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Modelling Livelihood Solutions for Coastal Communities in Basilan (Model Lives)

Narrative Progress Report 2025

European Union
United Nations Development Programme







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PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Modelling Livelihood Solutions for Coastal Communities in Basilan (Model Lives Project)
Reporting Period	01 January 2025 to 31 December 2025
Quantum Project ID	01003750
Donor	European Union
Implementing partner	United Nations Development Programme
Responsible partner/s	Not applicable
Start Date	01 January 2025
Completion Date (and approved extension, if any)	30 June 2026 (original) 31 December 2026 (extension)
Total project fund (in USD) (and fund revisions, if any)	USD 1,639,866.08 (EU Contribution is up to a maximum of EUR 1,400,000 estimated at US$ 1,475,880)
Annual project budget (Year 1)	USD 890,189.32
Annual expenditure[1] (as of 31-12-2025)	USD 576,880.29
Cumulative expenditure for the project (as of 31-12-2025)	USD 576,880.29
Brief project description	The project seeks to contribute towards supporting the fisheries sector in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), specifically within the province of Basilan, by modelling community-level livelihood solutions for coastal communities and supporting an enabling environment for sustainable fishery livelihoods. It is designed to respond to the need to accelerate socioeconomic recovery programs, sustain the region's progress towards poverty reduction, and ensure economic growth that is inclusive to all Bangsamoro peoples. The project's key objectives are: 1. To facilitate the establishment of viable models of livelihood solutions for identified coastal communities – benefitting both men and women – through income diversification that will lead to a measurable increase in fisherfolks' income and profitability; and, 2. To ensure long-term health and resilience of coastal communities dependent on fisheries resources through strengthening local capacities for sustainable resource management.
Location/s	• Barangay Lawi-Lawi, Municipality of Lantawan, Basilan • Barangay Lower Benembengan, Municipality of Sumisip, Basilan • Barangay Bohelebung, Municipality of Tipo-Tipo, Basilan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under the Bangsamoro Agri-Enterprise Programme, the Project Model Lives was awarded by The European Union (EU) to the United Nations Development Programme for implementation in three coastal communities in the Province of Basilan. The contract was signed on 18 December 2024, with an implementing period from 01 January 2025 to 30 June 2026. In November 2025, the Project Board approved a No cost extension implementation duration to 31 December 2026 to enable the Project to complete the deliverables.

Context. The Model Lives Project addresses pressing needs in BARMM, accelerating socioeconomic recovery, poverty reduction, and inclusive economic growth for fisherfolk and Bangsamoro communities. By leveraging Agri-fishery production, it fosters economic resilience and food security, laying foundations for sustainable development. The goal is to empower communities, enhance regional stability, and pave the way for lasting peace and progress

Specifically, the Project seeks to contribute towards supporting the fisheries sector in the Province of Basilan focusing on the three (3) coastal communities of Barangay Lawi-Lawi in the Municipality of Lantawan, Barangay Lower Benembengan in the Municipality of Sumisip and Barangay Bohelebung in the Municipality of Tipo-Tipo. It envisions to model livelihood solutions in these communities by empowering the fisherfolk beneficiaries through various participatory processes and supports an enabling environment for a sustainable fishery livelihood and coastal resource conservation and management.

Summary of Key Results. Together with the Municipal Local Government Units and the fisherfolks, Model Lives engaged 204 coastal community members on fisheries-based livelihood solutions through participatory processes. Three communities have identified their livelihood solutions. Relatedly, training on organizational and enterprise development was conducted in Lantawan with 50 community members trained. One CBO is now implementing their identified livelihood solution.

To better define coastal resource management of the target communities, two participatory coastal resource assessments were conducted as an initial step for the development of a community-driven coastal resource management plan. Correspondingly, a gender-sensitive livelihood mapping and community–level value chain analysis of the fisheries sectors in the three communities was conducted, aimed at empowering disenfranchised sectors of community for them to be able to access livelihood solutions offered by the project. Furthermore, Coastal resource management policies are on-going with the local government units of the target communities.

Under Output 1, Model Lives focused on supporting efforts to accelerate modeling fisheries-based livelihood solutions for the three communities of Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan), Lower Benembengan (Sumisip), and Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo). Model Lives initiated a series of consultations with community beneficiaries and key partners to analyze local conditions and come up with a viable livelihood solution to support. The project also completed the socio-economic and environmental assessment, participatory coastal resource assessments, and gender-based mapping. Results of these assessments were used during community planning sessions to ensure that plans are backed up scientifically. Capacity building activities were also implemented towards the fourth quarter of 2025. Formation of community-based organizations (CBO) was also conducted.

Among the targets under Output 1 include 450 coastal community members engaged in the participatory process to support livelihood solutions. As of 31 December 2025, the project has engaged 204 community members from the three communities (Brgy Lawi-Lawi, Brgy. Bohelebung, and Brgy. Lower Benembengan). The results constitute 45% of the project's target. The rest of the target will be completed in 2026.

The project also aimed to train 300 community members to increase their knowledge and skills in fisheries-based livelihood solutions. The Project was able to initially train 50 community members

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in Lantawan on organizational and enterprise development. This was also part of efforts to train the CBO in Brgy Lawi-Lawi on basic bookkeeping, financial management and developing the CBOs vision, mission and goals (VMG).

Also under Output 1, the Project targeted to empower and support three CBOs in identifying and implementing their livelihood solution by Year 2. Nevertheless, Model Lives already managed to support a CBO in Brgy. Lawi-Lawi, identified a livelihood solution and initiated the process to procure a solar powered ice block machine that would be delivered in the first quarter of 2026. The solar powered ice block machine was identified through several consultations and validation with the fisherfolks of Barangay Lawi-Lawi. Most of the community members in Barangay Lawi-Lawi (Lawi-Lawi in Tausug means farthest barangay) are fishers; these fishers travel to Isabela City and Zamboanga City to buy ice to preserve their catch. Most often their catch is prone to spoilage due to the inaccessibility of ice resulting in tissue softening and off odors reducing fishers' catch sales and income. Livelihood solutions for Tipo-Tipo and Sumisip have also been identified and supported by the Project in Year 2. It is noteworthy to mention that the Project also managed to procure a sea borne patrol vehicle for the LGU of Lantawan in December 2025 as part of the Coastal Resource Management solution. This patrol vehicle was reportedly used by the LGU to rescue survivors during the sinking of the MV Trisha Kerstin 3.

Under Output 2.1, the target was to engage 300 community members in participatory processes for coastal resource management planning; so that they can have increased knowledge and skills in implementing community-based coastal resource management. Model Lives was able to engage 143 community members from Brgy. Lawi-Lawi and Brgy. Bohelebung. The skills developed were on the assessment of coastal resources using the Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment (PCRA) methods.

Under Output 2.2: the target is to help the communities in formulating coastal resource management policies that will be instituted by local government units in the target communities, as well as to train 60 LGU officials to increase knowledge and/or skills on CRM planning and policy making. Model Lives was able to engage 42 LGU partners during the PCRA feedback sessions wherein LGUs made steps to integrate policies identified by the community to manage and protect their coastal resources. Policies identified by the community were on mangrove rehabilitation, coastal enforcement through the deputization of fish wardens, biodiversity conservation through the establishment of fish sanctuaries, coastal waste management, and development of livelihoods for coastal dependent families.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt. Challenges in 2025 include security issues during the early phase of the project and the synchronized local and national elections last May 2025 which caused implementation delays by six months. The project launching took place in June 2025 due to these challenges. Nevertheless, the project still managed to partially achieve the targets. Some of the lessons observed were on the importance of building social capital with stakeholders. The Model Lives Project Team coordinated closely with local authorities, particularly the Provincial Government of Basilan, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Basilan (MAFAR); Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism (MTIT); Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE) as well as with the Municipal Government Unit of Lantawan; Municipal Government of Sumisip; Municipal Government Unit of Tipo-Tipo and the Fisherfolks of Barangays Lawi-Lawi, Lower Benembengan, and Bohelebung, which enabled efficient communication for the implementation of project activities. Integration of project activities with the local government unit's agenda also improves community participation and ensures community project buy-in.

Financial Utilization. As of 31 December 2025, the Project's actual expenditures and legal commitments reached USD 576,880.29. This amount is 67 percent of the total actual contribution of USD 858,858.42 received by the Project from both the EU and UNDP. The bulk of the total resources allocated for the project will be spent in 2026.

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This report is outlined into three key sections: narrative updates on targets delivered, significant challenges and responses, and a breakdown of costs against the approved budget. The report focuses on two main objectives: modeling fisheries-based livelihood solutions for income diversification and strengthening local capacities for coastal resource management.

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PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Progress against Outputs

This section provides a relatively detailed narrative of the implementation of activities that contribute to the attainment of the project outputs as of 31 December 2025. As summarized in the table below, Model Lives was able to partially attain the project's targets. But, despite the challenges and delays, in some cases, the project team was also able to proceed with activities that were originally scheduled for the second year. A case in point would be the delivery of the patrol vehicle in Lawi-Lawi.

Table 1. Project Outputs and Summary of Actual Deliveries, 31 December 2025.

Project Output	Target		Results (as of December 31, 2025)	Remarks
	Indicator	Rating	Description of Results	
Output 1: Modeling fisheries-based livelihood solutions that support income diversification.	Output Indicator 1.1: Number of coastal community members engaged in participatory processes in the identification of fisheries-based livelihood solutions that support income diversification. – 450 (Year 1/150 per community) coastal community members engaged in participatory processes.	Partially achieved	➔ Engaged 204 (M=166; F=38) community members on various participatory processes to identify livelihood solutions. ➔ 3 communities have identified livelihood solutions (Lawi-Lawi: Ice block machine & Seaborne patrol; Bohelebung: 51 units of motorized banca; Lower Benembengan: Ice block machine & 30 units motorized banca)	The actual delivery is about 45% from the target (450 community members to be engaged) considering that the Project managed to conduct consultations with the communities only in July 2025. During the first half of the year, movement of project personnel was restricted due to imminent security threats. In addition, the holding of the local and national elections in May 2025 further affected the scheduling of project activities on the ground. The Project is optimistic that it can achieve this target by June 2026.
	Output Indicator 1.2: Number of individuals trained in EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and skils on fisheries-based livelihood solutions that support income diversification. – 300 (Year /100 per community)	Partially achieved	➔ 50 community beneficiaries (M=42; F=8) from Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan trained in Organizational Enterprise Development (OED).	Considering that the entry to communities only happened in July 2025, the conduct of training was also delayed, hence only trained the community of Lawi-Lawi. It is expected that by June 2026, the remaining target will be achieved especially that the Project partnered NGOs in the three communities to deliver this target
	Output Indicator 1.3: Number of CBOs (including women's/women-led organizations) implementing their identified livelihood solutions with the assets provided. – At least 3 CBOs (Year 2)	Partially achieved	➔ 1 CBO (out of 3) currently implementing livelihood solutions ◆ Seaborne Patrol Boat – delivered on 23 December 2025 ◆ Ice Block Machine is expected to be delivered in January 2026. Procurement was completed in December 2025	This target is planned for Year 2. However, Model Lives managed to complete the procurement of proposed livelihood solutions for the community of Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan). This target was pushed to start earlier (Year 1) considering the lengthy process of engaging with the communities in various participatory processes. The community of Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan) showed the potential

