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



# STRONGER TOGETHER

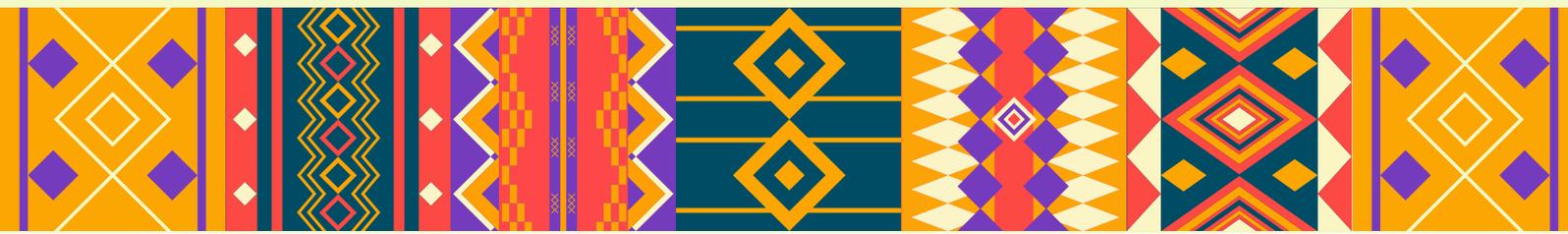
Driving Beyond Convergence

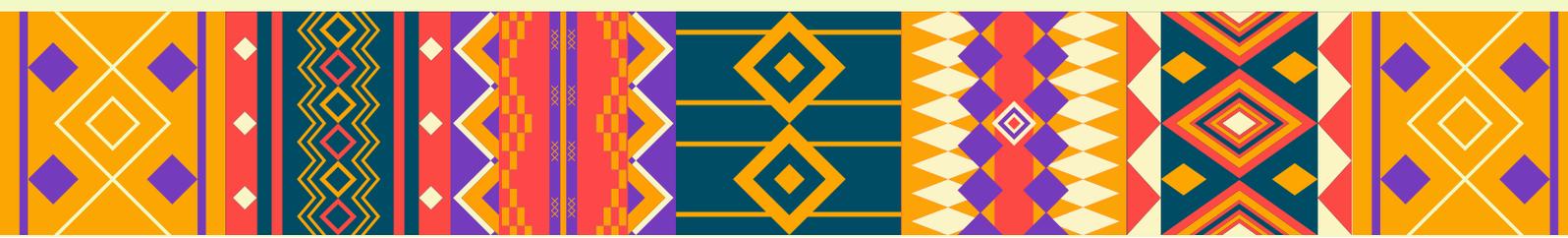
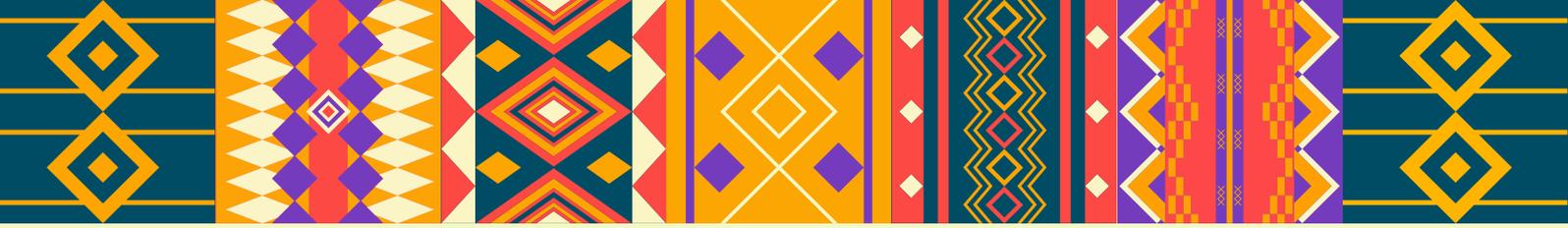


**NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE SUMMIT**

 DUSIT THANI, DAVAO CITY

 FEBRUARY 22-23, 2023





NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE SUMMIT 2023



# STRONGER TOGETHER

Driving Beyond Convergence

## Event Report

### Our Why

**We want to improve the education, employment, and livelihood opportunities of the Filipino out-of-school youth so they may have a better chance at a brighter future.**

USAID Opportunity 2.0 (O2) is a collaborative program designed to support existing programs and mechanisms so that Filipino out-of-school youth (OSY) can pursue higher-level education, get new jobs, or start their own businesses. Part of strengthening the systems around the youth is establishing Youth Development Alliances (YDAs) in Philippine cities.

The YDA is a mechanism that brings together key decision-makers and stakeholders to improve opportunities for youth in the community. Alliances are multi-sectoral and are typically led by the city government. Members include government line agencies, business associations, civil society, universities, college, and training institutions, civil society, and, of course, the youth themselves. Through YDAs, local actors are able to craft youth-inclusive policies and programs together, harmonize implementation, and maximize their resources.

Since 2020, all O2 partner cities have established YDAs in varying stages of development, and have strategic and annual OSY development plans developed. Over 300 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 done local labor market assessments, organizational capacity assessments, and youth engagement activities as an alliance.

With the theme, “Stronger Together: Driving Beyond Convergence,” O2 held a summit as a platform for YDAs to interact, share, and learn from each other’s best practices and challenges in carrying out programs for the OSY. This is O2’s way of fostering a community of practice among youth champions in the Philippines.

