



Demographics

Municipality	Bato	Virac
Class	5th	1st
No. of brgys	27	63
Pop. Indiv.	21,748	76,520
Pop. Household	4,517	14,958
Household Size	4.8	5.11
Poverty incidence	34.1	28.7

Project Areas

The project areas are the municipalities of Bato and Virac, where agriculture is a major source of income among residents, particularly from cash crops such as abaca, tubers and coconut. Vegetables and other food crops are raised mostly on seasonal basis.



PROJECT LOCATION:

Municipalities of Virac and Bato, Catanduanes Province

Facts

- Island province located in the Bicol Region of Luzon in the Philippines
- Known as "Land of the Howling Winds" because it is frequently visited by tropical cyclones
- 10/11 municipalities are situated along the coasts
- Major income sources of Catanduanes are the agriculture, fishing, tourism, services and manufacturing industries
- Rich in natural resources such as forests, waterfalls, rivers, mineral deposits and productive soil made fertile by volcanic ashes of distant Mayon Volcano
- Native habitat of the endemic abaca plant (a banana relative), which is globally renowned for its strong, finest grade of fiber.

Background and Context

In a unique crisis such as the COVID-19 global pandemic, gender roles disproportionately add to multiple burdens of women. In the Philippines, the perception is that care work associated with COVID-19 is a woman's responsibility as it is a "natural extension" of their stereotypical household responsibilities. In remote areas where government service delivery may take longer, if it arrives at all, women assume healthcare tasks. Similarly, crisis brought by natural hazards and extreme climate conditions, such as typhoon and flooding, compound the multiple burdens among women who are tasked as household managers. For instance, super typhoon Goni (known locally as Rolly) that struck on Nov. 1, 2020 have devastated household assets and livelihoods of people in Catanduanes.

Women suffer not only emotional but also physical burdens managing household needs while coping from their dire situation and recovering from their losses.

"Women farmers face greater disadvantages in accessing agricultural and rural advisory services. Despite their primary role in the family's food security, only 26% of women farmers have access to training, 20% to pest control management, 20% to calamity assistance and 14% to financial assistance" (PAKISAMA, 2015 in FAO, 2018).

Goals, Objectives, Expected Results, Activities

The WE EMPOWER project aims to improve women's economic empowerment and social well-being of abaca and rootcrops value chain actors (producers, processors, traders, and workers), particularly that of women and female youth.



1,000 direct beneficiaries

(at least 60% women and female youth age 15 - 30) who are existing and potential actors in focus value chains (i.e. producers, processors and traders of inputs and produce, and workers in targeted enterprises)



4000 indirect beneficiaries

members of households of the direct beneficiaries based on an average household size of five



Project stakeholders

2 municipal and 8 barangay local government units, academe and private sector providers of financial, market and other business services



Goals, Objectives, Expected Results

The WE EMPOWER project aims to improve women's economic empowerment and social well-being of abaca and rootcrops value chain actors (producers, processors, traders, and workers), particularly that of women and female youth. Two objective outcomes will contribute to achieving the project goal, these are:

OBJECTIVE OUTCOME 1100

Reduced barriers to women and female youth's meaningful and inclusive participation in gender responsive and resilient enterprises in abaca and rootcrops value chains

OBJECTIVE OUTCOME 1200

Enhanced enabling governance structure to support, inclusive, gender equitable and resilient enterprises in abaca and rootcrops value chains, in particular those managed by women and female youth.

RESULT 1100

Improved knowledge, skills and motivation among VC actors, in particular women and female youth, are necessary to equitably engage in good agricultural practices and climate smart approaches and in sound business practices (including risk management, marketing, negotiation) at micro-enterprise/collective level.

RESULT 1210

Strengthened capacity of local (provincial, municipal, barangay) governments to implement policies that promote inclusive and gender equitable access to and control over resources and services.

To achieve this result, WE EMPOWER will conduct participatory gender- and risk-informed assessment with representatives of local (provincial, municipal, barangay) government's policies, programs and services.

In addition, training and technical assistance will be carried out on gender equality and resilience to climate change, economic shocks, market place shifts, and natural disasters.

RESULT 1120

Improved mechanisms for equitable and inclusive participation among value chain actors, in particular women and female youth.

The project will support appropriate and innovative mechanisms and processes to address the challenges hindering meaningful participation of women, female and male youth, IDPs, elderly and other marginalized beneficiaries.

RESULT 1130

Improved attitudes of key stakeholders and other community members in support of gender equality and women and female youth's equal, safe and meaningful participation, decision-making and access to and control over productive/economic resources.

The project will foster an environment of support and acceptance within target communities that is increasingly receptive to the ideas of gender equality and women's empowerment.



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Community based development facilitators

The project will engage 16 CBDFs (at least 50% women), who will be identified and trained as community extension service providers. CBDFs are respected persons in the community with facilitation skills and entrepreneurial values.