



Start and grow your own business.
Be counted as a leader.

Be counted in the
GREAT
Women Project






The Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women (GREAT Women) Project aims to strengthen the capacity of women to establish and develop their small businesses. Under this project, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) partners with national government agencies (NGAs) and local government units (LGUs) to create and implement policies, programs, services and initiatives that will encourage and assist women start and grow their microenterprises.



In the Philippines, many microenterprises, including those in the informal sector, are started or owned by women. When these businesses are already in full swing, husbands join in the decision-making. Studies also show that the success of a business does not solely depend on the infusion of money or capital. It is also based on the amount of time and effort a woman can allocate, especially when her other roles and responsibilities are taken into account. Moreover, any enterprise requires sound planning and creative strategies. Business growth is largely based on having access to information, technology, microcredit, markets and business support services.



The GREAT Women Project allows women to access resources that they can use when they start successful businesses. Under the GREAT Women Project, NGAs and LGUs can deliver some of the following in the project sites.

- Creation and dissemination of complete and correct information
 - Training on selecting appropriate businesses
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- Know-how in using appropriate technologies
- Access to important resources such as land, organic fertiliser, milling machines, fishing nets, dingies and others
- Fair credit schemes especially those created by NGAs and LGUs
- Incentives and financial aid to cooperatives comprised of women
- Effective and efficient legal processes particularly on land ownership
- Fast business registration process
- More persistent implementation of labour laws
- Comprehensive health and life security as well as benefits for women engaged in informal sector
- Orderly, well-lighted and safe roads and transport system especially those heading towards the market
- Strengthening the gender desks in all police stations
- Orderly and clean markets and safe workplaces
- Comprehensive data gathering on women's economic contribution
- More meaningful participation of women in the creation of policies, programmes and initiatives in relation to the development of national and local economic plans.

The GREAT Women Project has three components based on its major partners: NCRFW, selected NGAs and LGUs.

Strengthening of NCRFW. As the agency tasked to promote women's human rights, NCRFW is expected to ensure that all policies, programs and initiatives account for gender equality, from the very planning of actions up until the monitoring of such actions' impacts on both women and the larger community.

Creating favorable conditions for women microentrepreneurs on the national level. The GREAT Women Project strengthens the capacity of NGAs in carefully planning, crafting and implementing policies, programs and initiatives for women's economic empowerment. The NGAs are also expected to be more sensitive with the situation of women, including the concept of gender.

In conducting baseline studies on women in selected towns, NGAs have a better idea on the women's needs. NGAs are also able to measure women's economic contribution to these towns and even project the women's economic contribution to the nation.

Creating favorable conditions for women microentrepreneurs on the local level. LGUs are the first to be relied on by communities as they are more familiar with the situation and needs of their constituents. The GREAT Women Project builds on this unique position of the LGUs in creating, coordinating and strengthening appropriate policies, programs, services and initiatives for women's economic empowerment. The GREAT Women Project encourages LGUs to (1) expedite the business registration processes, (2) assist women who are venturing into businesses, (3) encourage women to participate in activities that can boost the local economy, and (4) offer business extension services such as information, technologies, skills, credit and facilities.


A cooperative comprised of women engaged in organic farming are given stalls in public markets at a lower rate.



Under the GREAT Women Project, NCRFW closely works with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and its agencies: the Bureau of Small-Scale and Medium Enterprise Development (BSMED), Cottage Industry Technology Center (CITC), Office for Special Concerns (OSC), and the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC). NCRFW and DTI are also joined by other agencies that make up three clusters: Advocacy and Networking Cluster, Training and Resource Cluster at Social Protection and Microfinance Cluster.


The Advocacy and Networking Cluster consists of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) — or the agencies that frequently coordinate with LGUs and are more knowledgeable of national economic and social plans.

The Training and Resource Cluster is led by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and its branches that are experts in providing training to workers — Occupational Health and Safety Center (OHSC), Bureau of Women and Young Workers, Bureau of Rural Women and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). Included in the cluster are the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)




and its agencies as well as the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) that will assist in sharing strategic and appropriate technologies that can be used in women's businesses and livelihood. Another member of the cluster is the University of the Philippines - Institute for Small Scale Industries (UP-ISSI).


The Social Protection and Microfinance Cluster consists of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC) and other agencies that have expertise in preparing health benefits and credit schemes for various organisations.



At the local level, the GREAT Women Project is comprised of the Metro Naga Development Council, PALMA Alliance sa North Cotabato, and the LGUs of Bohol, Davao del Sur, Ifugao, Iloilo, Leyte and Quezon.



The GREAT Women Project does not directly provide loans, construct facilities nor conduct trainings. But by partnering with NGAs and LGUs in empowering women to engage in entrepreneurship, it develops women's economic contribution to their families, communities and the nation. As the project promotes the growth of women's enterprises, the GREAT Women Project helps mitigate the effects of poverty on women and girls.



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For more information, please contact partner LGUs, NGAs or NCRFW:



Project Management Office
GREAT Women Project
National Commission on the
Role of Filipino Women
1145 J.P. Laurel Street,
San Miguel, Manila
Telephone: +632 735-1654 local 121
or 123
Fax: +632 736-4449
Website: <http://www.ncrfw.gov.ph>