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			➔ Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo) is at procurement stage and is expected to receive the materials to construct 51 units of motorized fishing boat in March 2026. Actual construction is expected thereafter and to be completed within 4 months. ➔ Lower Benembengan (Sumisip) is expected to complete the procurement of Ice Block Machine in March 2026. The specifications of materials for 30 units of motorized fishing boats are still to be finalized.	during the entry phase to complete the implementation of proposed livelihood solutions considering the strong support from the municipal Local Government Unit (LGU), and from the community residents themselves. For the communities of Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo) and Lower Benembengan (Sumisip), only preparatory activities were completed during the reporting period (i.e., community consultations and livelihood planning workshops, including procurement). Model Lives is optimistic that it can complete the implementation of remaining livelihood solutions in other communities by July 2026.
	Output Indicator 1.4: Number of new income streams achieved by CBOs through implemented fisheries-based livelihood solutions – 3 new income streams (Year 2)	This is a Year 2 target.		
	Output Indicator 1.5: Percentage of households with diversified sources of income from fisheries-based livelihood solutions provided by the action – 100% (Year 2)	This is a Year 2 target.		
Output 2.1: Three (3) coastal communities implementing their own community-driven coastal resource management initiatives.	Output Indicator 2.1.1: Number of community members engaged in participatory processes for coastal resource management planning – 300 (Year 1 / 100 per community).	Partially achieved	➔ 75 community members (M=58/F=17) from Bohelebung and Lawi-Lawi were engaged in the preparation of Community CRM Plans during the training in December 2025. ➔ Two Participatory Coastal Resource Assessments (PCRAs) were completed in Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan) and Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo); One is expected to be completed in February 2026.	The late entry in July 2025 significantly affected the delivery of this target. The remaining target could be achieved by June 2026. Community consultations, planning sessions, etc. were already facilitated beginning January 2026 and will continue until the end of the Project implementation in December 2026.
	Output Indicator 2.1.2: Number of community members who increased	Partially achieved	➔ 75 community members/residents (M=58/F=17) form	

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	their knowledge and skills in implementing community-based coastal resource management. – 300 (Year 1) (100 per community)		Bohelebung and Lawi-Lawi were trained on CRM and have gained knowledge and skills in implementing community-based coastal resource management initiatives.	
	Output Indicator 2.1.3: Number of nature-based solutions (CRM) improved or established by supported coastal community – 3 CRM initiatives (Years 2)	This is a Year 2 target.		
Output 2.2 At least three (3) coastal resource management policies formulated and instituted by local government units in target communities.	Output indicator 2.2.1: Number of local government stakeholders trained by the EU-funded intervention who increased their knowledge and/or skills on CRM planning and policy making 60 LGU stakeholders (Year 1)	Partially achieved	42 LGU personnel (M=27/F=15) from Tipo-Tipo (14: M-13/F-1) and Lantawan (28: M-14/F-14) were trained on CRM in December 2025. They assisted the beneficiaries in preparing the Community CRM Plan.	More training activities for LGU stakeholders are planned from April to September 2026, hence Model Lives is optimistic to reach the target
	Output indicator 2.2.2: Number of local policies on coastal resource management formulated – 3 (Year 2)	This is a Year 2 target.		

Objective 1. Modeling Fisheries-Based Livelihood Solutions that Support Income Diversification.

These objective targets to initiate the required social preparatory activities of the Project, conduct the gender mapping assessment, identify and validate fisheries-based livelihood solutions, build local capacity to implement fisheries-based solutions, and provide livelihood assets to support income diversification. Here's what we have accomplished per target as of December 31, 2025:

Activity 1.1 Social Preparation and Organizing.

Pre-Entry and Social Investigation. The project began its implementation after the signing of the agreement on 18 December 2024, with employee onboarding and hiring of consultants. Model Lives kicked off in Q1 2025 with the conduct of Socio-Economic and Environmental Assessment (SEEA) in Tipo-Tipo and Sumisip from 20-24 January. A local consultant was engaged to conduct a rapid assessment focusing on key factors that influence livelihoods which are environmentally sustainable. The results of the assessment helped the Project identify potential alternative sustainable livelihood pilots for the target coastal communities, which were then incorporated into its revised multi-year work plan. The SEEA was not able to proceed to the 3rd target municipality because of the security event that prevented the consultant from proceeding.

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During the first half of 2025, the Project liaised closely with key partners in the province (i.e., Office of the Provincial Governor, various BARMM line ministries such as MENRE and MTIT), including the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Lantawan, Sumisip and Tipo-Tipo. Movement restriction was tight during the period due to recurring security incidents and the synchronized local and national elections in May 2025. The Project however completed the onboarding of project personnel and initiated courtesy meetings with key partners to introduce Model Lives objectives and deliverables.

1.1.1 Project Launching cum Inception Workshop.

After months of delay, the Project was officially launched last 24 June 2025. By this time, the Model Lives completed the onboarding of project personnel who liaised with key partners at the Provincial Government, including the BARMM line ministries of the Province of Basilan. In addition, the Project also conducted a series of community consultations in the target communities—i.e. Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo), Lower Benembengan (Sumisip) and Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan)—to discuss potential livelihood solutions[1] for support under Model Lives, including other CRM needs.



Fig. 1. The participants during the launching ceremony in Sumisip, Basilan on 24 June 2025.

The project launching was held in Sumisip and attended by representatives from other communities/municipalities (i.e., Tipo-Tipo and Lantawan), including partners from the BARMM-Basilan line ministries (i.e., MAFAR, MENRE & MTIT), Provincial Local Government Unit, Autonomous Basilan Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and selected civil society representatives *(see Fig. 1)*. The activity highlighted the Project's objectives and deliverables, and how key partners and local stakeholders can participate thus ensure its success. It also solicited commitments from partners and key stakeholders of support to make sure that planned activities are implemented. The event was also graced by officers of the European Union and UNDP.

Organizing and Planning. An inception workshop was conducted after the project launch; this was held in Kasinnahan Resort and Hotel in Isabela City, Basilan. It was attended by a total of 54 participants (M=37; F=17) from the three communities and municipalities, including representatives from BARMM-Basilan line ministries, Provincial Government of Basilan, National Anti-Poverty Commission, Autonomous Basilan Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, UNDP and the EU. The workshop focused on defining the roles of key partners and local stakeholders in support of implementing the Action. It identified potential areas of collaboration, including technical assistance, training support, among others.

1.1.2 Community Engagement.

As of 31 December 2025, the Action managed to engage and mobilize 259 (M=208; F=51) community members on various participatory processes (i.e., analysis of community situation,

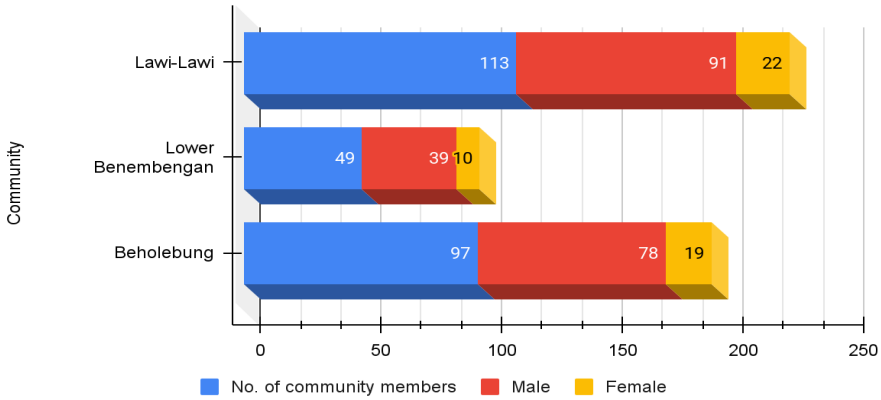
[1] Specific livelihood solutions proposed by the three communities were discussed in detail under Activity 3 in this report.

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participatory planning, etc.) in the 3 communities of Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan), Lower Benembengan (Sumisip) and Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo). (Please see *Fig. 2*). This engagement focused on identifying livelihood solutions that promote income diversification.

Fig. 2. Number of community members engaged in various participatory processes to identify livelihood solutions, 31 December 2026.



The Year 1 target of engaging 450 community members (150 per community) saw a modest 45% accomplishment largely due to security challenges and movement restrictions during the first half of the year. Momentum picked up post-elections (May 2025), with the Project entering the communities in July 2025.

The original work plan of the Project was revised in line with the results of the launching and inception workshop in June 2025. Some targets were pushed forward and others to start during Year 1, especially activities related to implementing livelihood solutions. Model Lives wanted to take advantage of the strong support from Local Government Units (LGUs) to initiate the consultations cum planning processes with the communities to identify sustainable livelihood solutions. The Project encouraged the participation of women and youth during the conduct of various participatory activities (i.e., community situation analysis, community planning, etc.) at the community level. This is to ensure that the identified livelihood solutions are responsive to the needs of both men and women, including youth.

Community engagement will continue until Q2 2026, alongside livelihood solutions and the low-value grant facility implementation. Model Lives is optimistic about reaching the target by Q2 2026.

1.1.3 Formation of CBOs

During the reporting period, all three communities formed associations with a complete set of officers and a list of members. These voluntary formations followed Model Lives' consultations *(see Table 2)* recognizing the need for a structured leadership to drive the implementation of livelihood solutions and ensure long-term sustainability.

Model Lives liaised closely with respective local government units (LGUs) in selecting the beneficiaries. Specifically in Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo), Model Lives set a minimum criteria in the selection of beneficiaries, namely: a) Should be a fisherman whose income only comes from fishing; b) Must be among the poorest of the poor in the community as per available data from the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO); and, c) Must be willing to participate in all activities of Model Lives in the community. The Municipal Agriculture's Offices (MAOs) of each municipality supported Model Lives in the formation of the associations, and in the election of officers *(see Table 2)*. The MAO's office also assisted the associations in completing the list of

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members to support their application for registration with the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MoLE) - BARMM.

Table 2. Name of associations formed per community.

#	Name of association	Total number of members			Location
		Male	Female	Total	
1	Kasalamatan Agri-Fisheries Association	50	25	75	Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan
2	Bohelebung Agri-Fisheries Association	65	0	65	Bohelebung, Tipo-Tipo
3	Lower Benembengan Agri-Fisheries Association	35	21	56	Lower Benembengan, Sumisip

The Project Team of Model Lives will continue to liaise closely with these community associations and respective Local Government Units (LGUs) to pursue the formation of a women-led associations. A women's association is essential in advocating change and in addressing gender inequalities. Model Lives commits to empowering the sector by giving them the opportunity to take an active role in decision-making processes and have an active voice in development for them to achieve their full potential.

Model Lives will go full-blown in achieving this target in 2026 along with the implementation of other targets related to livelihood support and LVG.

Activity 1.2 Conduct of gender-responsive livelihood mapping and community-level value chain analysis of the fisheries sector.



Fig. 3. Data Gathering with women respondents in Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan.

