

**International Labour Organization
IFP/SKILLS**



**Training for Rural
Economic Empowerment
(TREE)
Year-end Report 2003**



**Training for Rural Economic Empowerment
ILO-USDOL Project
Philippines**

**Year-End Report
2003**

The project

Within the framework of ILO's decent work agenda, the ILO and the US Department of Labor had entered into a Cooperative Agreement regarding implementation of a project to improve the social and economic status of vulnerable groups in Pakistan and the Philippines.

The Project has been funded by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of International Affairs (USDOL/LAB) and is being implemented by ILO.

In the Philippines, it addresses the needs in developing human potential and local economies in the post conflict and poor areas of Mindanao. More specifically, the Project builds on previous ILO technical cooperation experiences in skills and enterprise development for employment promotion, income generation, and local economic development in Mindanao and enhances capacities of national and local institutions in planning, designing, and implementing community-based training and support programmes as part of local empowerment efforts and decent work promotion.

It is intended that the Project will further develop and practically apply the CBT-oriented Training for Rural Economic Empowerment (TREE) Methodology on planning and delivering skills and enterprise development training, preparing and implementing practical transition enterprise plans through forecasting techniques, small group organizing, creating community enterprise systems, promoting community-fund schemes, and linking with the corporate and formal economic sector.

*Participants in capability
Building workshop in
community enterprise
planning and rapid
community assessment
techniques and launching
of CBT training projects
in Maguindanao province,
Autonomous Region in
Muslim Mindanao
(ARMM)*



Target area and beneficiaries

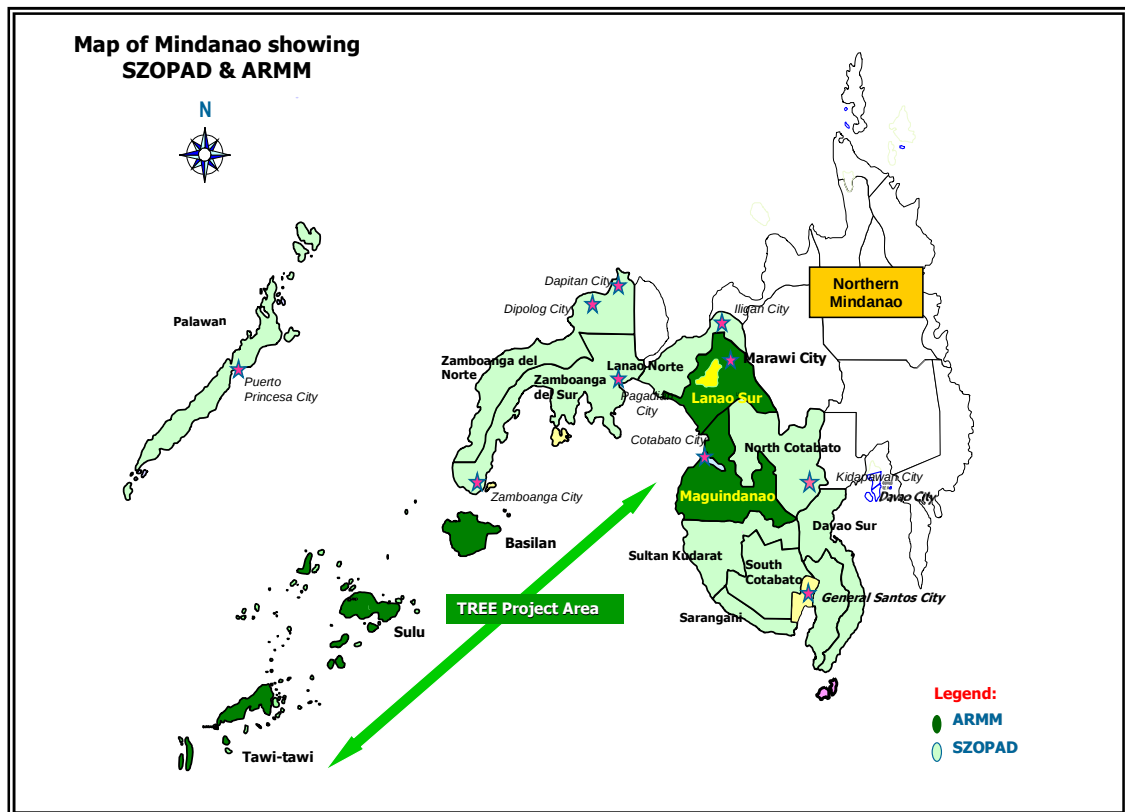
The project in the Philippines operates within the five provinces and one city of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The region, with a population of 2.87 Million (year 2000) is the poorest area in the country characterized by an average household poverty incidence of 75.30 per cent, with zero growth in real per capita income for the last five years.

