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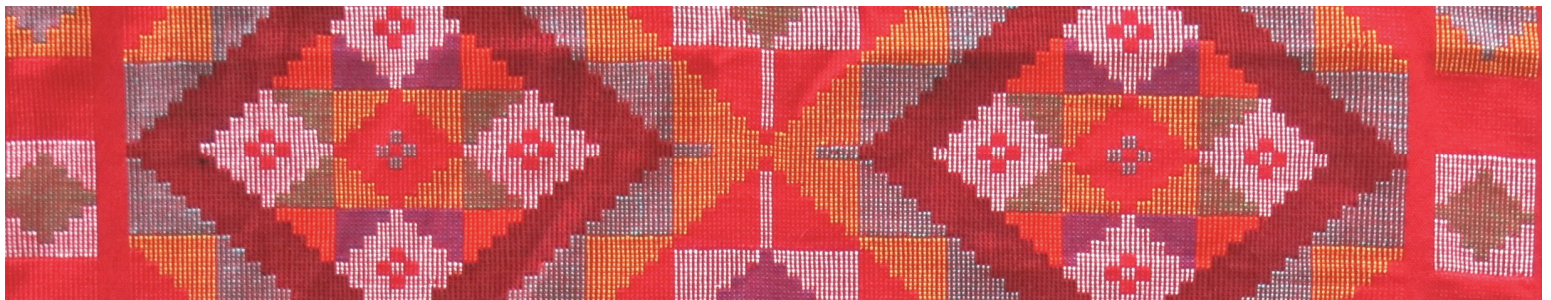
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OFFICE OF HEALTH

Ensuring Quality Application of Health Service Provider-Trainees' Knowledge on Lactation Management through Supportive Supervision



Following the training on Lactation Management, USAID's MindanaoHealth Project, together with the local government units of Davao del Sur, Compostela Valley Province, Davao Oriental and Davao City, conducted supportive supervision visits to hospitals to ensure that the 17 Lactation Management Trainees can provide the appropriate service and correctly apply the skills they learned from the training. Together with the trainees, MindanaoHealth visited 10 hospitals where the former were observed on how they counsel mothers on the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding, and on the way they teach the correct positioning during breastfeeding. The trainees were mentored and coached as they counseled clients in the hospitals' outpatient department and in the ward for post-partum mothers. With improved capacities on lactation management, they will serve as a support group and counselors to communities in Davao Region, encouraging more mothers to breastfeed their babies. *(Photo by EngenderHealth)*



Health (continued)**Increasing Awareness of Youth Reproductive Health Issues**

Based on the Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality Study of 2013 (YAFSS4), the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Mindanao is in the CARAGA region at 17.3 percent. In response, CARAGA Region and the local government units of Butuan City, Cabadbaran City and Nasipit, Agusan del Norte conducted a Youth Forum and launched the U4U (Youth-for-You) Teen Trail Initiative to provide correct information to youth about human sexuality and reproductive health. About 100 students from Butuan City participated in the activity, while 15 student leaders from five different city schools and colleges underwent the U4U Teen Facilitators Training, spearheaded by POPCOM-CARAGA. This prepared to supervise future Teen Trail activities. USAID's MindanaoHealth Project mentored, coached, and guided the midwives, nurses, and other health workers from participating local government units.

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE**ENGAGE****Internally Displaced Persons Update**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Livelihood Summit in Zamboanga City: The City Government organized an IDP Livelihoods Summit attended by about 130 IDP leaders, municipal and provincial officials and representatives from the Business community and international partners. During the event, IDP leaders presented the results of the rapid community enterprise identification exercise, which was conducted in 12 permanent and temporary IDP settlement sites. ENGAGE also turned over the final report of the Livelihood Study conducted by the Ateneo de Zamboanga University (AdZU) Research Center in October. The summit—organized with support from ENGAGE and UNDP—represents the next step of the participatory planning process undertaken to craft the IDP economic resettlement and development plan of the Zamboanga Roadmap to Recovery and Rehabilitation.

4th Zamboanga City Youth Forum

With the theme “Various Views, One Voice: Collegiate Youth Leaders Convergence”, the fourth installment of the Zamboanga Youth gathered more than 100 elected student representatives from eight colleges and universities in Zamboanga City. Participants agreed to establish a convergence mechanism to enable student councils in the city to consolidate their ranks and productively engage in local governance and community development matters. They also discussed concerns relative to the plight of the IDPs in Zamboanga, youth unemployment and public safety. ENGAGE, along with other USAID Activities in the area, supports this monthly initiative in partnership with the City Government and the Social Action Center of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga.



