



# Philippines Youth Network

## About the Network

VSO's youth engagement in the Philippines focuses on social cohesion and durable peace, while promoting resilient livelihoods and communities. Youth volunteers work with their communities and hold decision-makers accountable, monitor development progress, and ensure that policymakers consider the needs of young people.

Through youth networks, young people in the Philippines advocate for a wide range of causes, including peacebuilding and social cohesion, climate change action and resilience-building, birth registration programs for people at risk of statelessness, and the promotion and development of the country's national volunteering program.

## Youth voice and advocacy

The YES Bangsamoro Project promotes and supports the youth's role in peacebuilding processes by establishing a coalition of youth networks in Bangsamoro, enabling and empowering the networks to ensure that the Bangsamoro government hears youth voices. VSO also developed and is helping to popularize the U-Report platform to strengthen young peoples' collective voice, which has so far reached 9,227 people mostly aged between 15-30 years old.

## Youth training and employment

The Opportunity 2.0 Project supports second-chance education to 180,000 out-of-school youth across 12 cities, leading to their successful employment and livelihoods.

This program goes beyond Bangsamoro Region, covering regions on the three major islands of the Philippines.

In January 2022, 90 representatives from at least 20 organizations and private sector

partners gathered for the Youth Development Alliance Summit with the theme, "The Power of Partnerships and Convergence for Out-of-School Youth".

One highlight was the discussion on empowering youth on their journey to self-reliance, working with the public and private sectors to create more opportunities for young people, and building a program framework that is responsive, inclusive, and sustainable.

### Climate-resilient agriculture

Youth-led climate interventions in the Philippines have focused on climate-resilient agriculture. These projects aim to not only promote sustainable, low-carbon farming, but also to enhance food security, biodiversity and natural habitat protection – helping humans, animals and plants alike adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

As part of the project, they learned how to grow and maintain a climate-friendly edible garden and make their own organic liquid fertilizer from the waste of fish, vegetables, and seaweed. They established two edible gardens this way, helping to protect the environment and food security at the same time.



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