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OFFICE OF HEALTH

USAID PROMOTES REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AMONG INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN BUKIDNON



Matigsalug men participate in Usapan to learn more about family and reproductive health. (Rasonabel/jhpiego)

With assistance from USAID's MindanaoHealth Project, the municipality of Kitaotao in Bukidnon Province (Northern Mindanao) organized a one-day Health Fair in the area where indigenous people from the Matigsalug tribe make up almost half of the population. Through Usapan (interactive discussion) sessions, the health fair reached about 600 Matigsalug men and women. Usapan is a facilitated group discussion on maternal, neonatal, child health and nutrition (MNCHN), and family planning (FP), coupled with one-on-one voluntary counseling and service provision or referral. Fifteen health providers trained by the USAID facilitated the Usapan sessions. As a result, 56 participating pregnant women received free ultrasounds from doctors trained by the Department of Health-Northern Mindanao. The pregnant women were reminded to go to a health facility for

at least four prenatal check-ups and to deliver in a birthing facility accredited by national health insurance corporation, PhilHealth.

Health (continued)**USAID HELPS STRENGTHEN TB CONTROL IN JAILS**

USAID support, through the Innovations and Multisectoral Partnerships to Achieve Control of Tuberculosis (IMPACT) Project, has enabled all 21 jails in three Zamboanga provinces and three cities to correctly implement TB control activities. TB prevalence is up to 100 times higher among prison inmates than among the general population. Prison conditions like overcrowding, poor ventilation, and repeated prison transfers fan the spread of the disease, including its multidrug-resistant forms, and magnify the risk of TB infection among inmates.

USAID's IMPACT Project collaborated with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and the Department of Health Regional Office 9 to equip jail nurses and TB point persons with the skills to identify inmates with TB symptoms, refer them to the nearest health center for diagnosis, and ensure that those found with TB take the appropriate medicines until they are cured. USAID's assistance has also enabled the jails to partner with local governments to ensure an uninterrupted supply of anti-TB drugs to treat those diagnosed, implement a two-way referral of and feedback on inmates transferred to another jail, and make certain that TB patients continue their treatment even after release. The jails in Region 9 hold about 3,000 inmates, 20 of whom were diagnosed with TB and are currently undergoing treatment.



A city jail detainee gets his dose of anti-TB drugs from a jail warden. (Photo: TBYu/PBSP)

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT GAD CODE AND PLAN OF COTABATO CITY

ENGAGE supported the City of Cotabato in the formulation of its Gender and Development (GAD) Code and Plan. The City presented the draft GAD Code in a public consultation as part of the City's celebration of Women's month. The one day activity generated comments, identified areas for improvements and appreciation from the different participating sectors and stakeholders. The City Administrator of Cotabato, in a local TV interview, expressed appreciation for USAID/ENGAGE's assistance and support in the crafting of the GAD Code and Plan. ENGAGE will help the city enhance the draft GAD Code, incorporating the comments and recommendations from the consultations, within the month.

BANGSAMORO WOMEN LEADER'S FORUM IN DATU PAGLAS, MAGUINDANAO

ENGAGE assisted Datu Paglas conduct its first Women Leaders' Forum. The activity successfully gathered 1000 women leaders from different sectors and Barangays who tackled issues and challenges that confront them. They also formulated a Bangsamoro Women's Development Agenda which the city will integrate into the LGU's GAD and Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2016. Mayor Mohammad Paglas, in his speech wanted the women in his municipality to become active partners in community development. With a supportive Local Chief Executive, speakers encouraged women in Datu Paglas to participate more actively in Local Special Bodies.

