



# **Narrative Report On GWP2 Project**

**For the period  
April 2020 – September 2020**



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## I. Executive Summary

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**The project in detail.** The implementation of the Supporting Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Philippines Project (WEE Project) of the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office VII (DOST 7) is in partnership with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). The Government of Canada supports the Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women or the GREAT Women Project 2.

This project is in support of the Philippine Government’s efforts in nation- building through the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) as engines of job creation and as a major strategy for poverty reduction in the Philippines.

The WEE Project seeks to contribute inclusive growth by improving the economic empowerment of women micro entrepreneurs and their workers by facilitating improvements in competitiveness and sustainability of women’s micro enterprises, and enhancing the enabling environment for women’s economic empowerment.

Through this project, the DOST 7 strategically carried out its mandate of promoting scientific, technological and innovation efforts with gender equity and equality for the maximum economic and social benefits of the people, in the region and in the countryside.

**Project accomplishment** – For the period in review, from April 2020 to September 2020, DOST 7 conducted three (3) Capacity Building trainings to enhance the capability of ninety- eight (98) WMEs on One Store Orientation, Quality Control Training and E Commerce Training. These trainings were conducted via Zoom online platform actively participated by WMEs from Bohol and Cebu.

DOST 7 also conducted the project monitoring and evaluation of 30 WMEs through the KOBO Toolbox participated by Bohol and Cebu WMEs.

**End-result of Project Intervention** - These trainings equally facilitated the improvement of the skills and understanding of the women entrepreneurs and contributed in improving their enterprises. More so, the project interventions help built the technical and entrepreneurial management skills of women entrepreneurs that could assist them in the development of high quality products as well as contribute in wider market reach, reduce their running costs, improve the quality of their operation necessary to heighten their sales and revenue especially in this time of pandemic.

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**Sustained linkages/ networking** - The sound partnership and collaboration through the Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) allowed us to work harmoniously with other partner agencies such as DTI 7 and DA 7 in ensuring that activities for GWP are coordinated, complement rather than duplicate especially we serve all the same WMEs enrollees.

Active participation in regular RTWG meetings contributes towards successful planning and implementation of activities. The laudable technical assistance of Ms. Loucille Alcala-Dabhi, the Local Area Coordinator of Region 7 and as well as with the assistance of Ms. Shernes Alcantara, Program Manager of the PCW, they have significantly contributed in ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of targeted activities of the period in accordance to the approved work and financial plan signed by DOST 7 and the PCW.

**Ways forward** – As per approved WFP for year 2020, DOST 7 will conduct three trainings from October 2020 to January 2021. These capability-building activities include, Info Drive/ 'Orientation on Finance Intervention for WMEs, Mental and Physical Health amidst Pandemic and the GAD Responsive Programming. DOST 7 will also make a project documentation (video and coffee table book will also be crafted and prepared by November to December of this year in order to strengthen the knowledge management system of the project.

## OPERATIONS

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### Implementation Strategies

DOST, as the prime mover of scientific, technological and innovation efforts in order for the WMEs to achieve maximum economic and social benefits, the DOST 7 employs its program strategies on Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), Technical Consultancy Programs, S & T Linkages (Enhancement of S & T Development) and through Information and Promotion.

The DOST 7 mainstreamed the crosscutting themes on gender, environment and governance in all its programs and activities, in policy issuance, in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as translated in the vision, mission and goals, ISO Quality Policy and in the Strategic Plan of DOST 7.

On Gender and Development – DOST 7 is faithful to the principle that development is for all. Thus, GAD is integrated through:

- **Technology Consultancy Programs transfer intervention** - this is where the WMEs are assisted with technology transfer intervention through the provision of men and women-friendly technology equipments for production and processing and through integration of GAD in S & T Trainings. Moreover, environmental management, audit and conservation inputs are constantly integrated in all Science & Technology training and consultancy intervention so as to effectively promote sustainable countryside development.