The assessment was undertaken from 28 July to 15 September 2025 to examine gendered participation, access to resources, and decision-making power in three coastal barangays of Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo), Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan), and Lower Benembengan (Sumisip). The assessment pursued four (4) objectives: (a) Conduct a GEDSI-responsive value chain analysis (VCA) in the fishing communities of Tipo-Tipo, Lantawan, and Sumisip, (b) Identify gender roles, challenges, and opportunities through mixed methods consultations, (c) Develop a comprehensive Gender Action Plan (GAP) for inclusive project delivery, (d) Embed Gender Analysis Tools (GAM and Harvard Analytical Framework) principles into the value chain framework to ensure a systemic integration of gender equality across all project dimensions.

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The study also gathered data on the current livelihood activities, available resources and capacities within the community, while looking at the roles played, contributions, and challenges of both men, women and youth in development.

The assessment generated robust evidence for the development of the Action's Gender Action Plan (GAP) that is more resilient and inclusive of gender in promoting sustainable fisheries-based livelihoods. It used a mixed-methods approach, integrating a household survey with Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to capture community perspectives *(see Fig. 3)*. The Harvard Gender Analysis Framework and Gender Analysis Matrix (GAM) guided the analysis, ensuring a systematic focus on access, control, participation, and benefits across different social groups— i.e., women, men, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). Below are the key findings:

Livelihoods and Poverty Context

- Fishing is the economic backbone of all three barangays, with between 77% and 100% of households depending on capture fishing as their primary livelihood. However, poverty is widespread. Most households across sites earn below PHP5,000 monthly, placing them well under the national poverty threshold. Lower Benembengan is the most economically insecure, with 100% of male-headed households earning below PHP 5,000 and an almost exclusive dependence on fishing. Bohelebung shows more microenterprise activity including vending, construction labor, and food trading. Lawi-Lawi on the other hand, demonstrates some agricultural diversification, particularly cassava farming.

Gendered Division of Labor

- Gender roles remain highly differentiated along the fisheries' value chain. Men dominate boat preparation, gear repair, and capture fishing, particularly in deep-sea and night fishing. Women's labor is concentrated in pre-fishing food preparation, post-harvest processing, fish drying, vending, and household budgeting. Women report significant time burdens, with over 90% engaged in cooking, cleaning, and childcare daily, spending 1–2 hours on domestic chores and up to 11 hours on childcare. This "double burden" constrains women's participation in training and economic upgrading activities.
- Youth and girls contribute meaningfully to near-shore gleaning, fish drying, and vending, often after school or during weekends.
- PWD participation is minimal, limited to occasional low-risk, shore-based tasks, and remains largely invisible in community records and associations.

Access and Control of Resources

- Women's access to productive resources remains limited. Only 10–14% of women reported access to boats, gear, and inputs, compared to 40–54% for men. Men dominate access to ice storage and fishing licenses. Control over income from fishing is more balanced wherein, 33% of women reported joint control with men and 45% said they participated in community decision-making. However, women's participation is often informal limiting their eligibility for government support programs.
- Interestingly, women report higher access than men to credit and loans (25% vs 6%) and are more likely to use loans for household needs, children's education, and microenterprises, while men allocate credit primarily for fishing gear, gasoline, and boats.

Participation and Decision-Making

- Women frequently attend community meetings and consultations, often as household representatives when men are at sea.
- In Bohelebung and Lower Benembengan, women play a leading role in association membership and meeting attendance. While in Lawi-Lawi, male-led decision-making remains more pronounced. Both men and women acknowledged that decisions about household expenses are largely made jointly, except in fishing investments, where men exercise greater control.

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Barangay-Specific Contexts

- Bohelebung shows the highest level of livelihood diversification, with women active in vending, microenterprises, and household budgeting. Community participation is relatively strong, with women frequently attending meetings and training sessions.
- Lawi-Lawi presents stricter gender norms, with 97.5% of households reporting no female participation in fishing. Women express strong demand for drying racks, cold storage, and processing training to expand their income opportunities.
- Lower Benembengan stands out for its higher female participation in fishing (42.5%), creating a unique entry point for gender-responsive interventions in capture fishing and resource management. However, the barangay's near-total dependence on fishing makes it economically vulnerable to climate shocks and declining catch.

Community Priorities

- Across all three barangays, respondents prioritized post-harvest infrastructure (drying racks, cold storage), improved fishing gear, access to credit, and livelihood capital—particularly for women-led enterprises. Training in processing, marketing, and cooperative strengthening was also frequently cited to improve income security and bargaining power.

The findings reveal a fisheries-based economy that is both gendered and fragile. Women are central to household survival through their dual roles in care and income generation, yet their contributions remain under-recognized in formal systems. Youth are potential agents for future livelihood sustainability but remain under-engaged in formal training and decision-making processes. PWDs face structural exclusion from fisheries livelihoods.

Addressing these gaps requires a comprehensive approach that strengthens women's access to productive resources, formalizes their roles in fisherfolk registries, and invests in time-saving infrastructure to reduce domestic burdens. Market linkages, cooperative strengthening, and financial inclusion will be key to lifting households out of poverty. Crucially, interventions must be tailored to barangay-specific contexts — leveraging Bohelebung's microenterprise culture, supporting Lawi-Lawi's post-harvest needs, and diversifying livelihoods in Lower Benembengan to reduce vulnerability.



Fig. 4. Presentation of results of the gender assessment to key partners and community stakeholders.

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On 10 September 2025, Model Lives conducted the feedback workshop on results of gender-responsive livelihood mapping to key partners and community stakeholders *(see Fig. 4)*. The participants, especially key partners from BARMM line ministries, were provided with a copy of the assessment for information, and programming purposes and inclusion into their respective plans and programs. The results of the assessment will feed into Model Lives' Gender Action Plan which will be prepared to address specific gender conditions/challenges to ensure the active participation of women, youth, and other marginalized groups in the implementation of livelihood solutions and community CRM initiatives.

Activity 1.3 Identification and community validation of fishery-based livelihood solutions for implementation.

The donor-approved Description of Action (DoA) lists possible fishery-based livelihood solutions that communities can choose hence proposed for funding under Model Lives. The list below is not inclusive but serves as guide on the type of livelihood solution the community could propose to diversify income:

- Aquaculture and mariculture initiatives (i.e., fish farming, seaweed farming and trading, shellfish cultivation)
- Value-adding processing (i.e., fish processing, production of fish-based products for local markets)
- Eco-tourism ventures (i.e., mangrove boardwalk)
- Producing handicrafts from marine resources
- Alternative livelihood ventures (i.e., boat repair and maintenance services)
- Post-harvest and distribution (i.e., establishing ice production facilities, providing transport machinery such as motorcycles or boats, enabling fisherfolk communities to transport their catch to market)

From July to December 2025, the Action facilitated a series of consultations with the communities to identify possible livelihood solutions to be funded. These consultations were initiated in close collaboration with the LGUs concerned, and with the line ministries (i.e., MENRE, MAFAR and MTIT). Table 3 below shows the details of the livelihood solutions identified and proposed for funding per community.

Table 3. List of livelihood solutions proposed per community, 31 December 2025.

Community	Proposed Livelihood Solution	Estimated Cost (US$)
Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan	Solar-Powered Ice Block Making Machine	$96,500.00
	Seaborne Patrol Boat	$69,500.00
	Livelihood for Women[2]	$10,000.00
	Procurement of Solar-Powered Fuel Dispenser (Technology Solution Retail Outlet) - 2 hoses @ 1000 liters each (i.e., Premium & Unleaded/Regular)	$23,0000.00
	Construction of 10 units Small Motorized Fishing Boats	$30,000.00
Bohelebung, Tipo-Tipo	Construction of 51 units Motorized Banca	$62,500.00

[2] Initial proposals include provision of cash capital for fish vending, and a capital for a community shop/store for fishing paraphernalia.

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	Livelihood for Women[3]	$20,000.00
	Construction of 1 unit Mother Boat for Seaborne Patrol	$15,000.00
	Procurement of Solar-Powered Fuel Dispenser (Technology Solution Retail Outlet) - 2 hoses @ 1000 liters each (i.e., Premium & Unleaded/Regular)	$23,000.00
Lower Benembengan, Sumisip	Solar-Powered Ice Block Making Machine	$96,500.00
	Construction of 10 units Small Motorized Fishing Boats	$30,000.00
	Construction of 1 unit Mother Boat for Seaborne Patrol	$15,000.00
	Procurement of Solar-Powered Fuel Dispenser (Technology Solution Retail Outlet) - 2 hoses @ 1000 liters each (i.e., Premium & Unleaded/Regular)	$23,000.00
	Total	$514,000.00

Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan The community of Lawi-Lawi in Lantawan started its planning for livelihood in July until August 2025. Community residents were engaged in a series of meetings facilitated by Model Lives to analyze their current social and economic conditions. Model Lives provided basic orientation and sensitivity sessions on coastal resource management, including local governance. Model Lives also discussed with the community the importance of a mechanism where ordinary residents could participate in efforts to protect the environment and advocate for local development. The Municipal Agriculture's Office (MAO) of Lantawan and key personnel of the LGU (i.e., MENRE Officer, Executive Assistant of the Mayor) supported Model Lives in facilitating these processes and activities on the ground. The MAO's office is an ideal office to tap for assistance considering its mandate to support communities on matters related to agriculture, fisheries and aquatic resources.

In addition, Model Lives Team coordinated with the LGU through its MAO's office to facilitate the formation of the Kasalamatan Agri-Fisheries Association (KAFA) and ensure that they are assisted to secure a registration from the Minitry of Labor and Employment (MoLE) or other registering agencies (i.e., MTIT, SEC, etc.). The community has no existing associations or organized CBOs except KAFA. This CBO will serve as the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) mechanism for livelihood solutions funded by Model Lives. They will be trained on organizational development-related topics and financial literacy to equip them in sustaining the completed livelihood solutions and ensure that its members will benefit from the intervention.

The membership of KAFA is restricted only to residents of Barangay Lawi-Lawi. KAFA has the potential to evolve into a formal association considering the active involvement of most residents of the community, and its common interest in protecting, preserving and managing the fisheries-based resources of the community.

In October 2025, with assistance from the LGU of Lantawan, KAFA submitted all required documents to MoLE for registration. As of 31 December 2025, KAFA is still awaiting the issuance of a certification from MoLE. They were informed that the issuance of the registration certificate will take at least 3 to 6 months.

KAFA will need to detail specific livelihood solution for its women members or residents as listed in Table 3. Model Lives will facilitate this process in coordination with the engaged CSO and the LGU of Lantawan from Q1 to Q2 of 2026.

[3] Construction of a fish dryer, and capital to start a fish vending business.

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In addition, KAFA also listed the need for some motorized boats for their members. During the consultation with the community, it was learned that not all of Lawi-Lawi fishermen have motorized boats for fishing. Those without a fishing boat will borrow from other fishermen when they return from the sea, a practice that is widely practiced among locals. During the situation analysis in October 2025, Lawi-Lawi had a total of no more than 45 motorized boats for fishing in a pollution of a little over 1,000 residents who are all fishermen. Some residents have paddle boats to use for fishing but only in shallow waters, mostly for hook-and-line fishing. Model Lives will continue to engage with the community, through the partner NGO / CSO, BARMM Basilan line ministries, and the LGU of Lantawan to plan out solutions on how best the community will be supported on this need.

