

## Brief history of the TREE Project

Immediately after the signing of the 1996 GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement, ILO joined other UN agencies in the SPCPD-NEDA-UN Multi-donor Programme with its Vocational Training & Enterprise Development Project or VTED. The VTED was implemented in direct partnership with the MNLF. It was implemented through its organizational structure. It involved planning and delivering skills and enterprise development training, organizing, and constructing community enterprise centers through bayanihan training scheme. The VTED project operated at the reconstruction stage where building trust and confidence among the rebels was the primordial concern. While doing the Project, ILO conducted studies on follow-up intervention strategies. Such studies revealed the importance of CAPITAL in the reconstruction and development process. However, the project's beneficiaries and their needs did not qualify them to access formal credit programs. Hence, the VTED project developed a guideline on community enterprise system and community fund scheme. The scheme was pilot tested by the MNLF through its women committee, specifically the Federation of United Mindanawan Bangsamoro Women Multi-purpose Cooperatives. It was supported by the successor project of VTED, the Project on Community Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Development or PROCEED, which is the current fifth component of the GOP-UN Multi-donor Program III. Last year, the project concept was submitted by ILO to the USDOL for funding assistance. Thus the TREE Project was born, and the project experiences on economic empowerment of the poor in Mindanao is now integrated into one coherent strategy through the TREE Methodology.

Interested individuals or target groups may contact the Community Training Coordinators (CTEC) of any of the following agencies and organizations in the ARMM: DOLE, TESDA, DSWD, MNLF, Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women, MNLF, SZOPAD, Livelihood Development Foundation, and The Federation of United Mindanawan Bangsamoro Women Multi-purpose Cooperatives, or contact the Project at the following address and Telephone Nos.

### Project Addresses

**Training for Rural Economic Empowerment**  
Project Management Office  
Suite B 202, Plaza de Luisa Bldg. R. Magsaysay Avenue,  
Davao City  
Tel. Nos. (082) 225-19-72 and (082) 225-19-73 (Telefax)  
E-mail Address: ilodavao@mozcom.com

**The Project Director**  
Training Policies and Programmes  
InFocus Programme on Skills, Knowledge and Employability  
International Labor Office  
4 route des Morillons  
1211 Geneva 11 Switzerland  
Email Address: riordan@ilo.org

**The Director**  
International Labor Office  
Sub Regional Office, Manila  
5th Floor, NEDA Building  
Amorsolo St. Legaspi Village  
Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines

**The Office of the Labor Attache**  
United States Department of Labor  
c/o US Embassy  
Roxas Blvd, Manila



## Training for Rural Economic Empowerment (TREE)



**ILO-USDOL**  
*Assisted Project  
for the People of  
Mindanao, Philippines*





## Development Objective

To contribute to lasting peace and socio-economic development in Mindanao by providing assistance in expanding economic opportunities and income security through workforce training, employment, and self-employment creation.

## Target Areas

Poor communities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

## Target Groups

Working poor, among them are Women, Differently Abled Persons, and Youth.

## Local Government Partners (ARMM)

- \* Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
- \* Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)
- \* Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD)
- \* Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women (RCBW)
- \* Regional Planning & Development Office (RPDO)

## Local NGO Partners

- \* Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)
- \* SZOPAD Livelihood & Development Foundation, Inc. (SLDF)
- \* Federation of United Mindanawan Bangsamoro Women Multi-purpose Cooperatives (FUMBWC)

## Project Methodology

The TREE Project uses a special methodology of the training and development of target groups. It is composed of six elements:

- \* Practical and rapid community assessment
- \* Skills training and enterprise development
- \* Implementation of Transition Enterprise Plans
- \* Organizing small Corporate Community Groups
- \* Installing Community Enterprise System and Community Fund Scheme
- \* Linking the groups with the formal sector or "Big Brother" companies.

## Project Concepts

Using the TREE Methodology, the Project introduces basic economic theories and principles to address the socio-economic issues of poverty in Mindano. These theories and principles are embodied into four basic concepts.

- \* Transition Enterprise Projects (TEP)
- \* Corporate Community Groups (CCG)
- \* Community Enterprise System (CES)
- \* Community Fund (Co-Fund)

## Programs and Services

### For Target Groups

The project provides the following programs and services to target groups through its partners:

- \* Identification of enterprise project ideas in their communities.
- \* Preparation of training proposals to realize their enterprise project ideas.
- \* Provision of skills and enterprise training to prepare and implement their Transition Enterprise Projects (TEP).
- \* Provision of small start-up tools and equipment for their TEP.
- \* Organizing and registering trainees into corporate community groups.
- \* Installing a community enterprise system
- \* Skills upgrading, leadership and group management training.
- \* Linking the groups with the formal sector and "Big Brother" companies.

## For Partners

The Project provides training to partners on the requirements of the TREE Methodology. The training program is composed of three modules.

- \* Community mobilization and rapid assessment techniques.
- \* Implementation of skills training and enterprise development.
- \* Community enterprise system and community fund scheme.



## Three years targets

The project expects to achieve the following:

- \* 1000 poor beneficiaries trained in various skills and enterprises.
- \* One (1) Training Center for Women operationalized
- \* One (1) Training Center for Differently Abled Persons operationalized
- \* 400 Youths provided with vocational preparation and guidance services
- \* 16 Pilot Corporate Community Groups (CCG) organized registered, and installed with Community Enterprise System (CES) and Community Fund (Co-Fund)
- \* 400 members of the CCGs trained on the workings of CES and Co-Fund
- \* 250 officers and staff of partner agencies trained on the Project's Methodology and development strategies