- **Set-up Program** - GAD is mainstreamed from SETUP project development/ project proposal development to project data collection, consolidation & analysis using Sex-Disaggregated data to determine equal and responsive access of SETUP project delivery to all men and women stakeholders. Monitoring and evaluation of GAD project intervention of SETUP projects are regularly assessed during quarterly Meeting of the DOST 7 Management Committee. All provincial directors also regularly integrates in their reports the SETUP projects' gender issues and concerns to determine the gain and address the gaps of respective provincial areas. Moreover, environmental management, audit and conservation inputs are also encouraged in the development, production and processing of SETUP projects.
- **S & T Linkages and Information and Promotion** – GAD is integrated during provincial consultation, networking/ linkages with project stakeholders. GAD knowledge products are also provided through DOST 7 GAD Corner at DOST office premises and at DOST 7 GAD Webpage. GAD brochures and IEC materials are also distributed to DOST 7 clients to help address GAD issues and concerns in project delivery. Further, environmental management, audit and conservation inputs are also pursued and advocated through conferences, meetings with project linkages/ stakeholders for an environmentally sustainable access of S & T projects.

Good governance is well observed in all stages of project development of all S & T program strategies (Technology Consultancy Programs, SETUP and S & T Linkages and Information and Promotion) through participatory governance all project stakeholders take part from project development, implementation to project monitoring and evaluation. Equity and equality are also ensured through effective and efficient delivery of project intervention for in to be responsive to the needs of the DOST 7 project stakeholders. Program transparency are also ensured through regular consultation with the clients.

## Summary of Activities

The DOST 7 implemented and supported a total of four Capacity Building activities to enhance the capability of a total of ninety eight (98) WMEs on One Store Orientation, Quality Control Training and E Commerce Training. These trainings were conducted via Zoom online platform actively participated by WMEs from Bohol and Cebu.

To facilitate the conduct of effective and efficient capability building activities to all its clients, DOST 7 employs the three equity – participation strategies. These include the ready presence of internal and external technical experts, timely availability of zoom online platform, and the deployment of staff as training enablers to help in the technical, material and logistic needs per training event.

#### **a. One Store Orientation of DOST E Commerce platform**

To help widen the market scope and business opportunities of Women Micro-Entrepreneurs (WMEs) in this times of Covid 19 pandemic, DOST VII spearheaded a One Store Online Orientation on July 8, 2020. The zoom online platform was attended by 30 WMEs who are enrolled under the GREAT Women Project 2 of the Philippine Commission on Women.

The One STore is an e-commerce platform that caters to DOST-assisted micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to help expand their market and compete globally so as to help increase their income and employment. “The activity is timely and significant to assist the challenges faced by the WMEs during this Covid Pandemic”, Engr. Jesus Zamora, Jr. OIC-Regional Director of DOST 7 said.

Ms. Venus Retuya, Regional Coordinator for Central Visayas and the Science Research Specialist II of DOST VII shared, the DOST assisted and registered (FDA/LTO) WMEs are qualified to be part of the One Store platforms through online and through physical hub. She added, to date there are three physical hubs in region 7 located in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental, DOST 7 Sudlon Lahug, Cebu City and in Manalili, Cebu City. Ms. Retuya further said, a physical One Store Hub could also be established in Bohol “as soon as a willing private entity readily collaborates with DOST for the creation of the One Store physical hub”.

In order to promote market expansion of all the products of WMEs, Ms. Shernes Alcantara, the Program Officer of the Great Women Proj. 2 of the Philippine Commission on Women, encouraged the WMEs to seize the opportunity to take part in the One Store platforms of DOST 7 established “to help address the financial need, expand market reach and increase income opportunities” of MSMEs “relevant to survive especially in this challenging time of Covid 19 pandemic.”

This online One Store Orientation is graced by OIC-RD Engr. Zamora and ARD for Admin and Finance, Ms. Bernarda Perez of the Department of Science and technology Region 7, supported by the Great Women Project 2 of the Philippine Commission on Women led by Ms. Alcantara and Ms. Loucille Adabhi and in active collaboration with Mr. Blair L. Panong and Ms. Lurli Abaño of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

#### **b. Quality Control Training**

To help increase the sales and income of the Women Micro-Entrepreneurs (WMEs) through the production of high quality food products that meet and exceed customer satisfaction in this time of pandemic, the DOST VII spearheaded a Basic Quality Control Training on August 4-7, 2020.