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Basilan

USAID's Be Secure Project jointly organized water database orientation for Basilan LGUs and water districts. A training on Listahang Tubig for Basilan local government units (LGUs) and water districts was held in Zamboanga City on November 12. The Listahang Tubig Project is a nationwide survey of water service providers that aims to develop a database that can be used to improve decision making and regulation. The data will help LGUs identify unserved or underserved areas, as well as water supply and demand gaps. The survey and database are being developed by the National Water and Resource Board (NWRB), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) with support from the USAID Be Secure Project and the Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank. Be Secure provided resource persons for the training, which included 22 participants from Basilan LGUs.

Maguindanao

USAID's Be Secure Project joined development partners to support Maguindanao. USAID's Be Secure Project participated in a development partners' forum organized by the local government of Paglas, Maguindanao with support from the USAID ENGAGE Project. Mayor Mohamad Paglas encouraged donors and partners to collaborate with the local government to better address issues and problem related to water, disaster risk reduction, climate change, livelihood and governance faced by his municipality. As the current chairman of the Southwestern Ligawasan Alliance of Municipalities (SLAM), he also asked donors and the private sector to help the alliance achieve its goals. SLAM is composed of Paglat, Datu Paglas, Sultan sa Barongis and General Salipada K. Pendatun; it works cooperatively to address common challenges in all aspects of development and governance.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

U.S. Embassy and Mindanao Youth Alliance Confirms 181 Youth Graduates

On Friday, November 14, USAID's Mindanao Youth for Development (MYDev) Project graduated 181 Out-of-School Youth (OSY) from Zamboanga City. The youth have all completed technical and life skills training to improve their lives and contribute to peace and stability in this conflict affected area. Dean Araneta, a nineteen-year-old plumbing graduate, received a certificate of completion directly from US Ambassador Philip S. Goldberg. He said, "the activities motivate us to be good leaders. I feel inspired to encourage other youth to become productive citizens." Other out of school youth now earn income as a result of acquiring technical skills through USAID-sponsored training programs. Alan Salvador, an organic vegetable production graduate said, "prior to MYDev's training, we were just idle. Now, life has changed; we are doing something productive. There is indeed money from farming!" USAID's MYDev Project supports eight Out-of-School Youth Development Alliances (OSYDA) in Lamitan in Basilan, Cotabato, Isabela City, Maguindanao, Marawi City, Sulu (2 sites), and Zamboanga City to strengthen local governance and the social contract between OSYs and communities. By 2018, the project will train 19,000 OSYs in life skills, vocational skills training, and/or basic education opportunities to support peace and stability in conflict-affected Mindanao.

Education (continued)**Padayon Mindanao's Partners' Workshop in Davao City Revisits Key Accomplishments**

On November 20, Padayon Mindanao conducted a partners' workshop in Davao City after two years of implementation. The workshop revisited the key accomplishments of Padayon Mindanao and allowed beneficiaries to share their stories, specifically the life changing moments they experienced as a result of their participation in the program. The workshop was attended by 40 ALS learners and 60 DepED ALS teachers and officials from the Padayon sites in Mindanao, Negros, Samar and Panay. The U.S. Peace Corps – Philippines, Padayon Mindanao's implementing partner, also documented recommendations that will help improve the roll-out of activities in year 3.

The workshop featured OSY leaders that were assisted by Padayon Mindanao that are now busy in their communities implementing local youth leadership camps, barangay clean-up drives, campaign against illegal drugs, and partnering with local government to encourage youth to go back to school. Out-of-school youth Maidelle, a participant of Padayon Mindanao's first youth leadership camp in Bicol, shared that she was an ALS learner then, and now an Accreditation and Equivalency exam passer. Maidelle later took college entrance exam and is now enrolled in one of the best Nursing Schools in Zamboanga del Norte. Maidelle shared that Padayon Mindanao helped her build her confidence and enabled her to do better in A&E exam, and later, in college entrance exam. Maidelle now looks forward to becoming a registered nurse in her community.

“Make your action impact someone else's destiny.”

- U.S. Peace Corps - Philippines Country Director Jean Seigle to youth and educators at the workshop.

The youth leaders are thankful to USAID and U.S. Peace Corps for the assistance that helped them discover their own potential as an important member of a community. The OSY are happy with how Padayon enabled them to live new and empowering experiences such as riding an airplane, visiting new places and meeting fellow youth outside Mindanao, interacting and learning with American citizens, and being recognized by local officials in newspapers, government websites and social media sites as upcoming community leaders.

Sarah Hadji Omar, a DepED ALS Coordinator, shared that because of Padayon Mindanao, she provided effective ALS teaching practices to the ALS teachers in Lanao. DepED ALS teachers and select officials were trained as facilitators for the Padayon's Literacy Summit and Youth Leadership Camp. The educators shared that after Padayon, they were equipped with very useful tools and innovative techniques that enabled them to improve their practice and solicit more support from the local government and fellow educators to implement community projects such as youth camps and radio programs that promote literacy. Sarah, like the other educators, went home with a mission to replicate the youth camps and literacy summit in her community. Sarah now happily reports that she was promoted as ALS Supervisor.

