

# Improving chances: Vocational skills training for the out-of-school youth of Bantayan Island



Super Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) severely hampered key industries in Bantayan Island, Northern Cebu, including poultry farming and a burgeoning tourism industry. The International Labour Organization (ILO) not only contributed to the two industries' revival but also made sure to include in livelihood recovery activities, some of their most vulnerable worker-constituents: the out-of-school youth (OSY).

Even before Haiyan hit, Bantayan's OSY had already been an underprivileged group, with their lack of education limiting their access to work and/or skills development. When businesses retrenched and reduced their workforce as a result of the super typhoon's devastation, among the first to go were the unskilled out-of-school youth.

To overcome this problem, the ILO worked with the Cebu Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (CCCI) to provide skills training in poultry carpentry and hospitality management to 175 youths, with a focus on food and beverage service and housekeeping. This was planned in response to the high demand for those specific skills needed to revitalise the two industries.



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*Trainees take turns in demonstrating their newly-acquired skill in table waiting.*

The trainees received a daily allowance (based on the then-current minimum wage rate), social security, and health and accident insurance. The graduates were then assessed by the Technical Skills and Development Agency (TESDA), with the successful ones awarded with National Certification.

Aside from the Certificates enhancing the youth's employability, CCCI facilitated links for possible job opportunities between graduates and potential employers, including hotels, resorts, and restaurants in Bantayan Island and in Metro Cebu. Along similar lines, the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Bantayan also established a database of accredited skilled workers.

The ILO is grateful for the support it has received from the Government of Norway for its Haiyan Response and its vision to truly Build Back Better.

Emergency Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods after Super Typhoon Haiyan

## Implementing Partner

- Cebu Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (CCCI)

## Stakeholder organization

- AFOS Foundation for Entrepreneurial Development Cooperation

## Funding Partner

- Government of Norway



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