### Summit Objectives

The National YDA Summit 2023 brought together over 200 youth champions from the cities of Angeles, Legazpi, Quezon, Pasig, Valenzuela, Cebu, Isabela, Tagbilaran, Zamboanga, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, General Santos, Iligan, and Cotabato. Specifically, the summit aims to:

1. Provide a platform for the members of YDAs from 15 sites to interact, share and learn from one another’s best practices, challenges and unique situations in carrying out programs for OSY;
2. Inspire YDAs to apply their learning from various experiences and practices for the continuous strengthening of their city’s YDA and development of OSY programs; and,
3. Recognize YDA initiatives and efforts in creating and sustaining partnerships and collaboration for effective OSY services.

## Highlights



**We are honored to host youth champions from across the Philippines here at the YDA Summit in partnership with USAID and EDC. We are proud to be leading the way in services, policies, and programs for one of the most vulnerable members of our society - the out-of-school youth.**

— Davao City Mayor Sebastian Duterte in a welcome message relayed by Vice Mayor Melchor Quitain.



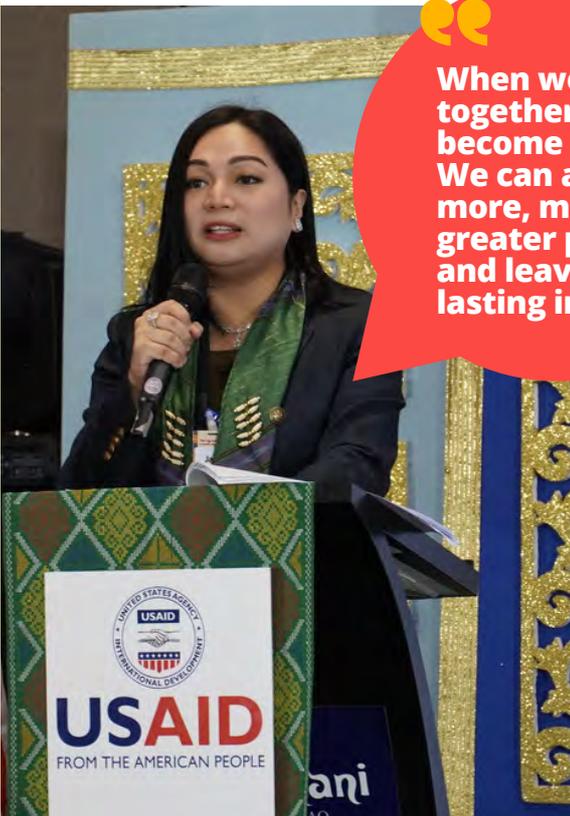
**The challenges faced by youth demand a whole-of-community approach and the YDA is our response. Based on what we are seeing, it remains the most impactful and sustainable approach**

— USAID Mission Director Ryan Washburn in a speech that officially opened the summit.



**When we work together, we become stronger. We can achieve more, make greater progress, and leave a lasting impact**

Tagbilaran City Mayor and Keynote Speaker Jane Censoria Yap asserted that youth champions can be bolder and more ambitious in making a real difference for OSY. Ordinances and policies are important, but so is ensuring that the YDA's work is data-driven. As such, collaboration is key in the data collection stage to decision-making and program implementation.



"We can pool our resources, expertise, and experience to achieve our goals and be more effective and efficient. This requires the willingness to share information and ideas, to listen and learn from each other, and to work towards a common goal," Yap added.

In their testimonials, Valenzuela City Councilor Chiqui Marie Carreon represented by her Chief of Staff Michael Carreon, and General Santos City Councilor John Salvador Demdam highlighted the power of communication and constant innovation in order to alleviate OSY's real-life situations. "Reinforce resilience to propel youth development programs beyond convergence. All youth, no matter their background, must be valued," Demdam said.



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

— Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte Carpio enjoined local actors to innovate to serve marginalized youth in a video message for summit participants



## Session 1: Sustaining impactful youth programs through YDA plans and policies toward institutionalization

Tagbilaran, Legazpi, Cagayan de Oro, GenSan, and Angeles were among the O2 sites with an established YDA through local policies. Ordinances ensure the active implementation and effectiveness of OSY-centered policies. The session tackled how these ordinances ensure YDA sustainability, as well as creating a unified strategy for harmonizing each member's role so that the programs they implement are not counterproductive or in conflict with other members' programs.



### The power of collaboration and youth representation

- **In GenSan**, then Chair of the Committee on Youth and now Vice Mayor Rosalita Nuñez was instrumental in the approval of the YDA's Php 5 million-peso budget.
- **In Cagayan de Oro**, Councilor Daba shared that the City Council is fully aware of the importance of youth programs and thus approved the city ordinance establishing the YDA. Prior to this, three OSY-friendly ordinances have also been approved: 1) the Scholarship Code-OSY-friendly ordinance, 2) the establishment of the CDO Technical Vocational Institute, and 3) the 2018-Oro Youth Code which led to the establishment of the Oro Youth Development Office which is now the OSYDA Secretariat.
- **In Tagbilaran**, City Development Officer Marbert Remolador asserted that it is important to stay true to the offices' mandates. He asserted that the YDA limits the duplication of services and programs, and removes the idea of competition among different agencies. To do so, it is important that the youth are involved in action planning and policy decision-making. YDAs work hard to keep youth at the center of the alliance.
- **Legazpi TAYO, Inc.**'s Jeffrey Latigay highlighted current efforts to enhance youth programs such as youth assessment, planning, and evaluation, as well as the preparation of the ordinance for "Climate HERO" under which youth will train for environmental advocacy and resilience. TAYO also leads in giving work immersion opportunities for youth. Legazpi's Chamber of Youth Commissioners also helps organize youth, and ensures the implementation of non-overlapping programs.
- **Angeles City** Youth Development Office Officer-in-Charge Joffre Dulinayan underscored the Youth Office's work in engaging OSY. The Local Youth Development Council organized the Youth Network Council with OSYs, the Youth Committee, and DepEd ALS. Currently, the council comprises 24 youth-serving organizations. "In order to come up with more strategic and contextualized plans and directions, the OSY Organization or the youth network should be involved in the planning, implementation, and monitoring phases. This will give them a sense of ownership of why there is a need for the alliance in the first place," Dulinayan said. "The youth needs to be capacitated to prepare them to become future leaders. The projects [for] the youth should not be dictated by the adults. Para sa kabataan, dapat magmula sa kabataan," he added.