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

BASILAN PROVINCE RECOGNIZES USAID FOR CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

USAID/Be Secure received two awards from Basilan Province on April 7. One award is for the project's contributions to increasing the climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction capabilities of the province. The second is for overall development support to the region. "Be Secure has been a big help to the Province. Although there are already elements of DRR and CCA in our Provincial Physical Framework Plan, we did not know how to engage all the relevant sectors to operationalize and implement it. But these trainings from USAID/Be Secure changed all that," said Ms. Nurkaina Alidain, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the Basilan Provincial Administrator. Basilan Province ranks second among the top 20 provinces at risk to temperature increases and 17th among provinces most at risk to climate disasters in the country.

USAID VISITS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMUNITY IN MT. APO NATURAL PARK

The Manobo community of Mt. Apo Natural Park expressed gratitude to USAID for its help in passing a resolution for a common trekking policy for all the LGUs surrounding Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak. USAID recently



USAID representatives from the Environment and Economic Development offices with the indigenous peoples in Barangay Bongolanon in Mt. Apo Natural Park (USAID/B+WISER)

visited Barangay Bongolanon in Magpet, North Cotabato, which has one of the six trekking trails to the mountain. USAID/B+WISER and DENR assisted the park's Ecotourism Committee pass this policy and enhanced the skills of more than 100 porters and women guides, mostly indigenous people, who provide services for tourists and trekkers visiting Mt. Apo. Training the porters and guides will also contribute to effective monitoring and enforcement activities to address various threats in the park. USAID/+WISER has also engaged other stakeholders such as the Central Mindanao Colleges and the local government of Magpet in riverbank and slope stabilization of Tausuvan Falls in the community.



OFFICE OF EDUCATION

MYDev Graduations

In the Philippines, the youth constitute almost a third of the total population. Those who do not finish high school or do not possess relevant training are not readily employable, leaving them vulnerable to the pitfalls of conflict and poverty. In the Zamboanga Peninsula, more than 22 percent of youth are out-of-school.

In partnership with the Philippine Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Education (DepED) and local key stakeholders, USAID's MYDev program aims to engage at least 19,000 OSY by 2018 in community development and workforce activities by building their education competencies, livelihood capabilities and life and leadership skills for civic engagement. The program works in eight conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. Last March, USAID Deputy Mission Director Reed Aeshilman, Office of Education Director Robert Burch, and Deputy Program Office Direct, Nora Pinzon attended MyDev graduation ceremonies in Basilan and Zamboanga. See below for some memorable moments from the trip.



"Financial problem is mainly the reason why I was not able to continue my studies in college. Opportunity for skills training came when this program was implemented in our barangay. I was filled with excitement because I would have the opportunity to meet new friends and learn new things. I deeply extend my gratitude to the founder of this program, the USAID, and all stakeholders for believing in us that we can be productive members of society," said Lovely Queen Molina, a graduate of horticulture, during her testimony.



MYDev Program beneficiaries Jimlord Balino and Rahfia Jamil showcase the school uniforms that they produced to USAID Deputy Mission Director Reed Aeschilman.



USAID Office of Education Director Robert Burch, USAID Program Resource Management Office Deputy Director Nora Pinzon, and USAID Senior Program Management Specialist Mirshariff Tillah try the delicacies prepared by the MYDev Program completers. Among the delicacies were salted and fermented fish, papaya relish/atsara, pineapple pies, cinnamon buns, chocolate cake, and fruit tarts.



USAID officials stand among the MyDev graduates.

VOICES OF MYDEV YOUTH



USAID'S Development Outreach Communication Specialists recently conducted a roundtable discussion with MyDev graduates...here's what they had to say:

"I had to stop going to school because my family **couldn't afford** the fees and transportation costs. Then I found MyDev. During the day I attended **training**. Nights and weekends I did laundry for income. I also helped my parents take care of the house."

"I was **humiliated and discriminated** against because I am gay. People looked down on me even more because I was out of school and idle. MyDev provided a **safe place** for me to develop my skills. Now I'm able to contribute to my *barangay* (village), and people **accept** and **value** me."

"Today, I **make and sell** packaged meats like *tocino* and *longanisa*. It makes me **proud** to know that people buy the products I made to feed their families."

