

PRESS RELEASE



21 Filipino Social Enterprises Receive \$215,000 Support for COVID-19 Innovations

Metro Manila, Philippines, August 2020 – In response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on social enterprises, the Innovation for Social Impact Partnership (ISIP) has launched the RISE UP initiative. The initiative supports the recovery of local social enterprises and promotes social entrepreneurship as a way to rebuild economies and communities, using innovative solutions.

RISE UP provides support to social enterprises through an [Online Resource Hub](#), [Studies and Knowledge Products related to COVID-19 and its impacts](#), [Public Learning Sessions](#), and the [Innovative Solutions Grant Facility](#).

ISIP is an Australian Government-funded program, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and PhilDev Foundation. It supports promising innovative Philippine social enterprises to contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The partnership supports 21 social enterprises with [Innovative Solutions Grants](#) to keep their business afloat and expand their social impact during these trying times. This includes improving access to markets, talent, capital, and guidance. The project is also providing legal and financial management and communications support to strengthen the social enterprises.

“Filipino social enterprises are creating innovations that will not only help address the pandemic but also benefit their communities. The Australian government is committed to supporting these promising initiatives so that they may turn into viable solutions to the most pressing problem the world is facing today,” said Australian Ambassador to the Philippines, Steven J. Robinson AO.

“Micro, small and medium sized enterprises across the country are reeling from the devastating impact of COVID-19. There is an urgent and critical need to help enterprises get back on their feet and in doing so help them to not only do well, but do good. Through ISIP’s Innovative Solutions Grant Facility, we empower social enterprises to continue creating impact in innovative ways despite the challenges they face because of the pandemic,” added Titon Mitra, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippines.

The social enterprises who will receive support include FHMoms, Hiraya Water, PeoplePods, Taxumo, Bambuhay, Cleaning Lady, Coffee for Peace, FAME, MAD Travel, Magwayen, UPROOT, and Virtualahan. AccessiWheels, Alaga Health, AtoANI, Candid Clothing, CawilAI, Farmvocacy, Lakkawayan Enterprise, Meaningful Travels PH, and Plantsville Health.

“Through innovation we believe that we can create sustainable change in the country. Now, more than ever, we need innovations that help businesses adapt to the new normal and at the

same time benefit communities. Supporting these businesses means helping sustain the impact they are creating,” said Dr. Paco Sandejas, Chairman of PhilDev.

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About UNDP

UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet.

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About Phildev

PhilDev is a non-profit organization that aims to eradicate poverty in the Philippines. The organization believes this can be achieved by focusing on education, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

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