### **On transitions and sustainability**

To ensure YDA sustainability, the panel agreed that it is vital for the Alliances to be institutionalized through City Ordinances and to gain the support of Local Chief Executives (LCEs). Given the nature of the Philippines' political transitions, there is a constant change in leadership and priority areas. So, gaining the support of LCEs to ensure the continuity of youth-centered programs and the alliance's functionality.

"The Ordinance is one of the keys to having sustainable YDA. It is tailored-fit to the uniqueness of each site/city. It will make sure the YDA will stay even if the O2 program is completed," emphasized Remolador said. With synergy, youth-serving organizations no longer have to work in silos. YDAs enable program streamlining which maximizes services and resources delivered to OSY.

According to Remolador, for YDAs to stay driven, they must embody the system, sustainability, and synergy that come with the commitment of working together. Strength comes in numbers, and with an able functional system in place, ordinances can be amended according to the evolving needs of the OSY.

It is also a good practice to communicate milestones and progress with data management and analysis tools that show relevant data (e.g. CDO's eMonitor Mo system) and to establish youth networks to maximize youth voices in the YDA (e.g. KaYa Na).



## Session 2: Applying innovative data management tools for youth programming

Delivering data-driven services entails using tools that enable **youth mapping, assessment, and evaluation**. GenSan's **POSYGEN** or Project OSY for General Santos City and CDO's **eMonitor Mo** app are two database systems developed for this purpose. Cities of Quezon, Cebu, and Zamboanga also highlighted the importance of data-driven mechanisms to improve YDA functionality and youth data.



### Gathering youth data for better service delivery

- POSYGEN was developed by the STI College **GenSan** led by Engr. Ann Gilyn Premarion. It manages data related to youth aged 15-30 and shows grassroots-level data and youth transitions and generates baseline data for different agencies. To date, it has gathered data on 23,716 youth, of which 6,549 are OSYs. Continuous partnership with the local government, citizens, and private institutions is practiced for database updating and management. STI is in the process of creating a Memorandum of Understanding with POPCOM GenSan for the management of POSYGEN.
- **In CDO**, Dr. Jocelyn Barbosa, Vice Chancellor and Dean of the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines led the development of eMonitor Mo web and mobile app to facilitate OSY mapping and monitoring that strengthens the OSY profiling system in Region 10.
- **The QCYDA** underwent an organizational capacity assessment in September 2022 and has since been working on strengthening the alliance, forging new partnerships, and creating new policies and an integrated database.
- **In Cebu**, Cebu Technological University led by Dr. Sheilalaine Romulo set out to profile 200 OSY. Here, youth are asked about the reasons why they stopped schooling. The top reason remains to be financial instability.
- **In Zamboanga**, DepEd ALS started youth profiling to provide career guidance for Junior High School completers and track their progress. The practice empowers the learners to make decisions for their future, Dr. Gloria Carpio said.



# YDA Awards Night

Youth Development Alliances, in varying stages of development, have gained significant progress since their establishment. Plaques were awarded to YDAs for outstanding achievement based on their report cards and organizational assessments.



### Session 3: Mainstreaming strategies for youth access to wage employment, entrepreneurship and engagements, and funding opportunities for scholarships

YDA members from Davao, Isabela, Cotabato, Cebu, Valenzuela, and Quezon City shared insights on Local Labor Market Assessments and facilitating youth opportunities following the data gleaned from these market studies. In determining appropriate training for OSY and creating pathways to education, employment, or entrepreneurship, the common practice among YDAs is to **look at local industry demands and tap relevant offices** such as the Public Employment Services Office, academe, training service providers, and private sector actors, among others to realize their action plans.



#### Packaging youth opportunities with local partners

- **Isabela City** recently created the **HAPISABIDA Academy**, a business boot camp that allows for two (2) pathways – employment and entrepreneurship. Here, PESO engaged local partners, especially TESDA, the Department of Information and Communications Technology, and other government agencies and NGOs to facilitate programs on agriculture, particularly farming, and fishing, as this is the city's top industry to date.
- **In Valenzuela** City, O2 youth completers are taught how to make resumés and application letters. The Valenzuela City Polytechnic College also facilitates mock interviews and battery tests to expose the youth to real-life experiences as part of its **Career Enhancement Program**.
- **In Cotabato** City, **OSYs are employed to gather data** for the Local Labor Market Assessment as they have firsthand knowledge of their fellow youth's challenges and interests and they can effectively communicate the opportunities offered by the local government. Following the Cotabato City Development Agenda, the City Planning Office works with the SK, Barangay Local Government Unit, and other relevant offices to serve the youth and give them the freedom to decide on their own pathways.
- TESDA Cebu underscored the great contribution of the **Cebu City** YDA as well as private tech-voc institutions in promoting TVET scholarships for OSY. TESDA uses its own **online app** as well as the Biometric-enabled Scholarship (BSRS) Registration System to capture relevant info of those who want to enroll in TESDA courses. Working with the YDA has created a culture of collaboration and allowed for streamlined planning and implementation of programs and events. TESDA Cebu also integrates the agency's Gender and Development curriculum into all provincial-level programs to ensure that youth receive holistic training. TESDA Cebu also partnered with DepEd and local Higher Education Institutions for the implementation of Higher-Level Education or Training Readiness Orientation.