"Before, whenever **conflict** came up between myself and my coworkers I would just **quit** my job. Today, I can **manage** conflict at work and at home."

"We need **opportunities**...a chance...but at the end of the day, it's up to us to continue **helping ourselves**."

USAID'S SENIOR DEVELOPMENT ADVISER SUMMARY

With the departure of the JSOTF-P CATs, the Pacific Augmentation Team (PAT) and USAID relationship takes on a more dynamic role, in part, replacing a number of the functions jointly engaged in under JSOTF-P. Joint Field visits, sync meetings and KLEs will still be regularly conducted. USAID will take on a larger role with some of the Implementing Partners (IP) in organizing transportation, holding sync meetings, and arranging KLEs. It is imperative that USAID continue to involve the PSF in many aspects of its work, continuing to build on the relationships invested in by JSOTF-P for over 10 years. USAID's IPs are encouraged to interact with the PSF as practicable, especially in terms of communication and coordination of field and site visits. With the PAT based in Manila with regular TDY to Zamboanga and Mindanao, the USAID Liaison Officer (LNO) to PAT will continue to meet with PAT at the Embassy, Camp Navarro, and elsewhere within the 6 Conflict Affected Areas (CAAs). USAID and the PAT will plan and conduct joint field monitoring visits, sync meetings and KLEs in the 6 CAAs and other areas in Mindanao. The PAT LNO and USAID LNO will work together to ensure as smooth and seamless a transition as possible takes place, and keep the PAT Commander and USAID DO2 Team Leader apprised of all joint activities, missions, and findings.

By mid-March, fully into the transition phase, the former partner meetings referred to as "ZAMBASULTA Regional Sync Meetings" and fully supported by JSOTF-P and PSF will now continue as "ZAMBASULTA Regional Partner Meetings", and be organized jointly by the LGU Zamboanga City Mayor's Office and USAID/LOGISTICS. This came about as a result of recommendations made at the final JSOTF-P supported Regional Sync Meeting held in Zamboanga City in February, and from a discussion between the LGU Zamboanga City Mayor's Office and USAID with LOGISTICS in March. It will be important and invaluable for the PAT and PSF to continue to participate and contribute to these meetings, their preparation, and action items.