Bohelebung, Tipo-Tipo In Barangay Bohelebung, (in the Municipality of Tipo-Tipo), residents of the community with support from barangay officials were engaged by Model Lives in analyzing and planning through participatory situational analysis. Community residents analyzed the situation of Bohelebung and came up with a list of development options. This process was facilitated from July to September 2025 in coordination with the LGU of Tipo-Tipo. The plan to procure materials to construct 51 units of motorized fishing boats was then identified.

Model Lives agreed with Municipality of Tipo-Tipo and the Barangay LGU of Bohelebung to define the criteria in selecting the beneficiaries. These criteria guide Model Lives in identifying community beneficiaries who are qualified and deserving to receive a fishing boat is as follows:

- Must be a fisher or his/her means of living is on fishing
- Must be a resident of the community and has no residence outside
- Must be willing to participate in all activities of Model Lives
- Must belong to the poorest-of-the-poor based on available data and classification of the LGU through its Social and Welfare Office

A total of 51 potential beneficiaries were selected following the set criteria. The community, with assistance from Model Lives and the LGU of Tipo-Tipo finalized the specifications on materials to be procured to construct the motorized fishing boats. The tendering process started in December 2025 with support from the Procurement Unit. However, there were no responsive tenders from potential suppliers that were received, hence the procurement process was considered a failure. The Project Team, in consultation with the Procurement Unit, decided to reclassify the items to be procured and split them into lots, separating items like boat engines from construction materials, including other fishing paraphernalia. This strategy ensures that potential suppliers submit quotations or tenders on items they are capable of providing or supplying. In addition, Model Lives with support from Procurement Unit plans to organize a forum among potential local suppliers, or alternatively visit directly potential suppliers to explain the procurement requirements of UNDP hence enabling them to prepare responsive tenders/quotations.

UNDP's Project Team targets to complete the retendering process for materials to construct the motorized fishing boats before the end of February 2026. This will ensure that the winning supplier could deliver the items in March 2026, and the construction could commence immediately thereafter. The Action targets to complete the construction within two or three months.

The rest of the livelihood priorities listed in Table 2 are still to be planned with the community. The Action plans to initiate the planning process to implement other priorities simultaneously with the ongoing procurement of materials for the motorized fishing boats. This is to maximize the remaining time until December 2026, and ensure that these priorities are implemented and completed as planned. In addition, the installation of FAD devices requires further planning and consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR), Basilan Province. The Action will seek guidance from MAFAR and agree on the exact locations and appropriate number of FAD devices to be installed. It is expected that this livelihood solution will be implemented between April to July 2026.

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Lower Benembengan, Sumisip. Originally, the community of Lower Benembengan proposed the construction of an 'Elevated Walkway' or a 'Boardwalk' for ecotourism. However, this did not push through considering the need to secure an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from MENRE-BARMM, including completion of technical documents (i.e., technical plan, POW, materials cost estimate, etc.) which require prior review and approval by UNDP and the EU. In addition, the construction of an 'Elevated Walkway' or a 'Boardwalk' requires a longer time to complete which the project estimated that it would not be able to do within the timeline of the Action.

This caused the community to change their priority and subsequently proposed the following livelihood solutions: a) 1-unit Solar-Powered Ice Block Machine; and, b) Construction of 30 units Motorized Fishing Boat. In addition, community beneficiaries mentioned new income stream projects like a gas dispensing machine and a water refilling station. Model Lives will discuss these options further with the community in the first quarter of 2026 to ensure that these are feasible, thus contributing to diversifying the income of target beneficiaries.

In December 2025, Model Lives assisted the community beneficiaries to finalize the needed documentation to process the procurement for the Ice Block Machine, and the specifications for materials to procure to construct 30 units of motorized fishing boats. Once all procurement processes are completed, Model Lives will immediately initiate the construction of the fishing boats in coordination with the community beneficiaries and the LGU of Sumisip through its MAO's office.

Activity 1.4 Capacity building support to community-based organizations to implement fishery-based livelihood solutions.

Under this activity, the Action will be measured on the number of individuals trained and have increased knowledge and skills in fisheries-based livelihood solutions that support income diversification.

In Year 1, the Action targets 300 community members to be trained. The actual accomplishment as of 31 December 2025 is 50 (W=8; M=42) beneficiaries trained from the community of Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan). This is about 17% from the target for the period. This training was on Organizational Enterprise Development (OED) wherein, participants were given orientation on basic organizational concepts (i.e., Roles and responsibilities of members and officers; Vision, Mission and Goals of an organization), including enterprise development *(see Fig. 5)*.

Additionally, Model Lives' entry to the communities in January 2025 faced security challenges which resulted in movement restriction. Full engagement began in July 2025, six months behind schedule compressing social preparation and other targets. This delay overlapped crucial steps, yet progress was made in forming community associations and laying out the groundwork for livelihood solutions. Capacity building support will continue in 2026 to train and capacitate more community members.

To hasten implementation of activities, Model Lives also engaged Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to provide technical support in building the capacity of the community and local government stakeholders on coastal resource management and livelihood initiatives. Two (2) NGOs were awarded the contract in December 2025 through a competitive procurement process. One covers Bohelebung in Tipo-Tipo, and the other in Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan) and Lower Benembengan (Sumisip) respectively. The Project's CSO service providers are also expected to assist the CBOs, who qualify as potential beneficiaries of the Low-Value Grant (LVG) facility, in preparing the project proposals and also in implementing approved CRM-related livelihood solutions

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Model Lives is optimistic that the target of 300 community beneficiaries to be trained in fisheries-based livelihood solutions will be achieved by June 2026.



Fig. 5. Organizational and Enterprise Development (OED), Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan

Activity 1.5 Provision of fisheries-based livelihood assets to support income diversification and enhance livelihood solutions.

During the reporting period, Model Lives focused on revising its Work Plan (WP) and replanning livelihood targets after the June 2025 Inception workshop. Although implementing livelihood solutions were slated for Year 2 (2026), Model Lives accelerated two livelihood options in Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan leveraging strong local support and receptiveness to participatory processes.

For the communities of Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo) and Lower Benembengan (Sumisip), however Model Lives maintained the timing of implementation of their livelihood solutions which is in Year 2.

Below is a snapshot of accomplishments and updates per community as of 31 December 2025, as far as the implementation of livelihood solutions is concerned:

Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan

The community of Lantawan proposed two CRM and livelihood for funding under Project Model Lives, namely: a) 1-Unit Seaborne Patrol Boat; and, b) 1-Unit Solar-Powered Ice Block Machine. *(see Fig. 6)*.

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Fig. 6. Completed Livelihood solutions of Barangay Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan.

The Seaborne Patrol Boat was delivered to Lantawan on 23 December 2025. It was a "repeat order" from the same supplier engaged by UNDP in another project in Basilan. Mayor Nasser Abubakar ordered the construction of the docking port, which is located inshore, safe from big waves. The O&M policy is being finalized with support from the LGU. This is to ensure that the boat will be used for coastal resource management, particularly law enforcement and emergency concerns, not only for Lawi-Lawi but also for the whole municipality of Lantawan. The operation and maintenance of the boat will be assigned to the Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Council (MFARC), with support from the Office of the Municipal Mayor. The LGU of Lantawan has allocated a repair and maintenance budget for the boat under its 2026 budget and will appropriate a budget annually.

On the other hand, the Solar-Powered Ice Block Machine went through a lengthy process of procurement. The process started in August with the finalization of technical specifications of the machine to be procured. During the solicitation process, few tenders were received hence requiring extending the call for quotation for two more weeks. In addition, the technical and financial evaluations took some time to complete due to the need to validate and clarify some queries from the evaluation committee from the suppliers. Hence, the award was only issued in December 2025.

It is expected that the community of Lawi-Lawi through KAFA will be able to service the ice-related needs of the fishermen in Lantawan, and nearby areas or islands.

The task to operate and maintain (O&M) the Solar-Powered Ice Block Machine is assigned to KAFA. It has a total of 75 members who are all residents of Barangay Lawi-Lawi and are considered direct beneficiaries of the livelihood project. Its key leaders and members (50 participants: M=42; F=8) received training in November 2025 on Organizational and Enterprise Development (OED). They were also trained by the supplier of the machine on important tasks to ensure the full functionality of the machine.

The Project will continue to make sure that other important training interventions related to organizational development, financial and entrepreneurial, among others, are provided from Q1 to Q3 2026 to fully prepare them to operate and maintain their livelihood project.

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Bohelebung, Tipo-Tipo During the reporting period, the procurement of materials to construct 51 units of motorized fishing boats was started. The solicitation of tenders ended in December 2025, and the evaluation and award will be in January 2026. If no responsive tenders are received, the tendering process will be repeated. Model Lives will recommend to UNDP's Procurement Team to split the items to be procured into lots to allow suppliers to only bid on materials or items they are able to supply. This will ensure securing tenders on required items from local suppliers or suppliers within the region. The re-tendering process could happen in February or March 2026, and the delivery of materials in April 2026. The actual construction is expected to start thereafter, and to be completed in June or July 2026. The handover will then be in July or August 2026.

Lower Benembengan, Sumisip Model Lives assisted the community of Lower Benembengan to finalize the specification for 1-unit Solar-Powered Ice Block Machine. Considering that it is a "repeat order", the Project is expecting a shorter procurement timeline. Model Lives has already alerted the supplier, and got positive feedback that it can deliver the item before the end of March 2026.

In addition, during the reporting period, Model Lives started the conduct of procurement planning, specifically on materials to construct 30 units of motorized fishing boats. The specification of materials is subject to further discussion with community beneficiaries. Model Lives is expected to complete this process in February 2026 in consultation with the LGU of Sumisip, and the community beneficiaries of Lower Benembengan.

Overall, the implementation of livelihood solutions for the communities of Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo) and Lower Benembengan (Sumisip) is expected to spill-over beyond June 2026. The construction of motorized fishing boats requires more time to complete[4] (Bohelebung = 51 units; Benembengan = 30 units).

Objective 2. Strengthening local capacities for coastal resource management (CRM).

This objective has 4 critical activities focusing on building local capacities around coastal resource management, and the formulation and institutionalization of enabling policy supporting effective conservation and management of fisheries-based resources. Below are the actual accomplishments of the Project during the reporting period, presented per activity.

Activity 2.1 Assessment on CRM with community and local government stakeholders and development of local CRM Situationer and community-level plans.

The Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment (PCRA) was conducted in Barangay Bohelebung, Tipo-Tipo and in Barangay Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan. The assessment for Barangay Lower Benembengan, Sumisip was deferred to February 2026.