### Session 3: Mainstreaming strategies for youth access to wage employment, entrepreneurship and engagements, and funding opportunities for scholarships

#### Packaging youth opportunities with local partners

- The **QC** Small Business and Cooperative Development and Promotions Office (SBCDPO) provides livelihood trainings for solo parents, persons with disabilities, and many more through **Pangkabuhayan QC**. They have recently adopted O2's Be Your Own Boss program, and partnered with DTI, San Miguel, Cebuana Lhuiller, and many others to reach more OSY. Program completers receive Php 10,000-Php 20,000 in assistance. To encourage OSY into joining, youth are shown success stories of other youth who came before them and underwent the same Pangkabuhayan QC program.
- **Davao** Local Service Provider and O2 grantee **Casuga Integrated School** also makes use of **networks and linkages** when expanding the reach of opportunities for OSY. For instance, the Department of Agriculture is tapped to provide seeds for agriculture courses. The Department of Social Welfare and Development is tapped for assistance in preparations for youth civic engagements. Casuga also coordinates with SM Supermarket and local farmers' markets to give the youth a space to sell their crops. Since partnering with O2 and the YDA, Casuga has produced a number of completers, among them is Joshua Moreno, who dropped out of college but successfully completed his Organic Agriculture Production training and now serves as a TVET trainer and assessor. As an agriculture training school, Casuga also promotes blue and green economies and advocates for further training of youth to become *agripreneurs* and aquaculture professionals.





### Session 4: Giving youth a stronger presence and voice in the YDA

Six O2 youth leaders who have transitioned to further education and employment shared testimonies about O2's impact on their lives. The full video can be viewed on O2's YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/9BresjdCpgg>.

- Jay-Ar Gutierrez, Pasig City, Youth Access to TESDA Online Program Learner (Front Office Services NC II): "Magtiwala sa sarili. Magtiyaga. Huwag tumigil na mangarap."
- Queen Mary Hernane, Cebu City, ALS Youth, trained under O2 grantee Paglaum Training International: "The youth have a voice. The problem lies in whom they share it with. We wanted to share with the YDA our stories and struggles, and we are so happy that our voices are heard."
- Wenilyn Bendol, Cotabato City, O2 youth, now a college student studying Agriculture: "We are the voices of the youth and we bear the task to let the YDA know what they need so that they will have a chance at a better future. I also finally understood that we are not just voices of the youth. We are the prime movers in the community."
- Desiree Rose Valmoria, Cagayan de Oro City, KaYa Na President: "Being a youth leader is not about being great. It's about influencing your fellow youth to believe in their potential and linking them to the right opportunities."
- Princess Abi Genson, Iloilo City, ALS graduate, SHS student
- Van Steven Bautista, Quezon City, Vice-President, QC YNEC: "It's a great feeling to be with so many people who advocate for the youth. I believe that no youth, no matter their circumstances, should be left behind."



## Challenges Identified

### On institutionalization:

While ordinances are a great way to secure funding and program continuity, the panel also acknowledged that the following still need to be strategically addressed:

- Stakeholders and decision-makers tend to have different interests.
- Similarly, different youth organizations are focused on different issues.
- There is a need to empower the Sangguniang Kabataan to be actively involved in program-specific policy creation, as they are the leading youth body in charge of voicing out youth concerns.

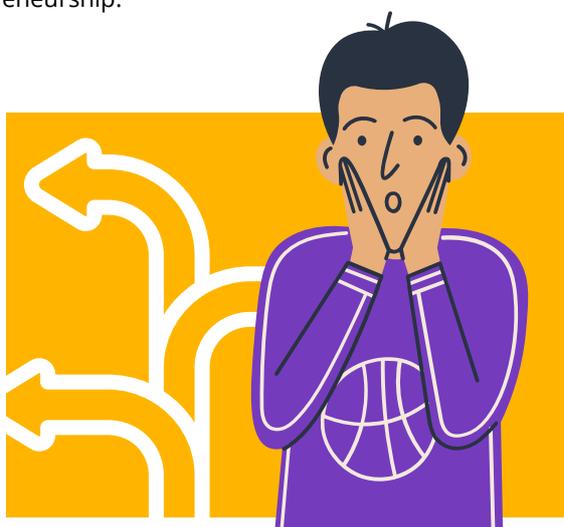


### On tools for youth programming:

- Transitions in the administration are a challenge as they destabilize database management and utilization.
- Youth profiling, mapping, and monitoring are resource and time-consuming.
- There is a high likelihood of inefficient mapping of OSYs especially those living in rural areas. There are inconsistencies and duplication of records, especially of those who switched residences.
- Analysis, presentation, and visualization of appropriate reports and data analytics is lacking to fully appreciate results and inform programming.
- OSY definitions differ among agencies.
- Resistance to change or adoption of new software occurs due to data integration with the existing system.
- Stakeholders' needs are very dynamic and continue to evolve.
- Not all OSYs are interested in education, skills development, nor entrepreneurship.