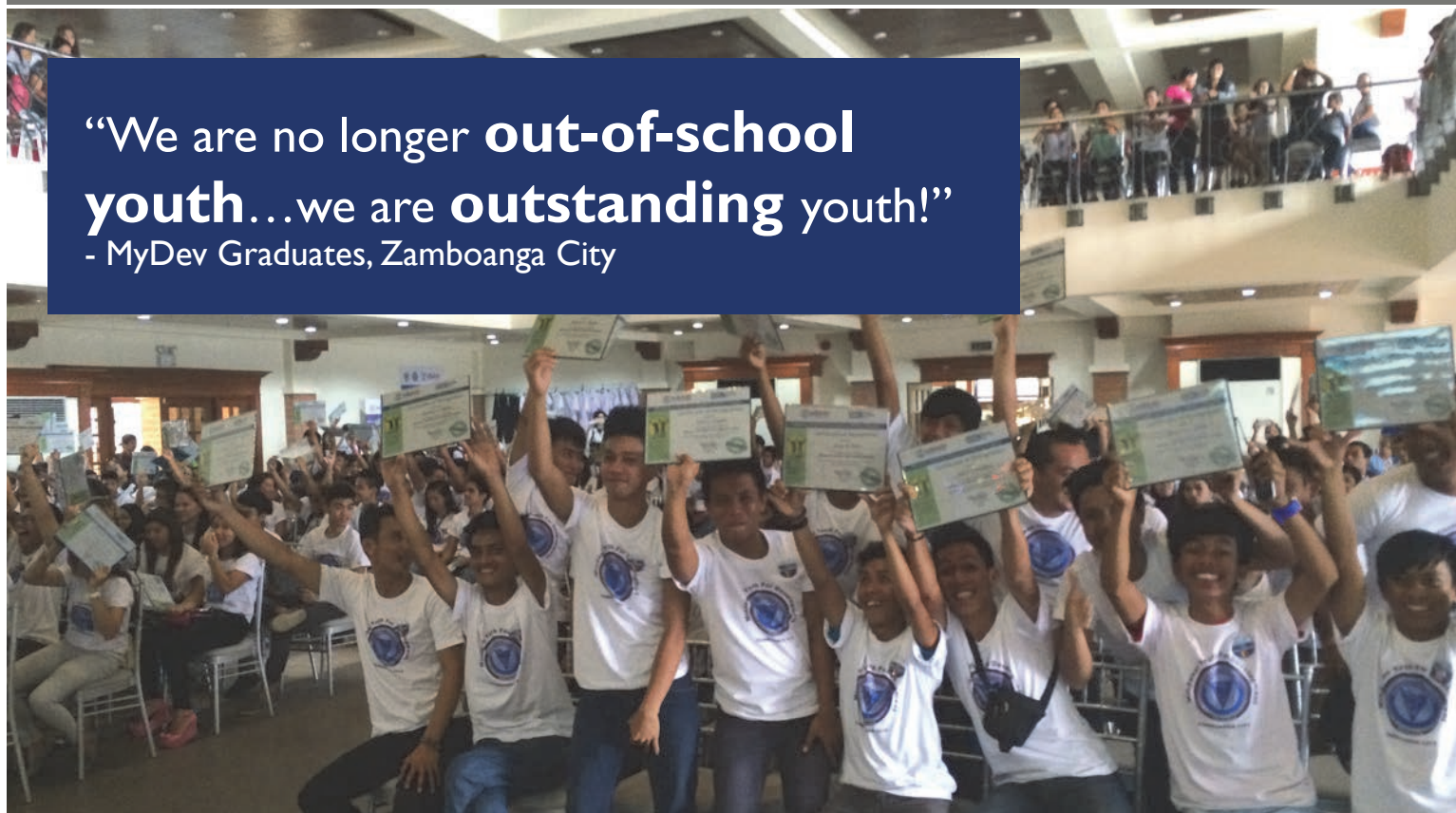
Similarly, site visits to Isabela and Lamitan, Basilan Island, to participate in the MYDev Completer's Ceremony, occurred during the transition phase for the first time. Surface and ground transportation, as well as security, was organized by USAID LOGISTICS. Security and surface transportation for Zamboanga-Basilan-Zamboanga segment of the trip was provided by the Philippine Maritime Police. Security at the event was provided by the Army 104th Infantry Brigade. Ground transportation was provided by LOGISTICS in Basilan and Zamboanga.

USAID and the PAT will continue to work with implementing partners, LGUs and PSF in ZAMBASULTA and MARCOT. The Regional Partner Meetings held every quarter or so will cover ZAMBASULTA. MARCOT is less formally organized in part due to the district dynamics of Marawi and Cotabato City. The reason for this is partly geographical, with Marawi City normally accessed from the Northern Iligan/CDO region, and Cotabato City accessed by direct flights.

Field visit transportation and security can continue to be arranged by the USAID LOGISTICS Project. Key to the continued success of these site visits in post-JSOTF-P transition phase is the maintaining of the excellent relationship with the PSF, build and developed over the last 10 years by JSOTF-P. The PAT will play a major role in the maintenance and development of the PSF relationship between the USG, especially at the field level, and in Mindanao and the Conflict Affected Areas in particular.

“We are no longer **out-of-school youth**...we are **outstanding youth**!”

- MyDev Graduates, Zamboanga City



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Date	Event
April 14	Philippine Chemistry Congress in Davao Engage Meeting in Davao
April 21	B-Secure Groundbreaking near Isabela City for Septage Treatment Facility and Launch
April 22	Earth Day Event with MinDA, City Leadership and Governance Module in Davao

