

# EQuALLS2: Philippines



## *Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills - Phase 2 (EQuALLS2)*

### Background

EQuALLS2 was launched in July 2006 to increase access to quality education and livelihood skills in the Philippines. With specific emphasis on poverty- and conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, EQuALLS2 targets schools, villages and municipalities to strengthen formal and alternative education and reintegrate out-of-school youth into the economy.

### Partners

Education Development Center (lead agency) • Save the Children • International Youth Foundation • Synergeia Foundation • Petron Foundation • Brother's Brother Foundation • Microsoft Philippines • National Book Store Foundation • Philippine Department of Education and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

### The Approach

Economic hardship is prevalent in Mindanao, Philippines—especially in conflict-prone areas—and many children and youth lack access to quality education and basic learning or livelihood opportunities. To address these challenges EQuALLS2 is:

- **Building the capacity** of local governments, communities and organizations to improve their schools.
- **Enhancing professional development** for teachers to strengthen content knowledge and technique in English, math and science in order to reinforce student learning.
- **Increasing opportunities** for out-of-school children and youth to reenter the formal education system or to gain employment through alternative flexible learning systems, and relevant literacy, livelihood and workforce development programs.





*I now look at things differently. After learning these skills, I'm starting to see a brighter future ahead.*

— Norudin Kadil

## My Story: Norudin

Like many of his peers, Norudin Kadil, 22, was unable to pursue a college education due to financial constraints and decided to just assist palay (rice) farmers in his hometown in Lutayan, Sultan Kudarat, Philippines. "My income back then was barely enough for food and my other needs, since work in palay farms is seasonal," he explained.

He learned about the EQuALLS2 Project's workforce development programs. "When I learned that the training was for free, I immediately enlisted, knowing that with a variety of skills, I would have a better chance of getting a job," he stressed.

Norudin enrolled in the four-month consumer electronics training. "I have a regular income now compared to when I was working in the palay farms," he said, disclosing that he is saving part of his income for further training and in preparation for taking the government's competency test.

"I dream of going abroad to earn a more stable income, and later, of establishing my own repair shop in nearby Koronadal City," he said. "I now look at things differently. After learning these skills, I'm starting to see a brighter future ahead."

## For More Information Contact

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## Target Populations

EQuALLS2 works with the Philippine government to strengthen teacher training in English, science, and math, engages communities in local education improvement, and offers alternative learning and livelihood skills training for out-of-school youth. The project aims to serve:

- 310,000 in-school children
- 105,000 out-of-school children and youth
- 35,000 teachers and administrators
- 850 Parent-Teacher Associations or similar school governance structures



## EQUIP3 Consortium

Education Development Center, Inc. (Lead Agency) • Academy for Educational Development • Catholic Relief Services • International Council on National Youth Policy • International Youth Foundation • National Youth Employment Coalition • National Youth Leadership Council • Opportunities Industrialization Centers International • Partners of the Americas • Plan International Childreach • Sesame Workshop • Street Kids International • World Learning

Additional Partners: YouthBuild • EcoVentures International • Mercy Corps • Family Health International • Microsoft Corporation