The zoom online platform was attended by 24 WMEs who are into the production of Cacao and artisanal chocolates. These said WMEs are enrolled under the GREAT Women Project 2 of the Philippine Commission on Women. The DOST 7 provided this training knowing that growing organizations especially those in the production of food commodities are constantly challenged by the demands of customers in terms of a lot of factors such as taste, food safety, price as well as availability and convenience especially in

this time of pandemic.

To readily identify and address the gaps and defects of the WMEs operation and processes, Dr. Carlito Impas, the resource speaker of the four-day training emphasized the need for the WMEs to maintain regular Quality Control Inspection, defects identification and documentation of their operation. Dr. Impas is a Consultant and the Training Provider of MEASURE UP (an Enterprise Consulting firm on areas related to Manufacturing Operation, Production, Quality Assurance, Human Resource Management System and Company Audit).

The training session ended with the individual planning of WMEs to ensure the implementation of the quality control strategies of their own enterprises.

### **c. E Commerce Training**

“The need to timely respond the challenges faced by all our Women Micro-Entrepreneurs (WMEs) and SETUP clients in terms of sales is utmostly significant especially in this time of pandemic, the reason we have spearheaded this two day basic course on E-Commerce” said Mr. Samuel A. Parcon, OIC- RD of the Department of Science and Technology during the E Commerce zoom Training on September 16-17, 2020.

A total of 30 WMEs (enrolled under the GREAT Women Project 2 of the Philippine Commission on Women) and Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) clients of DOST 7 who actively participated the two-day training shall receive a one year website subscription courtesy of, RJCC IT Solutions, a leading Business Process Optimization solutions provider headed by Mr. Rolando Ylanan Puno.

Dr. Carlito Impas of MEASURE UP Enterprise Consultancy, served as the resource speaker for the two day training who provided the participants with inputs on E Commerce Marketing Skills, its various platforms, the advantages and disadvantages of E Commerce, features involved with setting up an online store, and the security and privacy issues that may arise in E-Commerce.

Ms. Shernes Alcantara, program officer of the PCW said, “the training is a very empowering session for all attendees which will serve as a guide when they embark on E Commerce”.

The training was graced by OIC-RD Mr. Samuel Parcon and ARD for Admin and Finance, Ms. Bernarda Perez of the Department of Science and technology Region 7, supported by the Great Women Project 2 of the Philippine Commission on Women led by Ms. Alcantara and in active collaboration with Mr. Lance Basamot of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Ms. Rachelle Madrigal of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

#### d. Active Engagement through the Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG)

DOST 7 actively collaborated with the members of the RTWG, a mechanism which help fast-track the implementation of the WEE project activities in Region 7. Regional Directors and key project focal implementers of the DOST 7, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture and the Regional Coordinator of the GWP2 of PCW compose the RTWG, which met regularly.

The sustained consultations of the RTWG paved the way for the conduct of regular activity planning, monitoring and evaluations of all WEE project activities. This regular collaboration contributed in ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of the targeted activities from April 2020 to September 2020 in accordance to the approved work and financial plan signed by the DOST 7 and the PCW.

#### e. Conduct of Monitoring and Evaluation

DOST 7 also conducted the project monitoring and evaluation of 30 WMEs through the KOBO Toolbox participated by Bohol and Cebu WMEs. The M & E interviews with the WMEs also enabled DOST 7 to document on best practices of WMEs which can be highlighted in the Coffee Table Book that the agency is hoping to come-up at the end of the project.

## MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND ADJUSTMENTS

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For the period in review, there are no existing management issues owing to the regular planning and evaluation of the Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) of the GWP2 project in the Region.