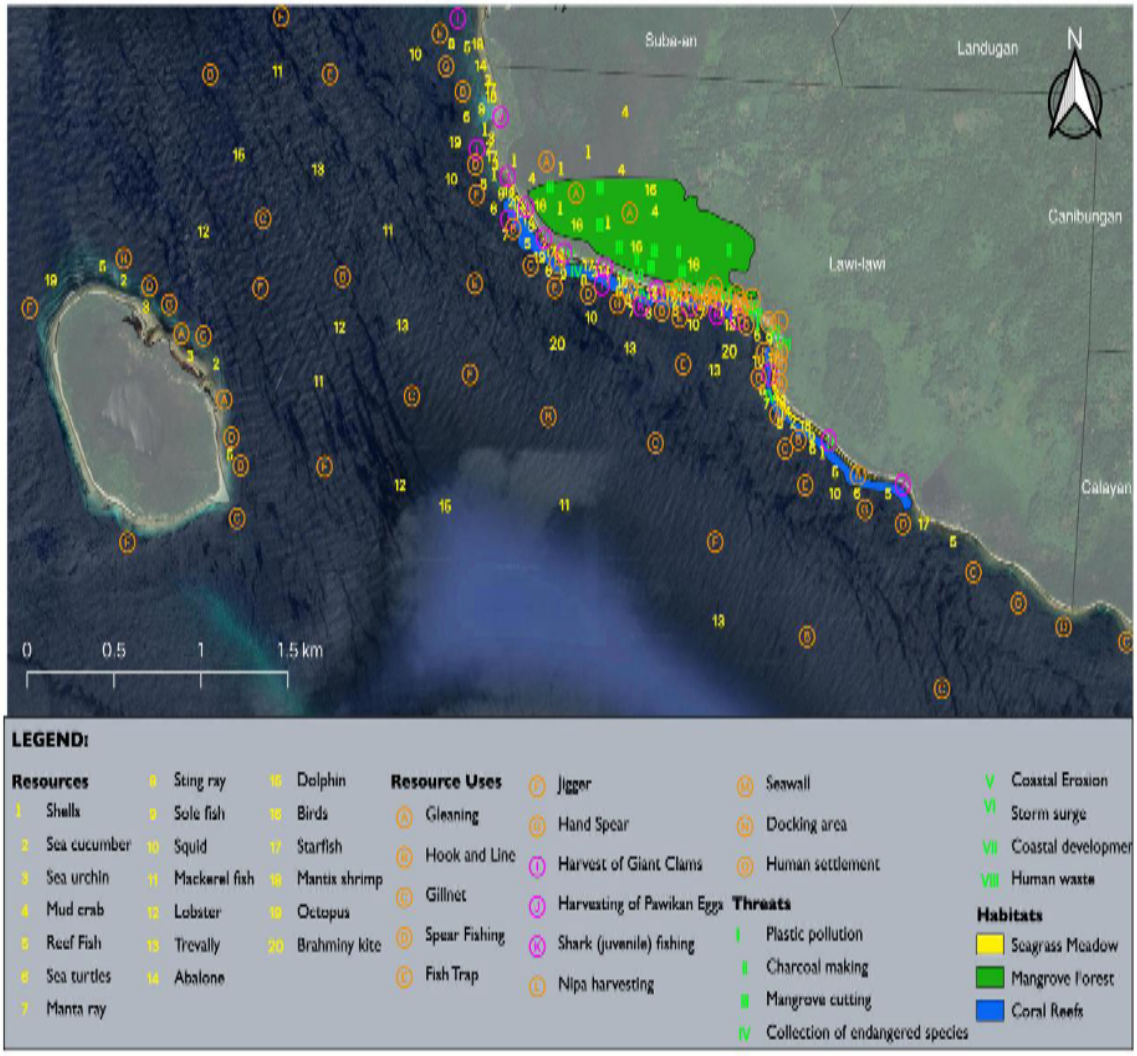
The assessment provides a snapshot of the structural and ecological condition of the local marine ecosystem (see below community resource map of Barangay Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan and Barangay Bohelebung, Tipo-Tipo). The participatory approach draws strength on the value of indigenous knowledge and experiences of fishers and resource users who depend on natural resources for their livelihood. This approach also empowers fishers by giving them an opportunity to participate and understand how information is used for conservation management. Below were the findings of the resource assessments of the two communities

[4] Each banca is estimated to be completed within 21 days of non-stop work. Model Lives will contract 10 boat makers/carpenters to simultaneously construct the bancas. This means that the 51 units of banca will be completed in approximately 2.8 months.

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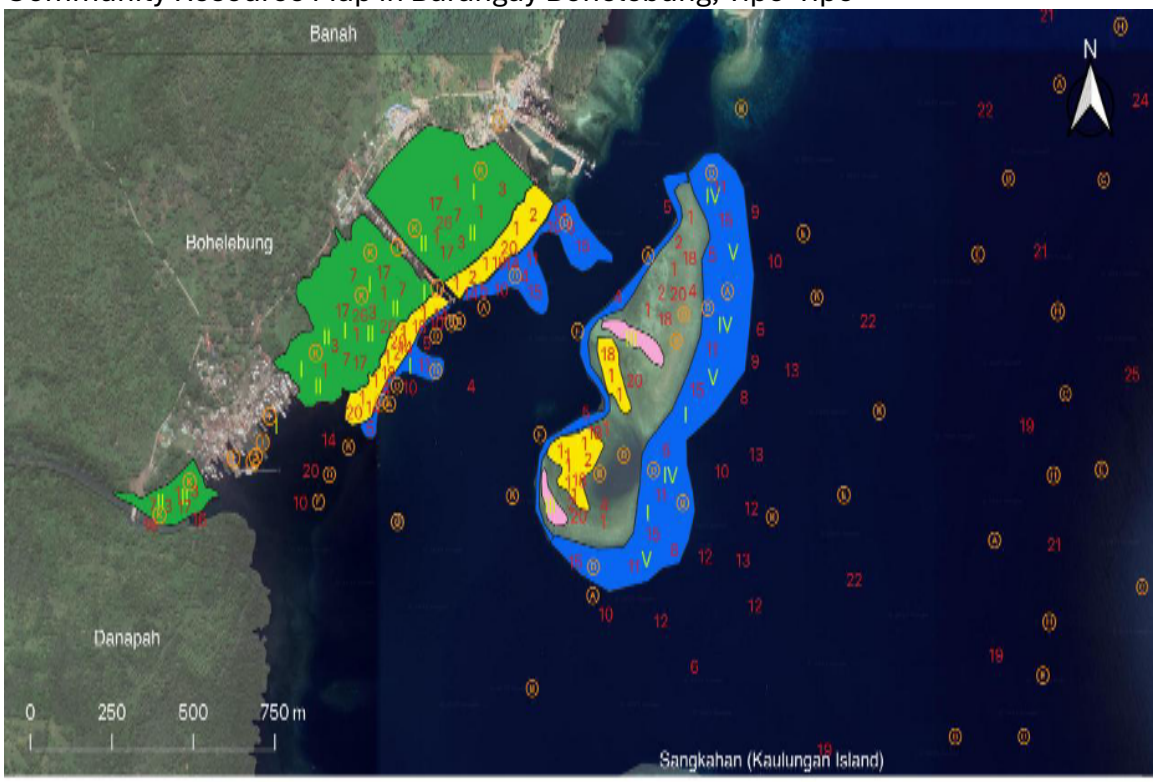
Community Resource Map in Barangay Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan



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Community Resource Map in Barangay Bohelebung, Tipo-Tipo



LEGEND:

Resource Uses
- Gillnet
- Hook and Line
- Tuna Line
- Spear Fishing
- Squid jig
- Fish Trap
- Fish cages
- Human settlement
- FAD
- Docking Area
- Nipa harvesting

Resouces
1 Shells, 2 Crabs, 3 Horn shell, 4 Pawikan, 5 Squid, 6 Great Barracuda, 7 Mud crab, 8 Shark, 9 Whalle Shark, 10 Jacks, 11 Grouper, 12 Lobster, 13 Slipper Lobster, 14 Mantis Shrimp, 16 Giant clams, 16 Oyster, 17 Mangrove clam, 18 Sea urchins, 19 Yellowfin, 20 Rabbit fish, 21 Flying fish, 22 Needle fish, 23 Blue marlin, 24 Tuna, 25 Mackerel, 26 Monkey

Threats
- Pollution
- Mangrove cutting
- Sand quarrying

IV Dynamite
V Compressor

Habitat
- Sand bar
- Mangrove
- Seagrass
- Corals

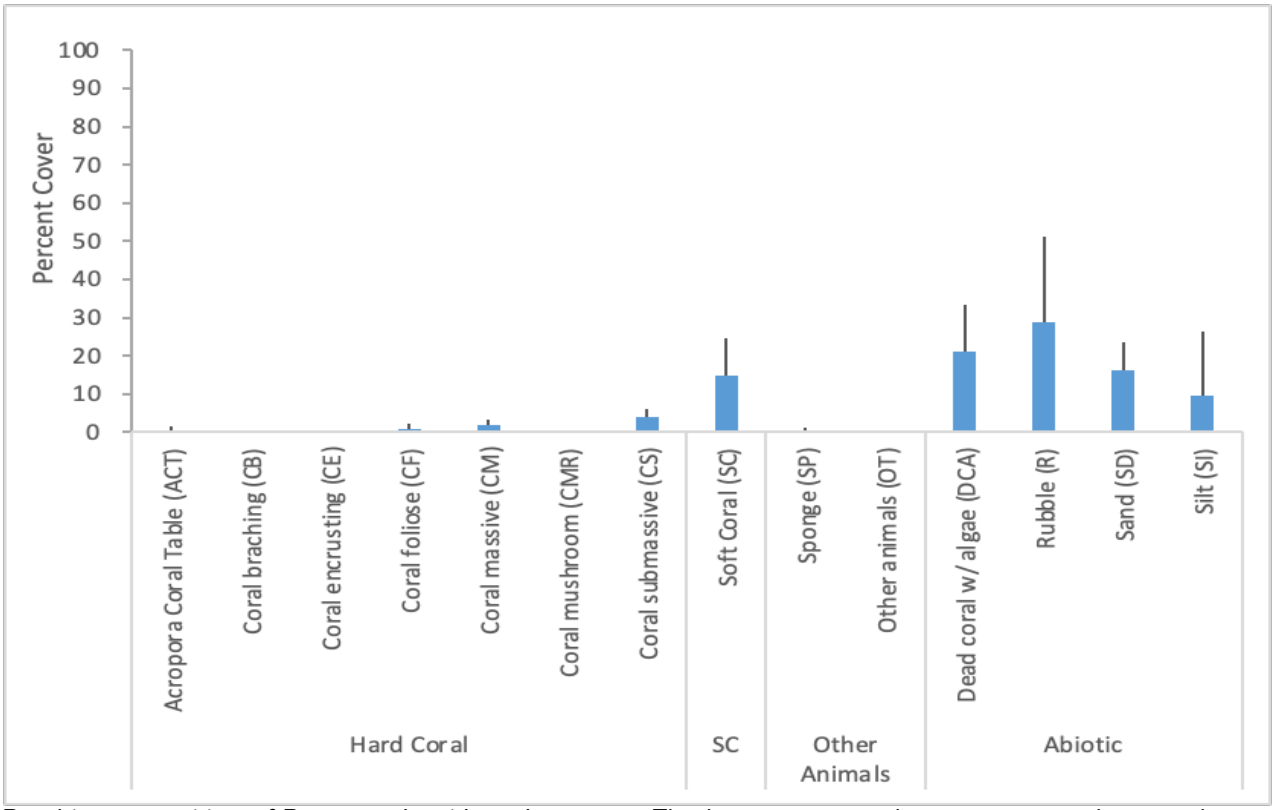
PCRA Results in Barangay Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan. The Ecosystem has a low seagrass cover and shoots density, and shorter canopy observed in Lawi-Lawi are primarily due to frequent exposure to strong wave actions, particularly during southwest monsoon (Habagat). Unlike other coastal areas in Tawi-Tawi province, seagrass meadows here are narrow, extending only up to 20 meters. Species composition recorded was also low, with only two species identified (Thalassia hemprichii and Cymodocea rotundata).

