Senior Trade and Industry Specialist

Department of Trade and Industry - Bohol



Dr. Sheilalaine G. Romulo

YDA Cebu City

Director, Center for Social Innovation

Cebu Technological University



Mr. Jamju Rivera

YDA Isabela City

Chairperson, Basilan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Officer-In-Charge, Local Economic and Investments Promotion Office, City of Isabela



Mr. Jessie Christopher Lapinid

YDA Zamboanga City

Project Evaluation Officer IV

City Planning and Development Office
City of Zamboanga



Thematic Sessions (World Café)

YDA in Education and Training

December 15, 2021 | 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Link: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1487875269>

Session Objectives

- Share the different programs and initiatives of YDA towards the education and training of youth.
- Highlight emerging practices and strategies of YDA in ensuring education and training for OSY.
- Identify areas of challenges and difficulties of YDA in implementing programs related to education and training.

Moderators



Ms. Loucille A. Dabhi
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Youth Development Coordinator for Tagbilaran City



Mr. Mohammad Ashraf
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Youth Development Officer for Isabela City

Panelists



Ms. Rosemarie J. Bantol
YDA Tagbilaran City
TESD Specialist & YDA Focal Person
TESDA Bohol



Ms. Elma Uckung
YDA Isabela City
Education Program Specialist/ALS Focal
DepEd Isabela City



Mr. Leoniel R. Isidro
YDA Zamboanga City
NSTP Faculty, Zamboanga State College of Marine
Sciences & Technology



Ms. Jonna Eleccion
YDA Cebu City
Philippines Director
Paglaum Training International



Mr. Robinson Wee
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Technical Education and Skills Development Advisor



Thematic Sessions (World Café)

YDA in Employment and Entrepreneurship

December 15, 2021 | 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Link: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1493741155>

Session Objectives

- Share the impact of the employment and entrepreneurship programs of the YDA on the youth sector specifically the out-of-school youth (OSY).
- Highlight the emerging best practices that each YDA could learn from in terms of providing in-training & post-training support to the youth specifically the OSY.
- Identify gaps and bottlenecks and propose recommendations to improve in-training and post-training interventions.

Moderators



Mr. Nonie K. Ahaddas
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Youth Development Coordinator for Isabela City



Ms. Vea Mae Guzman
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Youth Development Officer for Zamboanga City

Panelists



Ms. Glaiza Bueno
YDA Tagbilaran City
Youth Leader
Tagbilaran City



Ms. Levinia Perez
YDA Isabela City
Local Youth Development Officer
City Government of Isabela, Basilan



Engr. Wesley Tan
YDA Zamboanga City
Chief, Labor and Employment Office
Department of Labor and Employment



Ms. Hanna Jane Ramos
YDA Cebu City
Trade and Industry Development Analyst
Department of Trade and Industry



Ms. Angelique Roux
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Private Sector Advisor

**YDA
SUMMIT**



Thematic Sessions (World Café)

YDA in Governance for Youth Development

December 15, 2021 | 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Link: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/4313623523>

Session Objectives

- Highlight good practices and challenges in developing relevant and responsive youth-friendly policies and programs in order to facilitate an enabling environment towards an empowered and self-reliant Filipino out-of-school youth.
- Identify roles of YDA members in strengthening OSY programming and its implementation.
- Reflect on the challenges and generate recommendations for strategic and sustainable OSY programming.

Moderators



Mr. Julius Gregory Ibalio
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Youth Development Coordinator for Zamboanga City



Ms. Mikee Pepito
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Youth Development Officer for Cebu City

Panelists



Mr. Alvin Acuzar
YDA Tagbilaran City
Head of Barangay Affairs and Constituency Unit
City Government of Tagbilaran



Ms. Miriam Suacito
YDA Isabela City
Executive Director
Nagdilaab Foundation



Mr. Cary John Pioc
YDA Zamboanga City
SK Federation President and LYDC Chair
City Government of Zamboanga



Mr. Jess Anthony Dela Cruz
YDA Cebu City
SK Federation Chief of Staff
City Government of Cebu



Ms. Miriam Pahm
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Senior Education and Youth Development Advisor



Thematic Sessions (World Café)

YDA in Community Engagement

December 15, 2021 | 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Link: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1478620766>

Session Objectives

- Share emerging and best practices of mobilizing community engagement activities among YDA members and partners.
- Reflect and discuss challenges faced in providing community engagement programs for the OSY and empowering shared-decision making for the OSY.
- Recommend impactful and sustainable activities that will strengthen youth participation in leadership and volunteer activities.

Moderators



Mr. Marione Bacalso
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Youth Development Coordinator for Cebu City



Mr. Frence Boiser
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Youth Development Officer for Tagbilaran City

Panelists



Mr. Marbert Remolador
YDA Tagbilaran City
Youth Development Office
City Government of Tagbilaran



Mr. Rene V. Carbayas
YDA Isabela City
Assistant Regional Director
Philippine Information Agency



Ms. Esperancita E. Hupida
YDA Zamboanga City
Executive Director
Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance, Inc. (ZABIDA)



Ms. Jo Ann D. Ramos
YDA Cebu City
Service Lead for Youth Development Programs from RAFI Center for Leaders
Ramon Aboltiz Foundation, Inc.



Mr. Jhun Carual
USAID Opportunity 2.0 Program
Youth Technical Director





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