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STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

CSO-SEED PROJECT

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A. PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Livelihood programming in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) is not new. While social enterprise is perceived as a viable livelihood model in other parts of the Philippines, ARMM has not been reached by this flourishing movement. A British Council study in 2015 stated that capital cities often have disproportionate access to resources in general, and social enterprise activity and support is no exception.

Social enterprise is a sustainable, empowering approach to developing the income and capacity of disadvantaged groups. It prioritises social impact over profits and addresses some of the most entrenched social issues facing communities across the world. Social enterprises nurture creativity, innovation and resourcefulness, helping build resilient, adaptable communities.

CSO-SEED, a three-year project jointly funded by the European Union and the British Council, seeks to build a strong civil society capable of promoting social enterprise as a viable alternative to traditional livelihood models. Addressing issues of decent work, job creation and development of small-to-medium enterprises (SME), the approach offers a sustainable and empowering way to support economic development, enabling the vulnerable reduce barriers to their economic security. The collective nature of the approach is very pertinent to post-conflict societies, helping deeply fractured individuals achieve collective productivity.

Social enterprises are well placed as an organisational model which both addresses the challenge of creating decent work and of creating jobs while growing a more inclusive SME sector overall.

CSO-SEED ARMM, along with other Bangsamoro areas in Mindanao. These are areas affected by conflict and underdevelopment for over four decades.



The project is focused on three interlinked components:

- 1) Coalition building and policy engagement
- 2) Capacity building for social enterprise support services
- 3) Small-scale support services (SEED Fund)



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B. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

CSO-SEED works through a consortium with Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc. (BMFI) and the Philippine Social Enterprise Network (PhilSEN). The consortium works closely with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)–ARMM in the implementation of the project, focusing on these three interlinked components:

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	To contribute to stronger Civil Society capacity networks in the areas of decent work, job creation and small and medium enterprises (SME) development.
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	To strengthen and improve civil society participation in policy reforms to develop an environment conducive to decent work, job creation and SME development via social enterprise.
RESULT AREAS	<p>Component 1: Coalition Building and Policy Engagement</p> <p>Result 1.1: Enhanced capacity of “advocacy oriented” regional and local business, trade and labour based CSOs to effectively advocate social enterprise policy reforms that enhance decent work and job creation via entrepreneurs and SMEs (cooperatives, cottage industries, etc.), to engage in business and livelihood for job creation.</p> <p>Result 1.2: Civil Society social enterprise interest groups (including private sector) form coalitions, capable of advocating and assisting government in developing policies to support a high quality, sustainable social enterprise system which promotes inclusive economic development, which benefits vulnerable and marginalised communities</p>
	<p>Component 2: Capacity Building for social enterprise support services</p> <p>Result 2.1: Enhanced understanding of the state of the social enterprise sector in the Bangsamoro and the skills required to grow the sector.</p> <p>Result 2.2: Social enterprises support services made available through small-scale initiatives—business support services, credit & markets advice to marginalised groups through grants provided to participating CSOs and social enterprise groups.</p>
	<p>Component 3: Small scale support services (SEED Fund)</p> <p>Result 3.1: Enhanced capacity of CSOs to create jobs and provide livelihoods in a way that delivers tangible social impact</p>



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C. PROJECT REACH

DECEMBER 2015-18

project duration



1.33
million euros

€999,967.73
or 75 per cent
is from the
European Union

€333,340.35
co-funding from the
British Council

300
social enterprise leaders

60
social enterprises

20
advocacy-oriented
civil society organisations



10
social enterprise
intermediaries

250
key individuals engaged through
policy dialogues



20,000
community members benefit from
social enterprise education and development grants



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WHAT ARE SOCIAL ENTERPRISES?

Social Enterprises are businesses driven by a social purpose. These:

have a **social mission**
core to their purpose



generate the
majority (or all) of their
income through **trade**
(revenues mainly
from goods and
services provided,
not grants/donations)



reinvest the majority
of their **profits**
(towards the
social mission)

are autonomous
of state



are majority owned
in the interests of
the social mission



are accountable
and transparent



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D. CONTRIBUTION TO THE PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017–2022

The CSO-SEED programme employs social enterprise as a development pathway for ARMM, one of the regions with the lowest contribution to the country's gross domestic product as well as industry and services output.

This business model is included in the Philippine Development Plan for 2017-2022 as one of the strategies for achieving '*pagbabago*', a potential solution for reducing inequality through **inclusive business models**.¹

INEQUALITY-REDUCING TRANSFORMATION: ORDINARY FILIPINOS WILL FEEL THE '*PAGBABAGO*'

Social enterprise is also viewed as one of the pathways for expanding opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)² that could help the poor achieve self-reliance and be self-sufficient³, thereby contributing to safe and secure communities⁴.



1 National Economic Development Authority, 2018. '*Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022 Overall Framework*' in Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022. Manila: Philippines. p.50. <http://pdp.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PDP-2017-2022-07-20-2017.pdf>

2 NEDA, 2018. '*Chapter 9: Expanding Economic Opportunities in Industry and Services through Trabaho at Negosyo*'. PDP 2017–2022. Manila: Philippines. p.133-134. <http://pdp.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PDP-2017-2022-07-20-2017.pdf>

3 NEDA, 2018. '*Chapter 11: Reducing Vulnerability of Individuals and Families*'. PDP 2017–2022. Manila: Philippines. p.174. <http://pdp.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PDP-2017-2022-07-20-2017.pdf>

4 NEDA, 2018. '*Chapter 12: Building Safe and Secure Communities*'. PDP 2017–2022. Manila: Philippines. p.190. <http://pdp.neda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/PDP-2017-2022-07-20-2017.pdf>

D.1 INCLUSION IN THE BANGSAMORO ORGANIC LAW

COOPERATIVES AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Bangsamoro Government shall recognize, protect, and promote the establishment of cooperative enterprises. It shall likewise encourage and promote social entrepreneurship as a means to engage in the private sector, to assist in the development, funding and implementation of solutions to social, cultural, or environmental issues.

In 26 July 2018, President Rodrigo Duterte signed the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL), officially the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (OLBARMM).

The OLBARMM creates a new Bangsamoro region, officially called the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. It replaces the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

OLBARMM pushes for the creation of cooperatives and support for social enterprises in the newly-created region, outlined in Article XIII, Section 27 (text above).

The inclusion of social entrepreneurship in this landmark legislation was made possible through the efforts of the Bangsamoro Social Enterprise Network mobilised by the British Council through the CSO-SEED programme and other social enterprise movement stakeholders who pushed for its inclusion in the new OLBARMM.