Mangrove surveys revealed that despite of low overall species diversity and density, dominated only by few species (Rhizophora apiculata and Xylocarpus granatum), the existence of this ecosystem protect the community from strong winds, reduces coastal erosion and serves as natural seawall during typhoons. This ecosystem also supports the population of shellfish and mud crabs, a source of food for coastal communities, particularly when fishing is not possible. Coral cover at the deep reef is in poor condition, with only 8% coral cover, and primarily dominated by rubble (29%) and dead coral with algae (21%) (please see Figure Below). This outcome appears to be the result of both climate change-related factors, such as an increase in sea temperature, which

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has led to coral bleaching, and the occurrence of strong typhoons. Human activities like illegal fishing, coastal development, and pollution have also contributed to the degradation of marine habitats. As a result, low fish density and biomass were also observed in the area, particularly the target and commercially valuable fish species. In Lawi-Lawi, there are only 236 fish per 500 square meters recorded, which is very low compared to 3,169 fish per 500 square meters recorded in Tubbataha reefs in 2018. Similarly, the average fish biomass of target fish was only 2.05 kilograms per 500 square meters, compared to 447 kilograms per 500 square meters observed in Tubbataha reefs.



Benthic composition of Barangay Lawi-Law, Lantawan. The bars represent the mean cover; the error bars represent the standard deviation.

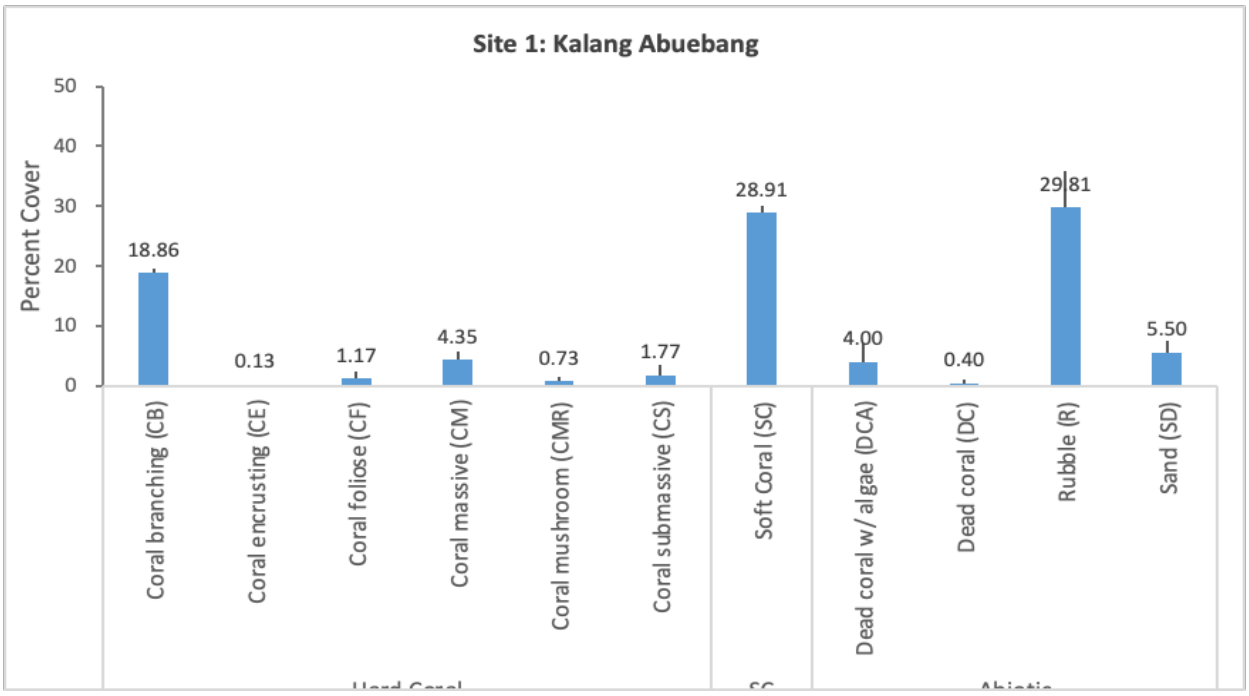
PCRA Results in Barangay Bohelebung, Tipo-Tipo The presence of the three marine habitats such as mangrove, seagrass beds and coral reefs including open water not only supports local fishing activities and provide food security to the residents of Barangay Bohelebung but also contribute to the community's economic stability and ecological resilience. Despite the low density and cover of seagrass observed in Barangay Bohelebung particularly at Kalang Abuebang Shoal, this ecosystem is an important habitat for many fish species and invertebrates.

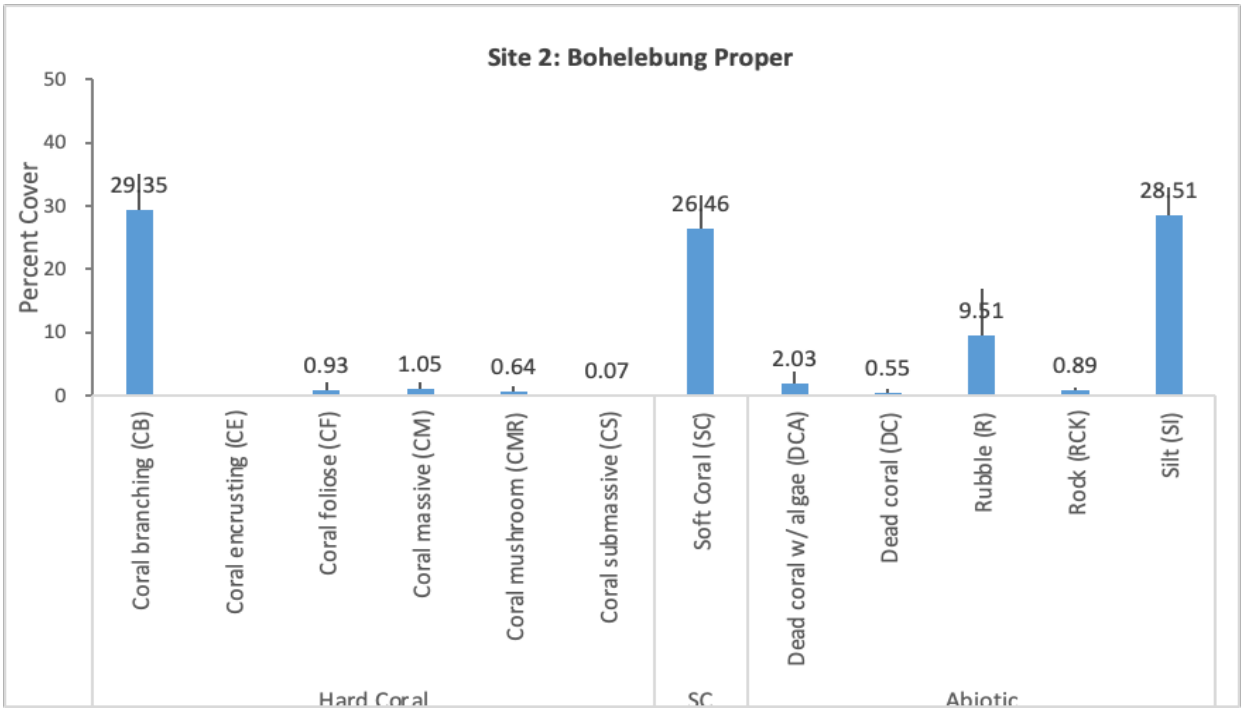
The presence of these marine species indicates a relatively healthy ecosystem, as they help control the algal growth in inter-tidal zones. The mangrove assessment indicates a low species diversity but a relatively even in community structure, suggesting a stable and simplified ecosystem. The moderate disturbance levels observed in the area, mainly due to human activities such as cutting, debris accumulation, and minor dieback, which have affected canopy cover and regeneration patterns. Regeneration is generally healthy in some transects but limited in others, indicating the need for management intervention to enhance resilience. The hard coral cover in both surveyed sites is in fair condition. However, the ecosystem is still vulnerable to destructive fishing practices (e.g., use of compressor and dynamite fishing), sediment runoff from adjacent creeks, coastal

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settlements, and the impacts of climate change. The presence of soft corals in both sampling sites indicates that the overall reef's health is declining. This shift from mainly healthy, hard coral-dominated systems to areas dominated by soft corals and algae suggests a deterioration of the reef ecosystem (Loya et al., 2001). Please see Figure below. The low fish density and biomass observed in Barangay Bohelebung, coupled with the decline in marine habitats, further suggest a significant degradation in the reef ecosystem.





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Benthic composition of Barangay Bohelebung, Tipo-Tipo. The bars represent the mean cover; the error bars represent the standard deviation.

The findings highlight that the current disturbances are significantly affecting the integrity of the marine habitats, and resources, posing risk to a long-term degradation if conservation measures are not implemented.

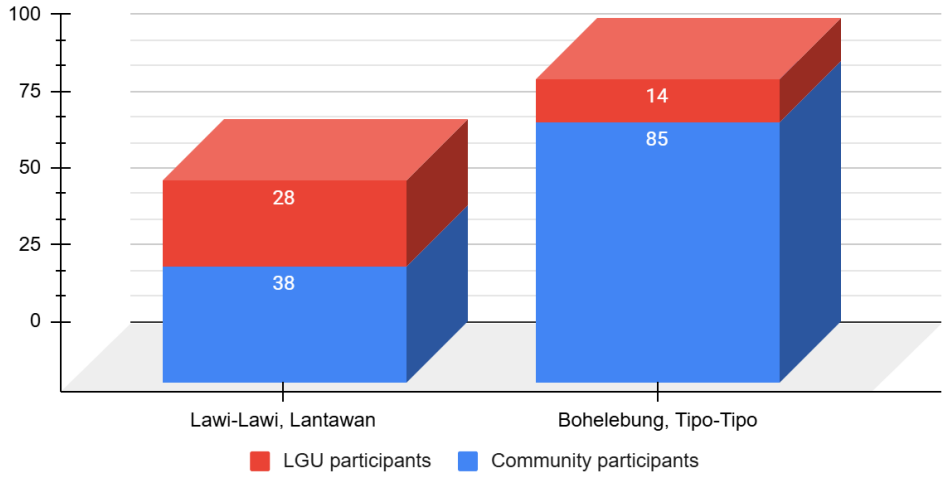
Overall conclusion for the two coastal ecosystems. The low density of seagrass and coral cover, limited mangrove diversity, and the declining fish density and biomass observed in the 2 communities of Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan) and Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo) indicate that these coastal ecosystems are declining due to observed human activities. Other factors, i.e. climate change and pollution parameters, were not gathered in this study.

Although other parameters were not gathered, the declining status of the marine ecosystem needs collaborative human response. Identified responses by the stakeholders (LGU and fisher organizations) include coastal clean-up drives, installation of material recovery facilities, development of sustainable livelihoods, and development of a coastal resource management plan for the community.

