

# Youth Access to TESDA Online Program (YATOP)

A COVID-19 response to restore out-of-school youth's access to tech-voc

AS OF DECEMBER 2022

**1,221**

OSYs accessed TVET through O2's YATOP

**746**

OSY completers have been assessed

**686**

OSY completers have been certified

**92%**

Certification rate



USAID, through its Opportunity 2.0 program, was quick to respond when COVID-19 hit the Philippines. It pivoted to supporting distance learning after the out-of-school youth lost access to education and training when lockdowns were imposed in communities. In collaboration with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), modules were enhanced with new work and business readiness content. TESDA trainers were re-trained on delivering the new modules in safe and flexible ways. And, learners were equipped with tools to be able to go on online classes with community-based facilitators engaged to guide them along the process.

Dubbed as **Youth Access to TOP**, the initiative was implemented in the 12 cities nationwide: Angeles City, Quezon City, Valenzuela City, Legazpi City, Cebu City, Tagbilaran City, Zamboanga City, Isabela City, General Santos City, Cotabato City, Davao City, and Cagayan De Oro City. In November 2022, YATOP was launched in the three more sites: Pasig, Iloilo, and Iligan, to also model the initiative in these communities. One hundred fifty more OSY are expected to be enrolled by January 2023.

## Support provided for OSY Learners



**Equipment**

OSY learners were loaned tablets, with the necessary software, and internet connectivity support throughout their chosen TESDA course.



**Facilitators**

Community-based facilitators were engaged to support learners along their chosen three-month TESDA course while following local health protocols.



**Modules**

Copies of Work Readiness Modules on 21st Century Skills and a short module on COVID-19 Preventive Measures in the Workplace are provided too. Work-based Learning (WBL) and Be Your Own Boss (BYOB) modules are likewise provided.



**Post-Training Support**

Hands-on skills practice, assessment, and certification is facilitated. Activities such as Digital Citizenship, Pathways Orientation, or Peer Coaching that help OSY transition to work and business is also conducted with Youth Development Alliances or private sector partners.

## Testimonials from youth

*Being a TVET graduate guaranteed me a chance to escape poverty and improve the quality of my life and promote sustainable development for me, my family, and our communities.*

— **Jessa Doma**  
Computer System Servicing  
Completer, Legazpi City



*Joining this program helped boost my confidence and in dealing with challenges better. I'm very happy to be studying again. I learned a lot from the program and it encouraged me to finally go back to college.*

— **Wilson Godinez**  
Bread & Pastry Production  
Completer, Youth with  
Disability from Cebu City



## 33 TESDA Technology Institutions (TTIs) and Technical-Vocational Institutions (TVIs) in TOP

The stellar performance of TOP youth completers is a notable development in an online training environment, where trainees can still pass assessment and certification despite learning their skills virtually. This achievement was also made possible with the post training support provided by the project in collaboration with the 33 partner TTIs and TVIs, which provided our youth the facility and subject matter experts in their skills practice and hands-on training.