### On transitioning youth:

- While YDAs reach out to youth to learn more about their situations and how best to help them, sometimes youth will have reservations about the questions and will also have a difficult time answering.
- Equipment for data collection are not regularly updated and can soon be rendered obsolete.
- There are marginalized youth who remain unaware of available government programs.



## Summit In Summary

At the end of the sessions, Senior International Technical Advisor Philip Purnell provided a 12-point synthesis comprising lessons learned and ways forward.

1

**Youth lived experience is the cornerstone of all Opportunity 2.0 and YDA activity.** Youth stories are the core of O2 and YDA activity.

2

**YDA is an evolving animal with multiple species.** Each YDA is unique. Approaches to youth experiences and lived realities are localized and tailored to respond to unique circumstances.

3

**YDA is a vehicle for harmonization of youth development efforts.** Collaboration is key to creating unified programs towards youth development.

4

**YDA is a youth-centric entity.** Without the youth, we are lost. Youth are not beneficiaries of the YDA. They are the leaders. The YDA has to be adaptive. We have to evolve as the youths evolve.

5

**YDA is a source of innovation and system strengthening.** Local innovations can bring in national-level impacts (e.g. ALS Speakers Bureau workshop aiding in the nationwide orientation of ALS implementers in the provisions of the ALS Act).

6

**YDAs are data collaborators.** Data is powerful only when it is accurate. It has to be timely and relevant. It is important to learn about the OSYs' needs and aspirations so as this will determine what programs they need to be immersed in.

7

**YDAs can do more to increase accessibility and inclusivity.** We still need to do more to bring in more learners with disabilities.

8

**Measure YDA success.** Optimize data management and analysis tools to measure the quality and coverage of services delivered to OSY.

9

**Temporary-proofing YDAs.** Determine strategies, tools, and policies to apply to ensure YDA sustainability and program longevity.

10

**Expand YDAs.** This is our top priority – all cities should have an alliance.

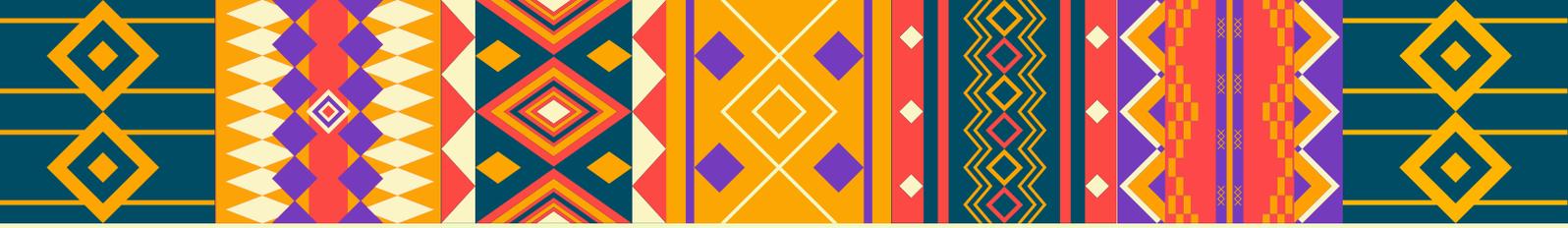
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**Twists and turns remain on the road for YDAs' journeys.** Despite having major roadblocks such as elections, climate change, and natural disasters.