Demographic Profile – 2000 <i>Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao</i>							
	ARMM	Basilan	Lanao Sur	Maguindanao	Marawi C.	Sulu	Tawi-Tawi
Land Area (sq. km)	12,560.60	1,327.00	3,828.00	4,696.00	22.60	1,600.00	1,087.00
Population	2,876,077	332,828	669,072	801,102	131,090	619,668	322,317
Ave. pop. growth rate	3.57	2.18	3.42	4.16	2.96	3.15	5.53
Ave. Per capita income	13,659	13,193	15,936	19,967		7,850	11,349
Labor force	938,000	124,000	192,000	282,000	40,000	166,000	134,000
Employed	868,000	103,000	182,000	270,000	29,000	159,000	125,000
Poverty Incidence Household	75.30%	63.00%	48.10%	36.20%		92.00%	75.30%

Source: 1997 and 2000 FIES in PHDR 2002 (Social Assessment of Conflict-affected areas in Mindanao – WB)

Poverty in the area is manifested not only by physical and material factors but most of all in the area of credit and the purpose for which they are sought by the population. Six years after the signing of the 1996 Peace Agreement between the MNLF and the GRP, 71 per cent of the people in Muslim dominated areas are still seeking credit for food and 59.90 per cent are heavily indebted for their farming needs. In indigenous communities 70.60 per cent are still engaged in perpetual money borrowings for their daily subsistence while 33.20 per cent are still seeking credit to finance their small agricultural activities.

Basilan, the place of the terrorist group Abu Sayaf, has the lowest functional literacy rates in the country at 48 per cent compared to 92 per cent in the national capital region and other parts of the Luzon islands. The rest of the ARMM has an unstable unemployment rate ranging from 9 per cent-13 per cent, the highest in the country. Only 17 small private and public vocational training institutions operate in the area adding to a very low rate of non-farm employment opportunities for the population.



Project objectives

The TREE Project is designed to help contribute to lasting peace and socio-economic development in the ARMM by strengthening the capabilities of partner government agencies, private sector organizations, and target communities in planning, organizing and delivering skills training and entrepreneurship development programs. It also aims to help develop economically empowered communities through the operation of community enterprise systems and community-fund scheme by socially relevant corporate community groups.

Project components and targets

The Project is composed of four components, each one having their own inter-related targets:

1. Development of a CBT-oriented TREE methodology for rural economic empowerment.
2. Developing capabilities of 250 officers and staff of the partner agencies to utilize the methodology.
3. Provision of community-based skills and enterprise development training to at least 1,000 target beneficiaries including women, youth, and persons with disabilities through the partner agencies.
4. Organizing corporate community groups among the target groups and training them in community enterprise systems, and managing their own community funds

(Co-Funds) with the assistance of partners, local government units, and the private sector.

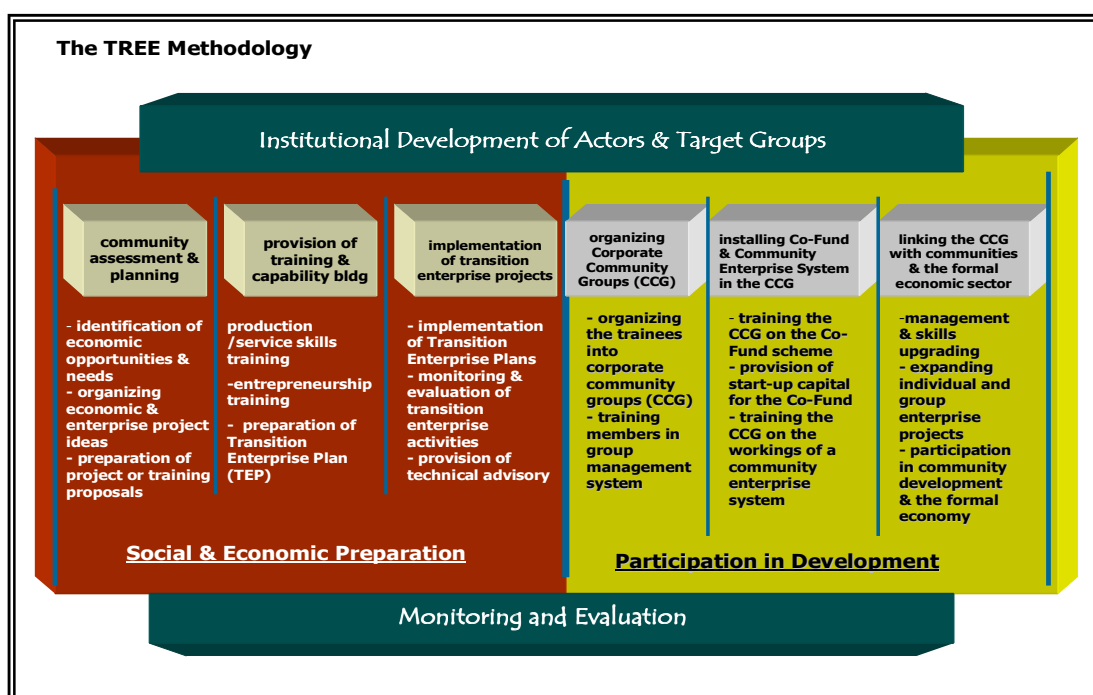
Project outputs (February-December 2003)

