



**POLICY BRIEF**  
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# GROWING BANGSAMORO WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE AND DECENT WORK

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Implementing  
Partners



Associate  
Partner



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## HIGHLIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Social entrepreneurship requires a change in mindsets to support innovative ways to tackle and overcome social, environmental and even cultural issues and challenges. By engaging social enterprises, it provides equal job opportunities as well as sustaining the sources of income of stakeholders in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

In the Philippines, there is an increasing interest in social enterprises as vehicles that can provide decent employment and social protection. In fact, there is recognition with the International Labour Organization that the development of the social enterprise sector means the creation of decent jobs in sustainable enterprises.

The International Labour Organization has been using Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) which refers to a growing field of economic activities comprising organisations and companies, including social enterprises, which are driven by values and practices associated with basic needs, inclusion, equity, and sustainability. The SSE contributes to the four dimensions of the overall objective of the ILO of decent work for all: job creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue.

SSE has been expanding in recent years and its potential contribution to inclusive and sustainable development is increasingly recognized. Some social issues that are currently being addressed by SSE, including social enterprises are: social services, health and education, environment/energy, work integration of unemployed, social integration of youth and women, crises responses and fair trade.

## POLICYMAKERS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN ARMM ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

- Conduct learning sessions on the intersectionality of social enterprise, social entrepreneurship and the local development plans with the decent work agenda, Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Following the commitment of the Philippines to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there seems to be a gap on the local implementation of the SDGs and how local governments and stakeholders have a huge role in terms of realising these commitments.

The Philippine government already has come up with a collective long term vision called AmBisyon Natin 2040 which is anchored on the SDGs. By 2040, Filipinos enjoy a strongly rooted, comfortable and secure life.

*In 2040, we will all enjoy a stable and comfortable lifestyle, secure in the knowledge that we have enough for our daily needs and unexpected expenses, that we can plan and prepare for our own and our children's future. Our family lives together in a place of our own, and we have the freedom to go where we desire, protected and enabled by a clean, efficient, and fair government.*

In building the local development plans, the national and international commitments and targets are considered. It is therefore imperative to conduct learning sessions with various ARMM stakeholders to provide them with the necessary information that local people make it happen!

- Map out all the development programs and projects relating to livelihoods, livelihoods support and entrepreneurship in the ARMM to embolden and encourage synergy, complementation and prudent use of resources.

Various agencies in the ARMM regional government have been implementing similar programs and have been extending the same level of support to multiple if not the same beneficiaries. The streamlined delivery of programs and support services will enable the stakeholders to maximise opportunities for collaboration and capacity building with the various agencies as well as providing spaces for others to also participate in these various programs and services.

A road mapping exercise to look at how the various agencies can complement each other's work may be a starting point to foster the collaborative nature of government in its delivery. Gaps and challenges may be assisted with support from civil society organisations, academic institutions and intermediaries who may hold the necessary capacities.

- Consider priority areas such as but not limited to management of entrepreneurship programs, youth engagement and productivity, skills development and job placement, and, labour mobility and migration and provide the necessary support, as needed.

Management of entrepreneurship programs refers to the provision of skills required to plan, set-up and run social enterprises and manage the innovation needed to respond to social missions. The ARMM has a good experience of cooperatives which can be a starting point, as shared by Dimnatang Radia, Director of the Cooperative Development Authority in ARMM. Also on the sharing of Hideki Kagohashi of ILO, the Philippines enjoys GSP+, a preferential tariff system which provides exemptions for goods and services procured in the Philippines. This may be an opportunity for production and inclusion in global value chains necessary for scale of social enterprises operating in the area.

The youth sector in ARMM continues to be a very dynamic and vibrant sector in the region. If the capacities of the youth are supported and harnessed, it becomes a very huge resource for the region in terms of manpower and engagement in sustainable development.

Building on the skills-based curricula of the senior and junior high schools, skills development and job placement in ARMM is highly positive. Opportunities on the training programs of TESDA and other government agencies compound the strengths and opportunities of this highly effective sector.

Labour mobility and migration encourages for investment promotion to foster the insurgence of work opportunities in the region. As shared by Pau Lagura of RISPH, information and communications technology are necessary when there are many stakeholders who can provide the services needed in the ever demanding work of call centers and BPO. In his sharing, he started with the case of Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte which has the experience of an enabled ecosystem to support BPO work.

- Recognise and support the role of Local Government Units in mainstreaming social enterprises and the decent work agenda

Acknowledge the function of the local government in agriculture, health, social welfare, maintenance of public works and highways, and, environmental protection. The LGUs may exercise political decisions to pass ordinances so support the social ecosystem in each municipality.

### NEXT STEPS:

The policy dialogue participants have identified critical milestones to further the agenda forward. These are:

- Learning sessions on inclusive finance and Islamic Finance, *halal*-based social enterprises to be attended by various stakeholders.
- Partnerships and collaboration including convening the regional ICT committee/s
- Inclusion of local government units/ and representatives in the next policy dialogue sessions.
- Formulation of the policy content based on the recommendations and forwarding to the Regional Legislative Assembly for support.