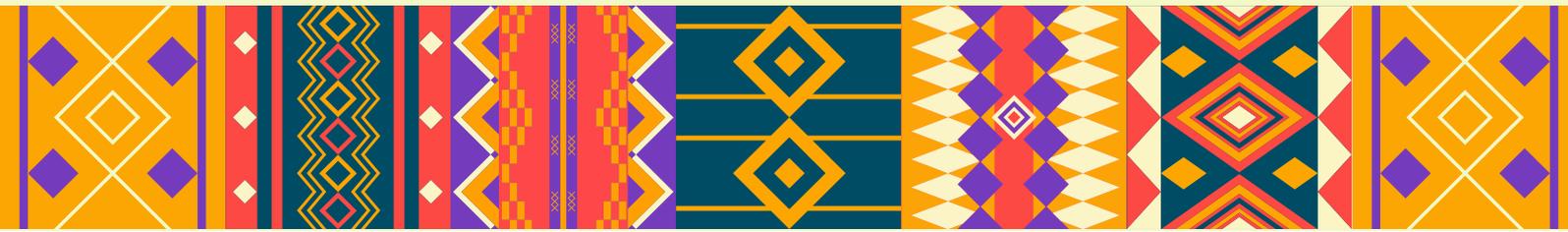
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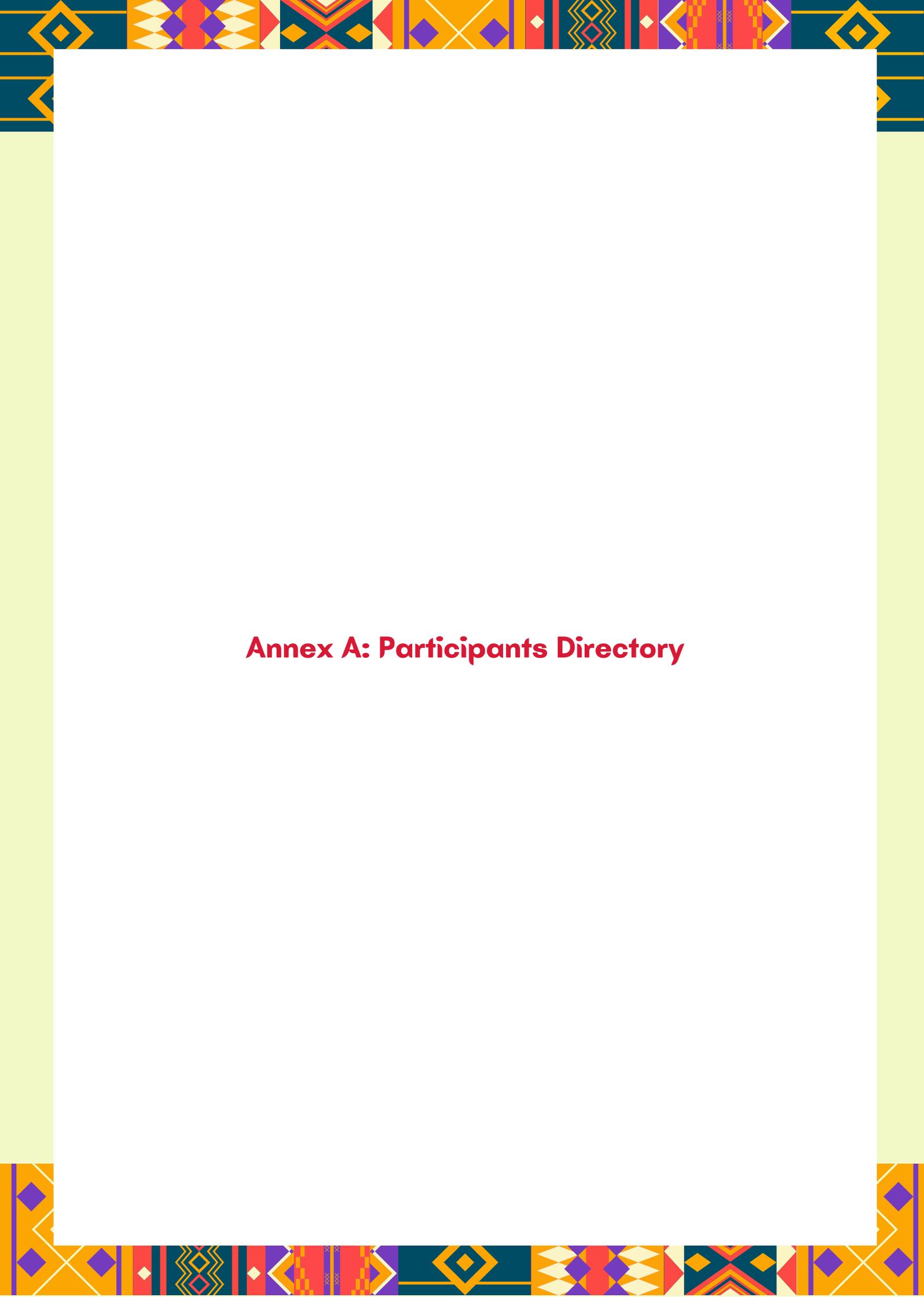
**YDAs are fuel for the future.** We have to have commitment and dedication to innovation. As primary youth champions, YDAs must constantly innovate, evolve and adapt to maintain timely, relevant, and effective service delivery to OSY amidst constant changes.





# Annexes





## **Annex A: Participants Directory**

Site	Last Name	First Name	Organization	Designation	Email Address
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5 cities (Davao, Cebu, Quezon, CDO, Cotabato)	Merquita	Errol	Catholic Relief Services	Program Manager	errol.merquita@crs.org