Component 1

Development of the methodology

Under this component the Project has accomplished the following:

1. Completed research and development of the CBT-oriented TREE Methodology (*Development framework, Implementing Forms and Guidelines, Capability-building materials*) pilot testing and validation.
 - Community Mobilization and Rapid Community Assessment (RCA) techniques. Identification and prioritization of enterprise projects, preparation of training proposals - *Module I in partners' capability building*.
 - Preparation of CBT skills training design and syllabus. Transition Enterprise Planning (TEP) – *Module II*.
 - Corporate Community Group organizing, Community Fund (Co-Fund), and Community Enterprise System – *Module III*.
2. Presentation of the Methodology in several public forums.
 - One National CTECS Convention organized by TESDA and DILG with more than 750 delegates from various Local Government Units.
 - One Mindanao Regional Summit on Human Resource and Skills Development organized by the Mindanao Business Council (MBC) with more than 150 delegates from various sectors.
 - Seven orientation and advocacy workshops for various groups in ARMM with 210 participants from the private and private sectors.



Component 2

Development of institutional and staff capability of partners and target groups

Under this component the Project was able to accomplish the following:

1. The eight-member Executive Committee (EXCOM) was organized. Three regular Quarterly EXCOM meetings have been conducted¹.
2. Six Capability-building Seminar Workshops in Modules I and II on the Methodology were completed for 168 Community Training and Employment Coordinators (CTECS) of the partner agencies coming from communities of the five provinces and one city of the ARMM.
3. One ASEAN Study Tour is under preparation for January 2004 for the eight members of the EXCOM.
4. Lead agencies for every component of the Project and its Methodology were assigned to the members of the EXCOM:

TESDA	:	Community-based Training for Enterprise Development
DOLE	:	Enhancement of concept of Rural Workers Associations
DSWD	:	Community Organizing, Enterprise System and Community Fund
RCBMW	:	Gender Issues, Programmes and Projects
MNLF	:	Youth training and Enterprise Development Programme
SLDF	:	Economic Rehabilitation Center for Differently Abled Persons
FUBWMPC	:	Training and Development Center for Women
RPDO	:	Preparation of Legislative and Executive Agenda for ARMM



3rd EXCOM Meeting and the Project Staff with Mr. Riordan and Ms. Amy Torres of SRO Manila

¹ The EXCOM is composed of five government agencies of ARMM and three NGOs:
TESDA – Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
DOLE – Department of Labor and Employment
DSWD – Department of Social Welfare and Development
RCBMW – Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women
MNLF – Moro National Liberation Front
SLDF – SZOPAD Livelihood and Development Foundation
RPDO – Regional Planning and Development Office

