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Plan International B3C Philippines (2020) Case Study

Period of Performance: JAN 2020- JAN 2021



Practice Area: Counter
ViolentExtremist
Organization(VEO) / Community
Development

Donor/Client: Plan International

Partner:

Location: Butig, Philippines

Enumerators:

Surveys: 3,310

Qualitative Engagements: 42

Project Objectives

The primarily Muslim island of Mindanao remains a hotbed of VEO activity, interrupting government services and livelihood activities leading to higher than average numbers of out-of-school-youths (OSY). These OSYs then constitute a constant source of new recruits for the aforementioned VEOs.

- **Project Objective 1:** Survey the residents of Butig regarding employment status, educational attainment, proximity to VEOs as well as a battery of questions pertaining to livelihoods and employment opportunities.
- **Project Objective 2:** Stand up a cooperative in order to provide OSYs with vocational training to simultaneously inoculate them to VEO recruitment and set them up to find employment in the trades.

Key Findings

Upon completion of training, verbal feedback from cooperative training participants consistently suggested that participant perceptions on the training were extremely positive. Trainees have continually communicated the essential nature of the program, as well as the beneficial opportunity it provided for

trainees to gain skills that can be used to find future employment, while at the same time providing for their families and loved ones. Numerous aspects of the training program provided for participants' essential needs including the rice allowance used to supplement family meals, construction tool sets received upon graduation, which participants could not afford individually, and for the skill building alongside licensed TESDA trainers.

Additionally, thanks to the rice provided to beneficiaries, the BMI of OSY trainees increased from 22.25 to 23.48 and the BMI of family members increased from 16.76 to 18.69 in only six (6) months. IMPL. PROJECT data also showed a particularly interesting improvement in overall outlook and hopefulness of participants and community members. Baseline data showed 59.61% of respondents were "very hopeful" for the future of their community, while end line data showed 68.44% of respondents were "very hopeful" for the future of their community.

Methodology

- Baseline: Initial data-mapping was conducted to survey residents of Butig regarding their perceived grievances, whom they can trust to solve their problems, their proximity to VEOs and a battery of questions regarding employment history and opportunities.
- Vocational Training: A cohort of 97 OSYs were selected to receive a years-worth of vocational training in the fields of masonry, carpentry or electrical. with 97 participants receiving national accreditation in their respective trade, as well as a starter tool set to begin their career journeys.
- Endline: Recipients of training and their families were surveyed after completion of vocational training, and their responses were compared to the baseline.

Programming Recommendations

After completion of vocational training, the following infrastructure projects were recommended during focus group discussions. These would solve two of the main grievances of the respondents, which were lack of infrastructure and livelihoods:

Project 1: Agricultural Warehouse + Solar Dryer: The construction of an agricultural warehouse with solar dryer will improve the efficiency of farming activities by decreasing loss from food rot and spoilage.

Project 2: Public Comfort Rooms: The construction will address problems with proper health and sanitation. The residents have no proper toilets, sometimes they use the available streams as their toilet.

Project 3: Bridge Construction Connecting Barangay Poktan and Ragayan to Bayabao Poblacion: Barangay Poktan and Barangay Ragayan are isolated from the municipal center, decreasing residents' access to government services. There is no public transportation in the area. Those that cannot afford to buy motorcycles or vehicles are isolated even further. Bridge construction will enable access to government and health services in the municipal center. Youth can more easily access secondary education. The project will improve economic opportunities by facilitating travel to work and

transportation of crops to the. Altogether it will empower the youth and the community through bridging them where the center of economy and education is located.

Project 4: Ragayan Elementary School Reconstruction:

The school was destroyed in a violent extremist attack in 2016 and it is still in ruins. Before the pandemic, it was used by the students despite its terrible condition and lack of classrooms. As this is the only primary school in Ragayan, its condition contributes to the high rate of out of school youths in the area. Fixing the school will help the community to address their lack of educational attainment by area youth. The rebuilding of the school will empower not only the children or siblings of the cooperative beneficiaries but the community as well by giving them hope. Education can act as a shield against VEO recruitment.