## Annex B: Presentations

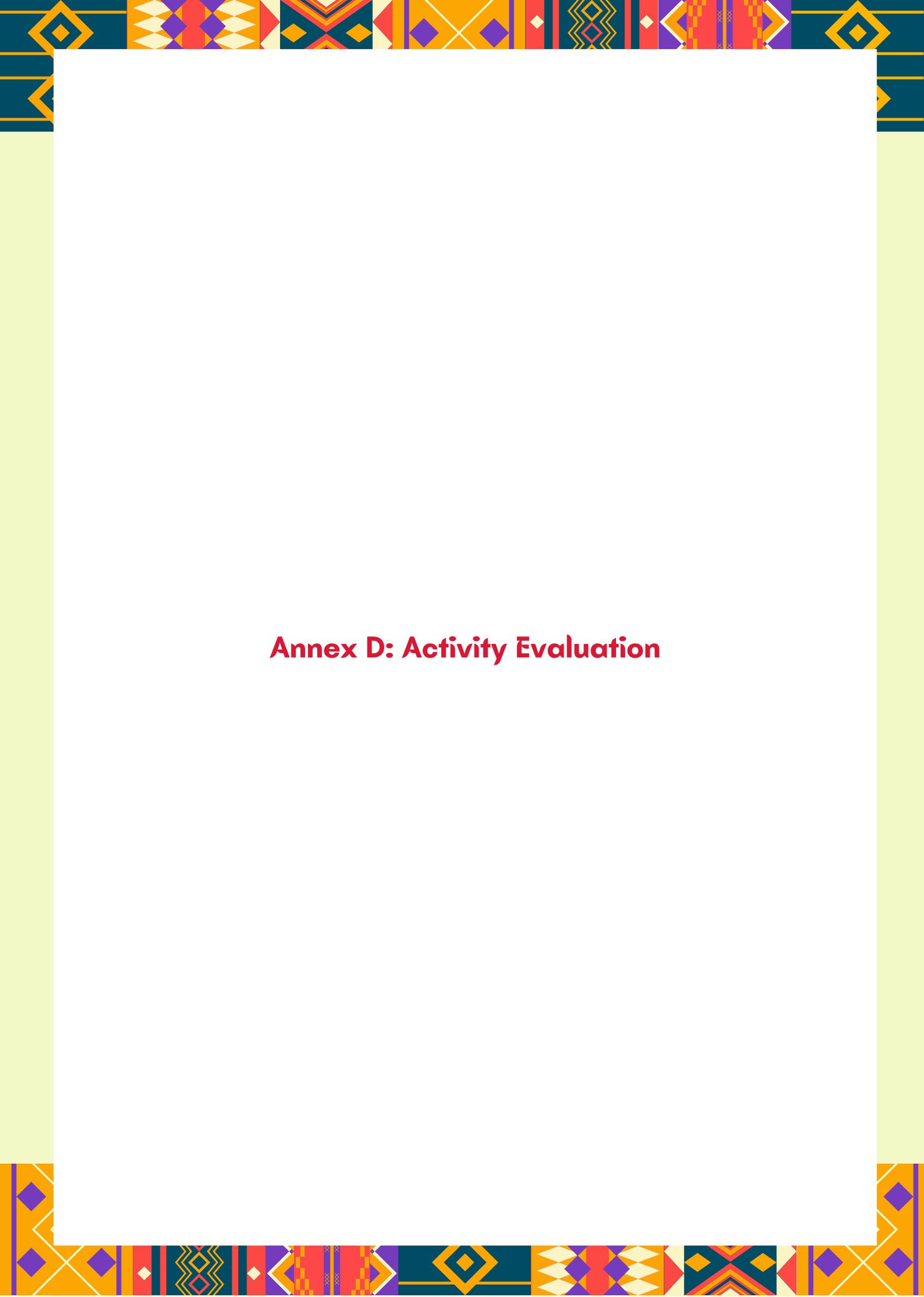
Clickable links below

- [Keynote Address by Mayor Jane Yap of Tagbilaran City](#)
- [Session 1: Sustaining impactful youth programs through YDA plans and policies](#)
- [Session 2: Applying innovative data management tools for youth programming](#)
- [Session 3: Improving strategies on OSY access to jobs, business, and education opportunities](#)
- [Session 4: Strengthening OSY voices in the YDA](#)

## Annex C: Photos and Videos

Clickable links below

- [Select summit photos](#)
- [What is O2?](#)
- [What are YDAs?](#)
- [Opening Ceremony Live Stream Video](#)
- [Summit Highlights Video](#)
- [Messages of Support](#)
  - [VP Sara Duterte-Carpio](#)
  - [DepEd ASec G.H. Ambat](#)
  - [TESDA DDG Rosanna Urdaneta](#)

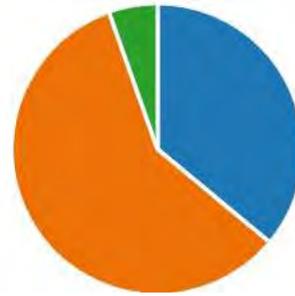


## **Annex D: Activity Evaluation**

## Opportunity 2.0 National YDA Summit 2023 Activity Evaluation Responses

**Total Number of Responses = 111**

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Male	40
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Female	65
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Prefer not to say	6



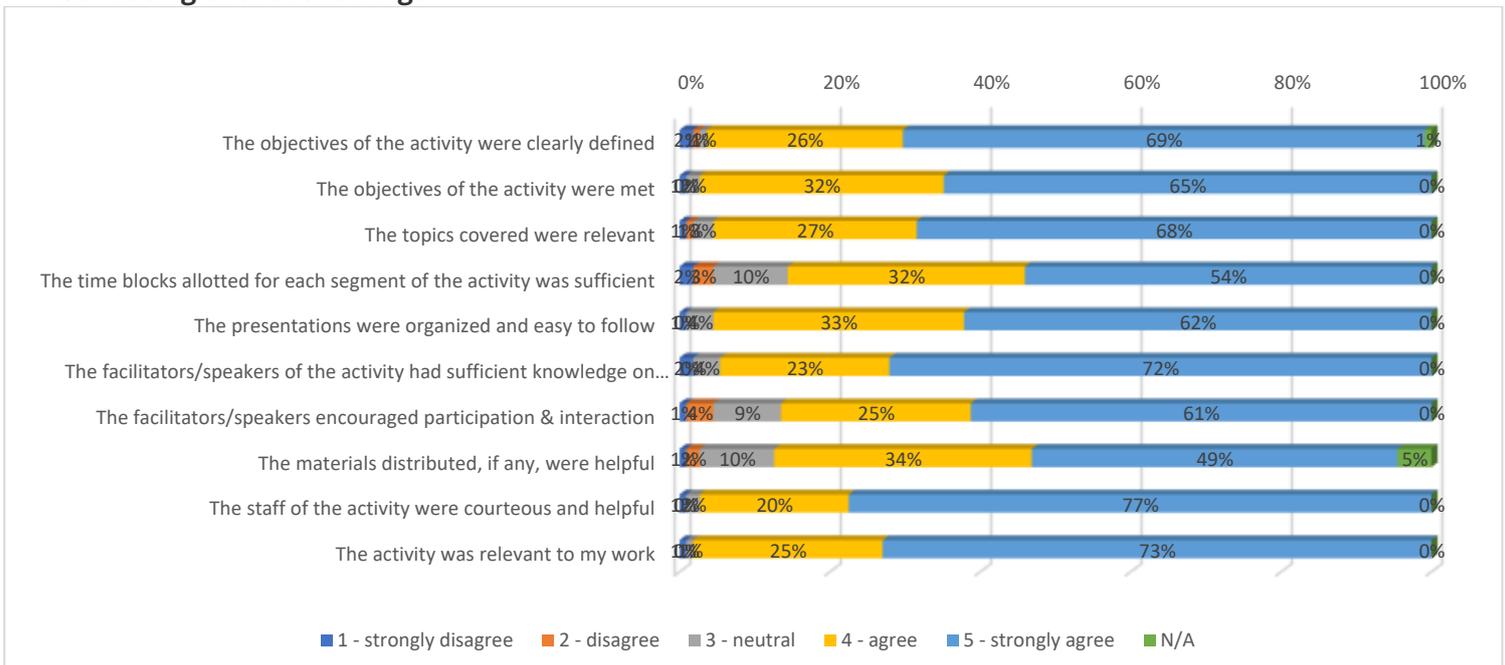
### 1. What did you like the most about the summit?