Activity 2.2 Capacity building of community and local government stakeholders on coastal resource management and risk proofing of fisheries-based livelihoods.

As of 31 December 2025, a total of 123 community participants (M=113/F=10) were trained from Lawi-Lawi (38: M-35/F-3) and Bohelebung (85: M-78/F-7) on coastal resource management, and in the preparation of Community CRM Plan (see *Fig. 7*).

Fig. 7. Participants during the CRM Training in Lantawan and Tipo-Tipo, 31 December 2025.



In addition, 42 LGU participants participated the training on CRM from Lantawan (28: M-14/F-14) and Tipo-Tipo (14 M-13/F1). They assisted the community beneficiaries in preparing the Community CRM Plan.

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The CRM Plan details the actions that the community plans to implement following the results of the coastal resource assessment. The participants agreed to present the plan to the whole constituent of the community during a barangay assembly that will be conducted in January or February 2026. This is to ensure that other members of the community are informed and consulted on the plan. The CRM plan will become the plan of the community on coastal resource conservation and management and will be integrated into the development plan of the barangay.

In Lower Benembengan (Sumisip), the training is expected to happen during Q1 2026. It was not completed in December 2025 due to conflicting schedules.

Model Lives tapped experts from the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Energy (MENRE), BARMM-Basilan as resource persons. The process to engage an NGO/CSO as service provider for the Project was started in October 2025. The selection process was completed in December but expected to start the contract in January 2026 Model Lives will schedule more training sessions starting Q1 until Q3 2026 with support from partner NGOs/CSOs and BARMM-Basilan line ministries. Model Lives is optimistic that the target of 300 community members (100 per community) will be achieved once these series of training activities are completed.

Activity 2.3 Advisory support provided to local government stakeholders in the formulation and institutionalization of policies on coastal resource management.

- This target is scheduled to be implemented and completed in 2026/Year 2.

Activity 2.4 Implementation of community-level CRM plans.

- This target is scheduled to be implemented and completed in 2026/Year 2.

Indicative Results/Outcomes

During the reporting period, the Project took note of some results or indicative outcomes which were shared by the community stakeholders.

- Community members appreciated the value of involving them in the process of analyzing local conditions and in identifying development solutions.
    - Lawi-Lawi community member: "This is my first time taking part in a meeting like this. This was not conducted in the past."
    - Bohelebung participant: "This training on CRM is very important for community members to understand the value of protecting/preserving the environment, thus taking action. I hope more community members will be involved in the next training, or other upcoming training activities of Model Lives."

- The community in Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan, is buzzing with enthusiasm. Compared to earlier months, beneficiaries are now showing a marked increase in interest and participation in various activities. Residents have taken ownership of the Ice Block Machine project, volunteering to clear the area for the delivery truck and even lending a hand with construction. Their proactive spirit continued during the O&M training, where more community members jumped in to ensure the machine's smooth operation. This surge in

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engagement is a testament to the growing sense of community and cooperation in Lawi-Lawi.

- The Action's efforts are really paying off in Barangay Lawi-Lawi (Lantawan). The community's transformation from being secluded due to clan wars to embracing a sense of belonging and solidarity is a testament to the power of participatory processes.

-
    - In August 2025, the community, led by the Barangay LGU conducted a coastal cleanup following the feedback presented by the consultant on results of CRM assessment. This initiative is a great example of how the community's newfound sense of solidarity is being channeled into positive action.
    - In September 2025, the community planted 1,000 propagules to rehabilitate a portion of their denuded mangrove forest. The initiative is a great start to rehabilitate the mangrove forest. The community's efforts, supported by the BLGU and LGU, show a strong commitment to environmental conservation.

Challenges and Mitigating Measures

The Action encountered several challenges during the reporting period, as outlined in Table 3, which tested its adaptability and resilience. Despite these hurdles, the team remained focused and successfully delivered some of its critical Year 1 targets.

Security concerns posed a significant obstacle, impacting the Action's delivery pace and necessitating a revision of the original implementation timeline. The team proactively addressed these challenges, ensuring that project momentum was maintained and objectives remained within reach. The approved extension provides a welcome opportunity to recalibrate and deliver the remaining targets, ultimately strengthening the project's overall impact.

Table 3. List of Challenges and Mitigating measures, 31 December 2025.

Challenge/Description	How was it mitigated?
Security issues resulting in travel restrictions. • Movement was restricted after the incident in January 2025 in Sumisip[5], and during the synchronized local and national elections in May 2025.	The Action's Project Management Unit (PMU) maintained close ties with key partners, including LGU stakeholders, community contacts, and UNDSS, to stay informed about ground realities and receive critical security advisories. This proactive engagement enabled the PMU to stay ahead of potential challenges, ensuring the Action remained responsive to evolving circumstances and prioritized team safety. The Action recalibrated its work plan to make up for lost time and ensure progress remains on track.

[5] The troop of 32nd IB of Philippine Army's 101st Infantry Brigade was ambushed by lawless elements backed by peace spoiler members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Upper Cabengbeng in Sumisip.

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• The October 2025 BARMM Parliamentary Election posed a challenge when the postponement announcement came late, catching the Action off guard. As a result, major activities had already been suspended for the month, impacting the implementation timeline. Redo/family feud in Tipo-Tipo which resulted in almost a month of no movement to the area.	
• Difficulty recruiting qualified consultants who are willing to travel to Basilan.	The PMU reached out to consultancy firms, organizations, and academic institutions to source experts, and directly engaged individual consultants (ICs) to speed up the process and meet output targets as planned
	A CSO service provider was tapped to implement and monitor the Action's activities on the ground, taking ownership of progress and delivering specialized outputs like CRM policy and Development Plans as needed, going beyond mere supervision and contract stipulations
The current project timeline until June 2026 falls short, and completing the remaining deliverables within this timeframe seems unlikely due to: • Lengthy participatory processes which could last to a minimum of three months vis-à-vis results expectations. This process is necessary to promote ownership and buy-in from the community. • Lengthy process in negotiating livelihood solutions & CRM initiatives. This requires thorough consultation among the community residents, and participation from various sectors (i.e., men, women, youth, etc.).	The Action has successfully secured a 6-month No-Cost Extension (NCE) from the Project Board extending the project timeline until December 2026. A formal proposal is currently being prepared for submission to the EU, formalizing this extension. To maximize impact, the Action is also proposing a strategic budget reallocation, shifting funds from specialist salaries to bolster livelihood support. This savvy move, pending approval, will empower the Action to fund additional livelihood solutions, directly benefiting the communities and amplifying the project's overall impact.

Donor Recognition and Visibility

During the reporting period, UNDP proactively promoted awareness about the initiatives and highlighted the support of the European Union (EU), its primary funding donor, through targeted communication strategies and stakeholder engagements. Key stakeholders and partners were consistently informed about the Project Model Lives objectives, focusing on modeling livelihood solutions in Basilan's coastal communities, and enhancing local capacities in Coastal Resource Management (CRM).

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Listed below are some of the articles about the project that were published in various media outlets:

Title of article/post	Date published	Publisher / Source	Link
BAEP Explores Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture and Market Expansion	February 19, 2025	MAFAR Website	https://mafar.bangsamoro.gov.ph/baep-explores-strategies-for-sustainable-agriculture-and-market-expansion/
LGU Sumisip x UNDP: Empowering Coastal Communities	June 23, 2025	Local Government of Sumisip Website	https://lgusumisip.com/news/njjko4nLU7hVK4uzDpDU
European Union and UNDP Join Forces to Boost Coastal Livelihoods in Basilan through the Model Lives Project	July 1, 2025	UNDP Philippines Website	Project Launch
Basilan's tide of change	July 12, 2025	Daily Tribune	https://tribune.net.ph/2025/07/11/basilans-tide-of-change
EU, UNDP join forces to boost coastal livelihoods in Basilan	July 14, 2025	Manila Times	EU, UNDP join forces to boost coastal livelihoods in Basilan | The Manila Times
UNDP's Model Lives Project: Planning Workshop in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan	July 18, 2025	LGU Tipo-Tipo Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/share/1DDdQJE66v/
European Union, to Strengthen Basilan's Coastal Livelihoods	August 13, 2025	Business Mirror	https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/08/13/european-union-undp-to-strengthen-basilans-coastal-livelihoods/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=european-union-undp-to-strengthen-basilans-coastal-livelihoods

To ensure maximum visibility, the Action prominently displayed the logos of UNDP and the EU in all significant partners' consultations and workshops. The project launch in June 2025 was highlighted through a press release, disseminated via social media after securing donor approval. The Action maintained a rigorous review process for all visibility materials and publications, obtaining prior EU approval before sharing with stakeholders.

Internally, a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) was established, providing project stakeholders with an accessible channel to voice concerns and receive responses regarding project activities. Model Lives consciously shared this platform with key stakeholders during meetings/consultations and training sessions. This is to ensure wider information on the mechanism they can use when sharing feedback or concerns related to the implementation and management of Model Lives.

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Fig. 8. GRM Contacts, Model Lives.

The GRM platform aims to address grievances related to social and environmental impacts of the Model Lives project, with contact details shared with partners and stakeholders for easy communication and feedback *(see Fig. 8)*. There were no feedback or complaints received during the period under review.

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2025 Financial Utilization

As of 31 December 2025, total contributions received amount to USD 887,412.04 against the total agreed all-year budget of USD 1,639,866.08. Cumulative expenditures and legal commitments total USD 576,880.29, reflecting a 67% delivery rate against actual contributions received. The remaining balance of USD 281,978.13 is programmed for ongoing and upcoming activities in line with the project workplan for 2026.

Major expenditures under Output 1 includes procurement of aquaculture equipment (Seaborne Patrol Boat and Ice Block Machine), engagement of CSO partners (KPMFI and IRDT), hiring of consultants: livelihood for three communities and hiring of a CRM Specialist for Lantawan and Tipo-Tipo. For Output 2 expenses mainly the completion of six trainings for community-level CRM discussions and advisory support to local governments for policy formulation and institutionalization.

Table 1: Financial Summary

SUMMARY	
PARTICULARS	**Amount in USD**
A. Total EUD Contributions Received and UNDP Cost Share	$858,858.42
EUD Contributions Received USD 801,170.39	
UNDP Cost Share USD 57,688.03	
B. Total Expenditures as of Dec 2025	$288,246.29
C. Total Legal Commitments	$250,894.17
D. Total Eligible Costs Excluding 7% Indirect Costs	$539,140.46
E. Total Indirect Costs (7%)	$37,739.83
F. Total Eligible Costs	$576,880.29
G. Total Balance (A-F)	$281,978.13
H. Implementation Rate Against Contributions Received (F/A)	**67%**
I. Total Approved Project Budget (All Years)	$1,639,866.08
J. Budget Balance Forecast (I-F)	$1,062,985.79

Table 2: Cumulative Expenditures and Legal Commitments by Category

Per Category	Expenses	Legal Commitments	Total
Output 1: Modeling fisheries-based livelihood solutions that support income diversification	$27,755.06	$175,812.06	$203,567.12
Output 2: Strengthening local capacities for coastal resource management	$40,257.73	$75,082.11	$115,339.84
Program Management	$220,233.50	$0.00	$220,233.50
Sub-Total Eligible Costs	$288,246.29	$250,894.17	$539,140.46
Indirect Costs (7%)	$20,177.24	$17,562.59	$37,739.83
TOTAL Eligible Costs in USD	**$308,423.53**	**$268,456.76**	**$576,880.29**

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The table summarizes the remaining budget allocation by category. The largest balance is under Output 1 (USD 501,551.63), which will finance the scale-up of fisheries-based livelihood interventions, including procurement of bancas, a Bantay Dagat boat, motorized boats for three communities, an ice block machine, Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs/Payaw), and women-focused livelihood support. Under Output 2 (USD 228,381.51), funds will cover completion of remaining trainings, Low Value Grants for three CBOs, and continued Coastal Resource Management (CRM) assessment for Sumisip.