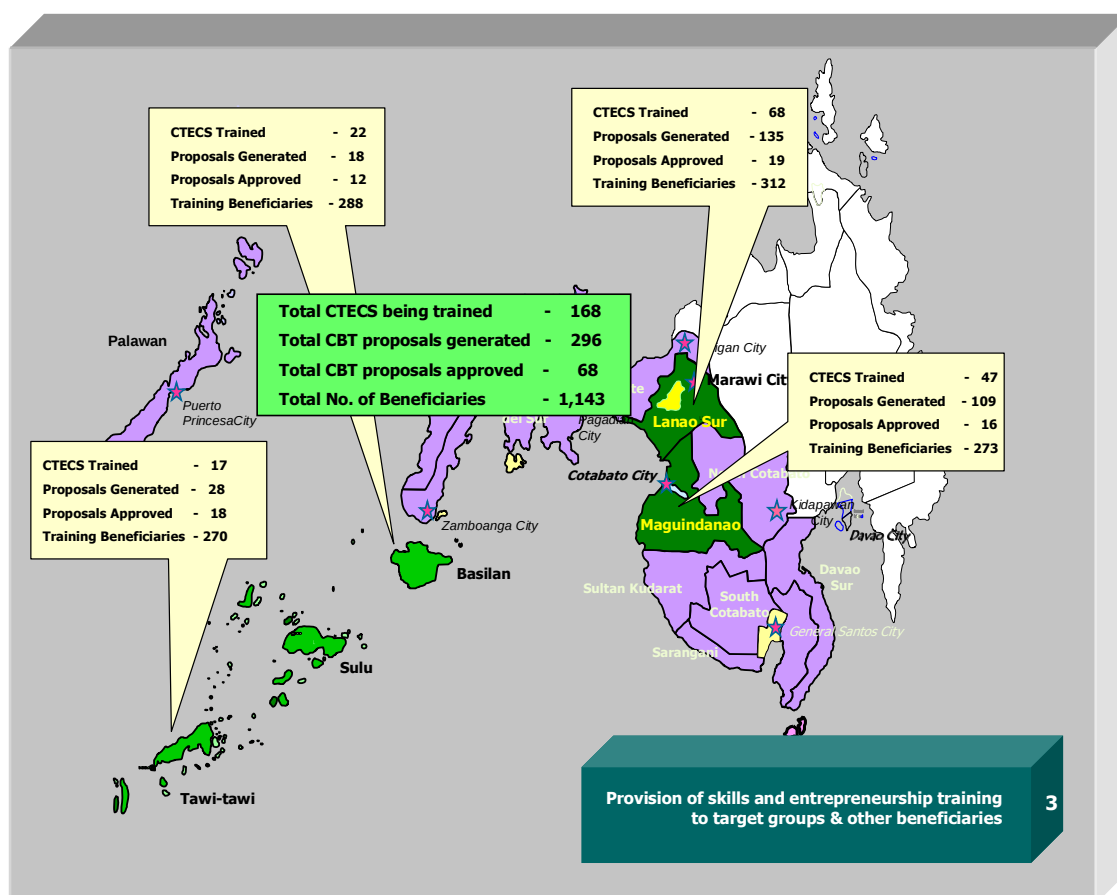
Component 3

Provision of skills and entrepreneurship training to target groups and beneficiaries

Under this component strategic planning and extensive preparation was done based on project objectives and the requirements of the TREE Methodology. A systematic modular training of community coordinators was designed combining workshops and field application. As a result of this strategy the following were achieved:

- 168 - CTECs have undergone training in Modules I and II of the Methodology
- 296 - CBT training proposals were generated by the CTECs
- 68 - CBT proposals were approved out of the 296 generated
- 1,143 - Poor beneficiaries are scheduled to undergo training next year in various communities in the five provinces and one city of the ARMM

These outputs represent a substantial percentage of the Project targets for capability building of partners (67 per cent) and skills and entrepreneurship training for target groups (114 per cent). A period of post-training follow-up is being readied for 2005, the last year of the project, to hit a target of 70 per cent success in self-employment or employment for the graduates².



² The expected increase in training output vis-à-vis targets is due to the Project policy of putting a maximum ceiling of financial assistance to training proposals.

Specialized training centers

Furthermore, the Project has completed the study for the operationalization of three special training centers of the partner-agencies that could become a long-term social and economic investment of the Project in answer to the limited number of institutions 17 catering to the vocational and enterprise training needs of the poor and disadvantaged sector in the ARMM³.