To lessen the negative effects of threats and disasters, mitigation plans are employed in the conduct of the DOST 7 project activities. Part of the strategy is the conduct of onsite trainings for Bohol and Cebu WMEs to mitigate the risk in travelling if there is an impending typhoon/ disasters. Project activities are not conducted and if not postponed if there is an imminent disasters in Region 7. All DOST clients, partners and employees are efficiently informed through digital communication means and system in cases of disasters.

RISK MITIGATION STRATEGY					
Process	TRAINING				
Objective	To transfer technical knowledge and/or skills to target clients/beneficiaries				
Problem Area or Activity	Risks Identified	Existing Measures	Mitigation Strategy	Additional Measures	Contingency Plan
Limited budget	Failure to provide adequate training services	Collaborate with partners (PCW, RTWG partners, etc.)			

Lack or non-availability of in-house expert	Delay in conduct of training	Search/request for external experts	Close coordination with expert/technology service provider and client
Lack of equipment, especially those specified by expert	Delay in conduct of training	Borrow, rent, or purchase equipment	Close coordination with expert and client (and partner)
Conflict of schedules	Delay in conduct of training	Close coordination with expert and partners (PCW, RTWG partners, etc.)	
Commitment / cooperation of WMEs	Delay in conduct of training	Close coordination with WME and RTWG Partners	
Delays in the conduct of trainings due to natural calamities & uncontrollable incidents	Delay in conduct of training	Close coordination with expert and partners (PCW, RTWG partners, etc.)	

## Outcomes

### Highlights of outcomes achieved for the period

#### DOST 7 – GWP2 Results Chain Worksheet:

ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS/ SHORT TERM RESULTS	OUTCOME/ MEDIUM TERM RESULTS
Conduct of One Store Orientation	Trained 24 WMEs	50% of the 24 WMEs shared interest to the putting up of a One Store physical store in Bohol, some individually reached out the Cebu physical store in charge for product display
Conduct of Quality Control Training	Trained 22 WMEs	50% of the 22 WMEs now implement regular quality control review/inspection and defects identification as indicated in their own individual quality control plans in their own enterprises
Conduct of E Commerce Training	Trained 30 WMEs	100% of 30 WMEs can avail of 1 year website subscription from RJCC Solutions web provider as an e commerce start-up venture of their enterprises

Above data is initially and conservatively taken from the actual sharing and submitted action plans of the WMEs right after the training, considering the post M & E evaluation of all trained WMEs is yet to be conducted by early next year.

#### **Explanation of variances and unexpected outcomes**

For the period in review, all training activities indicated in the WFP of DOST 7 were conducted as planned by the RTWG of the WEE project in Region 7.

This support to the WMEs is compliant to the thrust of DOST 7 to be able to support the capacity enhancement of the WMEs in the region for them to be sustainable, globally competitive in the world market and be economically empowered.

#### **LESSONS LEARNED AND WAYS FORWARD**

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- The **sustained active coordination/ collaboration** with the Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) of the GWP2 project in Region 7 (with DTI, DA and Area Coordinator of GWP2-PCW) facilitated the efficient conduct of the training activities, ensured the participation of the WMEs, expedited adjustment in scheduling, fast-track resolution points and agreements necessary for project implementation.
- Significance of having **Action-Planning session** at the end of every training. This has been expressed and suggested by the Regional Director himself, Director Paradela.

- There is a need to have Action Plan session, which will allow WMEs to identify clear action steps needed when they get back to their respective enterprise. Individual action plans contains very specific tasks WME has to take like concrete application of new learning such as tips in conserving energy, use of air-con, types of electric bulb to use, among others. Furthermore, sharing the learning to their employees and other members of the family are noteworthy.
- **Maximize the internal or DOST's pool of experts as resource person.** This is also the means that DOST 7 contributes greatly in the project.
- **Flexibility and need-based approach.** DOST 7 have an approved work and financial plan but still conscious of responding according to the needs seen or expressed by WMEs. The timely revision and the timely implementation of the revised activities have well contributed in responding the emergent needs raised by the WMEs in this time of pandemic.