The Program Management balance will support staff costs, monitoring and documentation, asset turnover, final governance activities, and submission of completion report.

Overall, the remaining budget is allocated to ensure full implementation of planned outputs and proper project closure in line with donor requirements.

Table 3: Budget Balance and 2026 Allocation by Category

Per Category	Total Budget All Years	Total Expenditures and Legal Commitments	Balance (2026 AWP)
Output 1: Modeling fisheries-based livelihood solutions that support income diversification	$705,118.75	$203,567.12	$501,551.63
Output 2: Strengthening local capacities for coastal resource management	$343,721.35	$115,339.84	$228,381.51
Program Management	$483,745.02	$220,233.50	$263,511.52
Indirect Costs (7%)	$107,280.96	$37,739.83	$69,541.13
TOTAL	**$1,639,866.08**	**$576,880.29**	**$1,062,985.79**

Table 4: 2026 Financial Projections

Per Category	2026 AWP
Output 1: Modeling fisheries-based livelihood solutions that support income diversification	$501,551.63
Output 2: Strengthening local capacities for coastal resource management	$228,381.51
Program Management	$263,511.52
Indirect Costs (7%)	$69,541.13
TOTAL	**$1,062,985.79**

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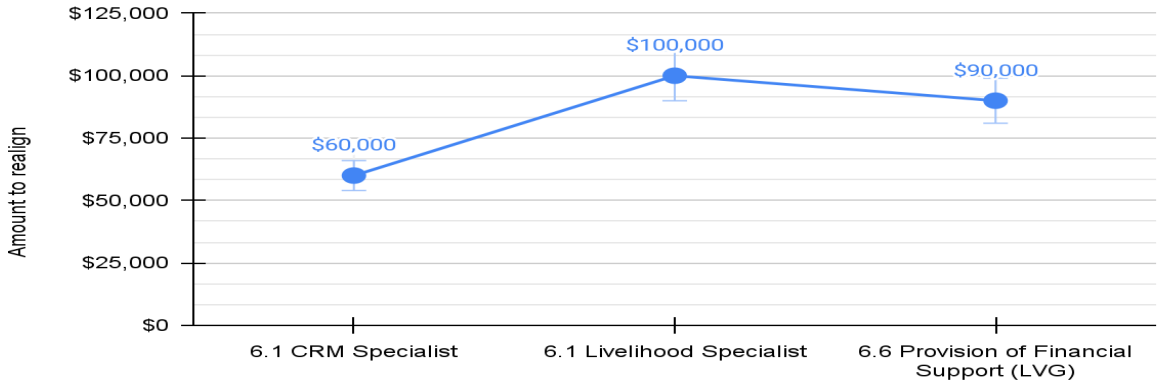
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No-Cost Extension (NCE)

During its November 2025 meeting, the Project Board unanimously decided to extend the Project's timeline to 31 December 2026, six months beyond the original June 2026 end-date. This extension accounted for delays caused by the peace and security concerns in Basilan as well as the national and local elections, which pushed the project launch to late June 2025, almost six months behind schedule.

With the 6-month NCE approval, the Action also secured Project Board approval for the budget realignment: i.e., consultant's salaries, and a portion of the Low-Value Grant (LVG) budget lines were transferred to boost livelihood support *(see Fig. 9)*. The Project Board approved adding $250,000 to the $264,000 allocation for budget line 3.3.1 Provision of Livelihood Assets bringing the total to $514,000. This amount will cover the prioritized development needs of the 3 communities.

Fig. 9. Budget Line and Amount to Realign for Livelihood support.



Model Lives has strategically optimized its budget by engaging CSOs in each community to implement CRM and livelihood targets, saving on Individual Consultant (IC) salaries. These savings were reallocated to boost the 3.3.1 Provision of Livelihood Assets budget, enabling more livelihood solutions in the 3 communities.

Additionally, the Project Team halved the 6.6 Provision of Financial Support (LVG) allocation due to the limited absorptive capacity of newly organized community-based organizations. A total of $90,000 was redirected to the budget line on 3.3.1 Provision of Livelihood Assets.

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The Way Forward (Year 2 Deliverables)

Fig. 10. Total Forecast for 2026.

Per Category	2026 AWP
Output 1: Modeling fisheries-based livelihood solutions that support income diversification	$501,551.63
Output 2: Strengthening local capacities for coastal resource management	$228,381.51
Program Management	$263,511.52
Indirect Costs (7%)	$69,541.13
TOTAL	**$1,062,985.79**

The approved six-month no-cost extension provides the Project Model Lives with an opportunity to recalibrate its targets and ensure the successful achievement of all targets by December 2026. With only around 34% of the total project cost of $1,639,866 spent, Model Lives aims to disburse a little over $1 million during 2026, Year 2 allocated across cost categories *(see Fig. 10)*. This strategic realignment will enable Model Lives to optimize resource allocation and meet its objectives effectively.

During its Year 2 implementation, Model Lives is poised to deliver key targets, as outlined in ANNEX II. The focus will on the following:

- Completing crucial social preparation and organizing activities including the formation and registration of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that will drive project sustainability.
- Identify, validate, and complete the implementation of livelihood solutions and CRM initiatives tailored to community needs.
- To ensure effective protection and conservation of critical fisheries-based resources, capacitation of beneficiaries and stakeholders on CRM and livelihood solutions will be prioritized, promoting long-term sustainability of completed initiatives.
- Additionally, the Action will spearhead the implementation of Community CRM initiatives, fostering community-led conservation efforts. These targeted interventions will bolster community resilience and enhance the overall impact of the project.

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Annexes

I. Model Lives' 2026 Work Plan

For the 1st half of 2026, Model Lives project will conduct the following activities: (a) Identification and Finalization of livelihood solutions in Lower Benembengan, Bohelebung and Lawi-Lawi for the women's group, (b) Formation and formulation of the CBL of fisherfolks in the three communities, (c) Registration of the formed fisherfolk association, (d) Finalization of the livelihood support for women, (e) Continue consultation with the line ministries and local government units, (f) preparation, conduct and implementation of the of the identified training needs assessment with the three communities, (g) finalization of procurement for the identified livelihood solution for the three communities, (h) PCRA in Lower Benembengan and development of the community level CRM plans and policies for Lower Benemebngan, (i) Roll out and implementation of the projects low value grants.

The 2nd half of 2026 , the No-Cost Extension period, Model Lives will continue implementing the following: (a) procurement of the identified livelihood solutions, (b) institutionalization of the CRM plans identified by the community, (c) registration of the CBOs, (d) closing and reporting of the Low Value Grants, (e) after action review, and (f) project board meeting. The Gantt chart for 2026 is shown below.

Activity	Year 2						No-Cost Extension Period					
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Output 1. Modeling fisheries-based livelihood solutions that support income diversification.												
Activity 1.1 Social preparation and organizing												
Project Launching and Inception workshop												
Identification/finalization of proposed livelihood solutions												
Formation of CBOs												
Formulation of Constitution and By-Laws (CBL)												
Processing of CBO registration												
Activity 1.2 Conduct of gender-responsive livelihood mapping and community-level value chain analysis of the fisheries sector.												
Finalization of Livelihood support for women												
Activity 1.3 Identification and community validation of fisheries-based livelihood solutions.												
Consultation with the LGU, line ministries and community residents												
Detailing the proposed livelihood solutions												
Activity 1.4 Capacity building supports CBOs to implement identified fisheries-based livelihood solutions.												
Conduct of training needs assessment												
Preparation of training plan/modules												
Actual conduct of training												
Training evaluation												
Activity 1.5 Provision of fisheries-based livelihood assets to implement fisheries-based livelihood solutions.												
Finalization of specifications												

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Procurement												
Actual implementation												
Monitoring and evaluation												
Output 2. Strengthening local capacities for coastal resource management.												
Activity 2.1 Assessment on CRM, development of CRM situationer and Community-level CRM Plans.												
Engagement of local consultant												
Conduct of CRM assessment												
Feedbacking of results to stakeholders												
Preparation of CRM situationer/report												
Preparation of Community-level CRM Plan												
Activity 2.2 Capacity building of community and local government stakeholders on CRM.												
Conduct of training needs assessment												
Development of training plan/module												
Actual conduct of training												
Training evaluation												
Activity 2.3 Advisory support to local government stakeholders in the formulation and institutionalization of policies on CRM.												
Review the CRM assessment results and drafting of enabling policy/s												
Community consultation on the draft policy												
Lobby to LGU on proposed legislation												
Enforcement of CRM policy/legislation												
Activity 2.4 Implementation of Community-level CRM plans.												
Development of Community CRM Plans												
Implementation of Community CRM Plans												
Implementation of Low-Value Grant (LVG)												
Inauguration and handover												
Project Closure Activities												
Lessons learning/after-action review												
Final reporting												
Project Board meeting												

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II. Activity Photos



Image 1: Project Launching of Model Lives with Municipal LGUs of Lantawan, Sumisip, and Tipo-Tipo. Also in the photo are the fisherfolks of Lower Benembengan (Sumisip), Bohelebung (Tipo-Tipo) and Lai-Lawi (Lantawan)



Image 2: Consultation meeting with the Mayor Nasser Abubakar and the Heads of Offfices

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Image 3: Consultation and Livelihood Solution Validation in Barangay Lawi-Lawi, with MLGUs and Fisherfolks of Lawi-Lawi



Image 4: Fisherfolks and Municipal Agriculture Officers of Barangay Bohelebung, Tipo-Tipo on the Consultation and Validation their Livelihood Solution

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Image 5: Seagrass Survey with fisherfolks of Barangay Lawi-Lawi on the conduct of Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment



Image 6: Orientation on Mangrove assessment with fisherfolks of Barangay Lawi-Lawi, Lantawan

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Image 7: Participatory Mapping with the fisherfolks of Barangay Bohelebung during the conduct of Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment



Image 8: Gender Mapping and Analysis with the Women's Group

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Image 9: Gender Mapping and Assessment in Brgy. Bohelebung with the women's Group



Image 10: Feedbacking session in Kasinahan Hotel with the MLGUs of Lantawan, Sumisip, and Tipo-Tipo. Also, in attendance were the Line Ministries (MFAR, MTIT, and MENRE) and the fisherfolks (including women and youth) of the three coastal communities.

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Image 11: Planning session during the feedbacking session of the Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment



Image 12: Mangrove assessment with the fisherfolks of Brgy. Bohelebung during the conduct of Participatory Coastal Resource Assessment

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Image 13: Seaborne Patrol Boat with members of Kasalamatan Agri-Fisheries Association