



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

392 MYDev youth get skills, gear up for work

USAID's MYDev Program recognized 392 out-of-school youth as completers of life skills and technical skills trainings at graduations held in the cities of Cotabato on April 20 and 22, and in Marawi on April 18. MYDev youths completed trainings on bread and pastry NC II, computer system servicing NC II, driving NC II, food processing NCII, cashiering, commercial packing, mushroom production, egg processing, tomato and chili paste production, soap and candle making and Maranao native delicacies. They now confidently look forward to entering the world of business and employment.

In Cotabato City, Anecito Rasalan Jr., executive secretary to the mayor, told the MYDev graduates: "Technical course graduates are the real backbone of the economy." Mr. Rasalan enumerated business establishments that are coming to the city and promised support for graduates to link them to jobs. Representing the graduates, Nalissa Sabdula, completer of cashiering training, said: "Life skills helped a lot in developing our self-esteem and confidence." She is in an on-the-job training at Buildright Hardware in Cotabato City where she gets an allowance that allows her to buy groceries for her parents. "MYDev Program gave us a chance to become a better person," Nalissa said.



Nalissa shows her completion certificate with pride during the April 22 graduation ceremony. With her (from left) are MYDev Chief of Party Kevin Corbin and USAID/Philippines Office of Education Director Brian Levey.

MYDev Activity Highlights

- 392 MYDev finished life skills and skills trainings
- Market analysis updated by eight OSYDAs
- MYDev implementation agreements signed with DepED Region 12 & DILG ARMM
- MYDev youth joined civic activities in Indanan, Sulu and Zamboanga City
- Value of life skills noted in Cotabato visit



Youth leaders, as members of OSYDA, make their voices heard during the market analysis workshop by suggesting trainings suitable for OSYs.

OSYDAs ensure MYDev trainings address market demand and youth interests

The Out-of-School Youth Development Alliances (OSYDAs) in eight areas of MYDev updated the list of skills training programs for youth during a market analysis workshop. The first workshop was held in Zamboanga City on April 6-7 participated by OSYDAs of Indanan, Isabela City, Jolo, Lamitan City and Zamboanga City. Another workshop was held in Cotabato City on April 21-22 for OSYDAs of Cotabato City, Marawi City and Parang, Maguindanao.

With inputs from the OSYDAs, including the OSY representatives, skills training programs are now more youth-oriented and responsive to current and emerging markets. The OSYDA representatives committed to support the implementation of the agreed skills training programs. "This is a relevant and participative workshop," said Ferdinand Sarabia, program manager at Central Mindanao Youth Center, a service provider of MYDev.

May 2016 Calendar of Activities

Date	Event	Location	Participants
May 12	EST Completers Graduation	Zamboanga City	300 completers of 7 EST programs
May 19	Employers Forum with DOLE, PESO & OSYDA	Zamboanga City	Major employers in Zamboanga
May 20-21	Youth Development Grants Workshop	Zamboanga City	30 representatives of selected OSY groups
May 24	Graduation of EST Completers	Cotabato City	100 EST completers
May 25	TESDA Skills Training Graduation	Lamitan City	100 completers of TESDA skills trainings
May 26	Graduation of TESDA and EST Completers	Parang, Maguindanao	50 OSYs of Plumbing NCII and 50 OSYs of EST
May 27	TESDA Skills Training Mass Graduation	Zamboanga City	150 completers of TESDA skills trainings
May 30	Graduation of TESDA and EST Completers	Marawi City	25 OSYs of TESDA skills trainings and 75 OSYs of EST
May (TBD)	Youth Development Grants Workshop	Cotabato City	30 representatives from selected OSY groups

With competency comes courage and confidence

MYDev training and OSYDA help spawn business for youth

Without parents and caring for a brother with special needs, Norlina Luna of Isabela City in Basilan has found more resolve to hurdle life's challenges. The training on catering services provided by USAID's MYDev, allowed Norlina to earn more income and provide better care for her brother.

"MYDev is a big help for us," said Norlina, 23 years old, from Brgy. San Rafael, Isabela City. After completing the catering services training, she said, "I have earned over P5,000 from selling products such as marmalade." Aside from earning income that enabled her to pay for house rental, MYDev activities improved her confidence and developed her skill in managing a business.

Norlina lost her father when she was four years old; and she was in her senior year in high school when her mother died, causing her to drop out of school. At 14 years old, Norlina had to stand on her own and take on the responsibility of caring for her brother.

Norlina was a food vendor when she learned of MYDev's catering services training. Norlina with about 20 other OSY like her, formed themselves into a group after completing the course. Through MYDev's OSYDA, a multi-agency body in Isabela City chaired by the mayor, Norlina's group received

P10,000 to start up a business. As president of the group, Norlina joined a training session of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on proper labelling of their products.

DTI helped Norlina and other MYDev completers produce marketable products. With proper labels, Norlina said, "We had more buyers," noting that customers look for product information on the ingredients, expiry date and contact number.

Looking back at her life, Norlina could not believe the positive changes that she and her brother are now enjoying.

"The life skills training taught me how to effectively manage a business," she said. In an interaction with USAID/Philippines Mission Director Dr. Susan Brems, Norlina told her: "Before we could not face people of authority. Now, we can talk to you." For Norlina, meeting officials from local and international organizations was something she only imagined.



Norlina (left) talks about her product during a session with DTI's layout artist in preparation for a trade fair in Isabela City.

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Agreements signed with DepED, DILG ARMM

The Department of Education (DepED)-Region 12 and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) each signed an agreement with MYDev Program, strengthening the partnership in delivering programs for OSYs. DILG ARMM Secretary Atty. Anwar Malang and MYDev Deputy Chief of Party Miriam Pahm signed the memorandum of understanding at the DILG office in Cotabato City on April 1. Atty. Malang expressed support to link MYDev youth to employment opportunities. MYDev covers five local governments in ARMM, namely, Indanan and Jolo in Sulu, Lamitan City, Marawi City and Parang in Maguindanao.

Also on the same day, at the DepED Division Office in Cotabato City, DepED-12



Sec. Anwar Malang and MYDev's Miriam Pahm firm up partnership through an MOU, witnessed by MYDev Youth Dev't Specialist Maria Theresa Mokamad.

Regional Director Dr. Arturo Bayocot signed an agreement on the use of MYDev life skills curriculum for the region's Abot-Alam Program. Director Bayocot recognized MYDev's contribution in reaching OSYs and committed his continued support to the Program.

Value of life skills noted in Cotabato visit

USAID/Philippines Office of Education Director Brian Levey and Senior Education Advisor Mir Tillah visited skills training sessions at Notre Dame University, Cotabato City on April 21 and learned of MYDev



USAID's Mir Tillah provides encouragement to MYDev technical skills learners.

trainees' learning experiences. Suharto Ulogan, one of the trainees of electrical installation and maintenance, shared that he now values "self-discipline, knowing our abilities and dealing with customers." Mir Tillah stressed that employers now look for these life skills. Mr. Tillah explained that technical skills matched with life skills provide MYDev trainees with better chances of getting a job or succeeding in doing a business.

MYDev youth feed 50 kids, speak in forum

MYDev youth held a feeding activity for 50 children in Indanan, Sulu and joined an election forum in Zamboanga City as a way of participating in civic activities. On April 23, 25 trainees of food catering services served food to the pupils of Timbangan Community Learning Center as a community service project. In Zamboanga, 10 MYDev OSYs attended the election forum on April 6. OSY leader Rondulf Egbus confidently asked the candidates about their programs against illegal drugs.

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