U.S. Peace Corps - Philippines Country Director Jean Seigle congratulated the teachers and learners for their success stories and ongoing community projects aimed at promoting education, peace values and civic engagement among out-of-school youth. CD Seigle was particularly impressed how the Padayon alumni are actively striving towards assisting their community and replicating the initiatives for the out-of-school youth. CD Seigle challenged the youth and educators and said, “Make your action impact someone else's destiny.”

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

USAID launched the Philippines' Women Peace and Security (WPS) Activity in August 2013, covering Northern Basilan/Isabela City, Southern Basilan, Sulu, Zamboanga City, Marawi City and Cotabato City. Informed by women's Roundtables, WPS increases women's involvement in peace processes by scaling-up Women Peace Tables (WPTs). This builds peace constituencies and ensures the Basic Law on Bangsa Moro is gender-responsive. It teaches women to conduct peace negotiations and advocate for peace. It also develops replicable and localized strategies to implement the Philippine National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security.

WPS supports the UN Security Resolution 325, the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. It is a response to the persistent clamor of women, especially those from conflict-affected communities, to make their voices heard in peace negotiating tables and participate in peace advocacy in their communities. The WPTs accomplish this by highlighting women's perspective on critical issues. The WPTs serve as "connecting, educating and mediating" table that links formal peace negotiations with community "tables" of women. It gives women the opportunity to present ideas and receive feedback. It also bridges sectors, like business, donors and international organizations, religion, media, labor, cooperatives, academe, widows and orphans, the elderly, and the youth.

In FY 2014, USAID expanded WPT, developing the capacity of 20 mostly Muslim women peace advocates. During this time, the USG helped draft gender-responsive provisions under the BBL by examining 10 Articles and 19 sections of the BBL, where women's participation should be highlighted. These include rights for women to meaningfully participate in political decision-making of the Bangsamoro; equitable representation of women, indigenous people and other marginalized groups; ensure accountability; promotion and protection of human rights of all peoples as provided by national law and all international laws, covenants and treaties to which the Philippine is a signatory; gender balance for women in third level positions in government; gender-sensitive Bangsamoro disaster risk reduction and management plan; women representation in all decision-making bodies of government; women's equal and full participation in elections; and incentives to political parties with a women's agenda among other initiatives.

USAID'S SENIOR DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR SUMMARY

The Zamboanga City Livelihood Forum began November 24, and highlighted a culmination of City, USAID, UN and other key stakeholder interventions and activities that have occurred in Zamboanga City since the 2013 Siege, with a view to future development opportunities. The Zamboanga City mayor opened the forum. There was a distinct focus on the IDP situation, and IDP community representatives were present at the summit. The summit began with a presentation of the current status of IDPs, the Zamboanga City Roadmap to Recovery and Reconstruction (Z3R) plan, and livelihood interventions. A presentation was made of the investment priority plan of the city and the findings of the USAID-funded IDP Livelihood Study, carried out by Ateneo de Zamboanga University. Following the formal presentations, the forum took the format of a workshop, with a community planning and recommendations agribusiness, aquaculture and fisheries, enterprise and value chain development, market study, and analysis. Employment opportunities for IDPs were discussed.

Reminder:

Mindanao Stakeholders are reminded that the USAID Logistics Support for Mindanao Activity, implemented by Louis Berger Group, prepares regular security advisories for Mindanao. Contact Marilou Sian, at MSian@mindano.org to be placed on the mailing list.

USAID's Mindanao "Team"

To ensure that USAID/Philippines is structured to achieve higher-level results for its Development Objective (DO) 2 - "Peace and Stability in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao Improved", Mission Management has designated a DO2 Team Lead and a DO2 Project Manager. The various activities implemented in Mindanao by the four technical offices (Health, Education, Economic Development and Governance, and Environment, Energy and Climate Change) are grouped into one project - the Strengthening Local Governance Project. Reed Aeschliman is the DO2 Team Leader. Lee Forsythe, is the DO2 Project Manager. Lee also manages the ENGAGE Activity and two conflict mitigation and management grants with The Asia Foundation and Catholic Relief Services. The primary DO2 points of contact in the other technical offices are: Karen Klimowski, Office of Health; Jeremy Gustafson, Office of Environment, Energy and Climate Change; and Robert Burch, Office of Education. The DO2 Team Leader, Project Manager and CORs/AORs in the Technical Offices work as a "team" to ensure projects are being implemented, monitored and focused on achieving results. Paul Mason is USAID's "embed" with Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Date Jan. 28 Mindanao Chief of Party Meeting, Manila

"The activities motivate us to be good leaders. I feel inspired to encourage other youth to become productive citizens."

Dean Araneta, 19-year old OSY

Dean (right) completed plumbing NC II and receives his certificate of completion from U.S. Ambassador Philip S. Goldberg (l). His credentials will lead to better livelihood for him and his family. (Photo by Padayon Mindanao)