Training and Development Center for Women to be operated by the Federation of United Mindanaon Bangsamoro Women Multi-purpose Cooperatives (FUMBWMPC)



Economic Rehabilitation Center for the Differently Abled Persons (Persons with Disabilities) to be operated by the SZOPAD Livelihood and Development Foundation (SLDF)

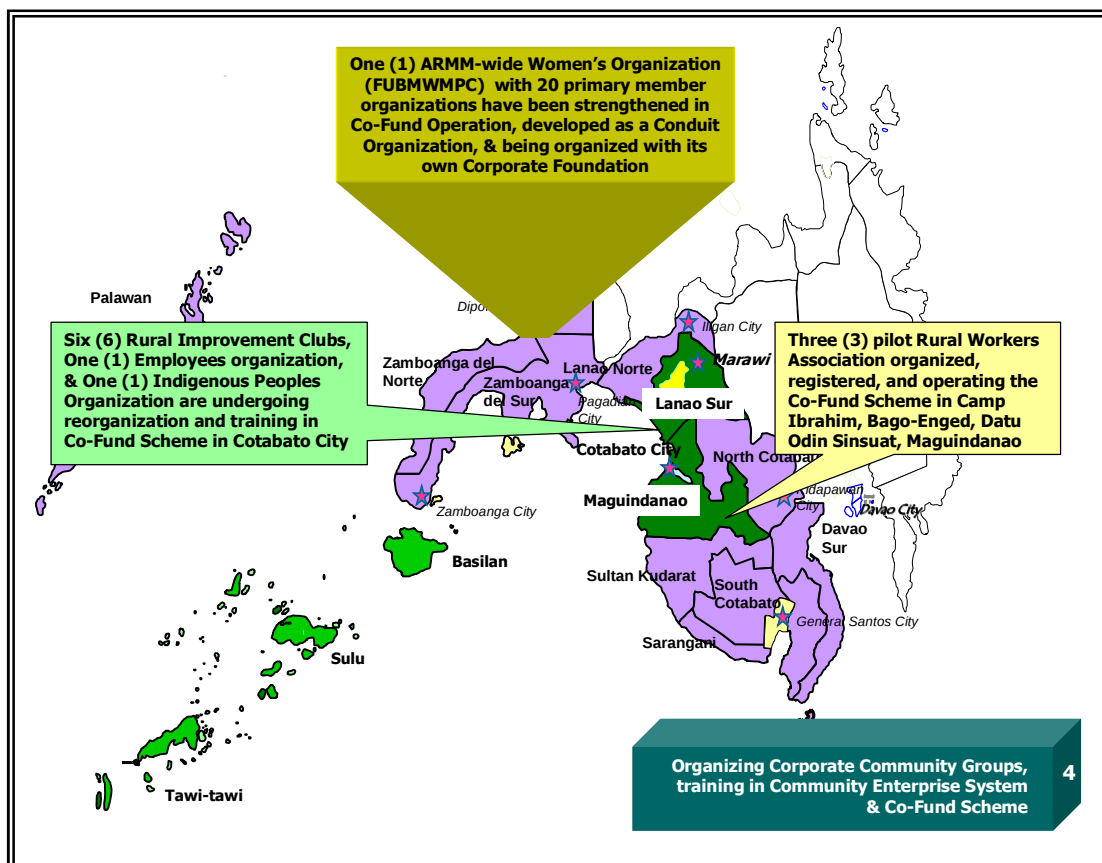


The Youth Enterprise Development Camp to be operated by the National Secretariat of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)

³The two centers (for women and disabled) are products of training of MNLF combatants in construction skills during the first phase of the ILO project intervention in Mindanao from 1998-2000. The infrastructure for the youth enterprise development camp will be sourced out from other donors by the MNLF.

Component 4

Organizing corporate community groups



Under this 4th component the Project was able to achieve the following:

1. One ARMM-wide Women's Organization (FUBMWMPC) with 20 primary members have been strengthened in Co-Fund Operation, developed as a conduit organization, and is now being organized with its own corporate arm (a non-profit foundation).
2. Three pilot Rural Workers Association were organized, registered, and are now operating the community enterprise system and Co-Fund Scheme in the former MNLF Camp Ibrahim, Bago-Enged, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao.
3. Six rural improvement clubs, one employees organization, and one indigenous peoples organization are undergoing reorganization and training in community enterprise system and Co-Fund Scheme in Cotabato City.

All in all, the Project has already touched directly the lives of more than a thousand members of these organizations through its new CBT approach in skills training and enterprise development, community enterprise systems, and community fund scheme. Follow-up interventions in the succeeding years will determine the extent to which the Project can still

change and improve the lives of people in more villages and communities in the war-torn areas of ARMM and Mindanao.

Project Executive Committee

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women (RCBMW)
Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)
SZOPAD Livelihood Development Foundation, Ind. (SLDF)
Federation of United Mindanaon Bangsamoro Women Multi-purpose
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