- Learning Sessions/Breakout Sessions
- Social Interaction/Convergence Between Participants (e.g. meeting members of other YDAs, Connections between participants)
- Sharing of ideas, goals, and achievements of all sites
- Sharing of best practices by different YDAs
- Success Stories/Testimonials
- Inspiring youth stories/Giving O2 youth spotlight
- Data management technical sessions (e.g. OSY mapping)
- The diversity of the participants, meeting other YDA members
- Inputs from key speakers and synopsis

### 2. What did you like the least about the summit?

- Minimal Interaction with other YDAs
- Keynote speaker was cut off during speech
- Cramped schedule of activities
- Youth reactors were not oriented on how to deliver good panel reaction
- Some attendees are not attentive to each session
- Some panelists had lengthy presentations
- Opening ceremony was too long
- Venue/Food
- Hotel Service

### 3. Rating of the following:



#### 4. Do you have any other comments and/or suggestions to further improve future events?

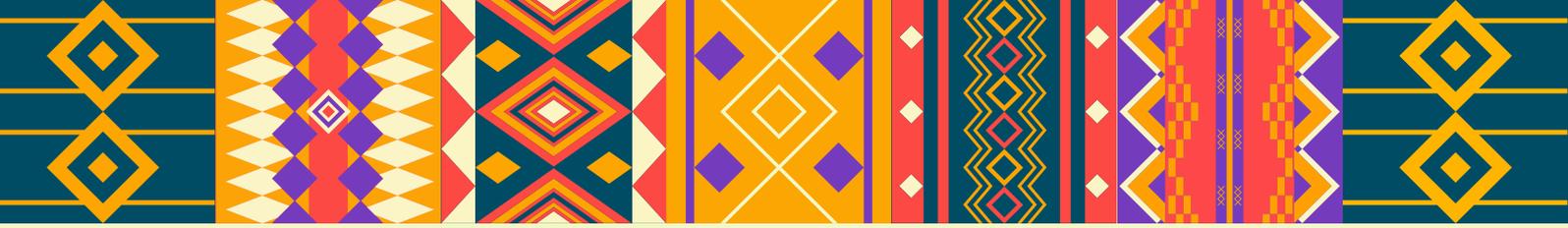
- Opportunities for networking/interactive with other YDAs
- Additional time for sharing best practices
- Additional opportunities for discussions with youth
- Additional time for participants to share during discussions
- Include testimonials from youth led organizations
- Additional time to showcase accomplishments and discuss challenges from YDAs
- More youth leaders to get involved in the event
- Awards should be based on OSY reached and transformed. Not on OCAT that is a self-assessed form.
- Better to use world cafe stations for sharing of 15 YDAs innovations. TV interview style format not engaging for audience most of whom not listening.
- A review on the roadmap (if any) should be part of the program to determine how far have we gone in terms of achieving targets.
- Extra travel days
- Logistics can be improved (e.g. group check-ins, etc.)

#### Additional Feedback from YDA Summit participants

- "Very well prepared in all aspects of the summit. Congratulations for another learning opportunity here."
- "Looking forward for another gathering like these that we can replicate more best practices from other O2 sites"
- "Kuddos and a resounding applause to the facilitators, TWG, speakers etc. of this national summit"
- "Very good facilitation of the event. Congrats to the organizers!"
- "Congratulations from the Top Management down to the Staff and Personnels of USAID and EDC for the success of the National Summit"
- "Everything is thoroughly plan and successfully implemented."

#### MS forms responses summary link:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=bVMFqTLddwNMZBJyMuStBKsm1fteBaxE&id=EfnUjO7UREuv\\_KjlljqMqVObj08cbzFMgCaxi6QJ7kpUN0hCTDAwT0dHWldONU9DVE4wRFpQQ0tJMi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=bVMFqTLddwNMZBJyMuStBKsm1fteBaxE&id=EfnUjO7UREuv_KjlljqMqVObj08cbzFMgCaxi6QJ7kpUN0hCTDAwT0dHWldONU9DVE4wRFpQQ0tJMi4u)



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