Press release
For immediate release
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EU-GOJUST Grants Facility: EU, UNOPS, and IDLO Partner to Empower Local Grantees Across the Philippines

CLARK, PAMPANGA, PHILIPPINES — The EU-GOJUST Programme convened a four-day Training on Effective Project Management for Access to Justice in Clark, Pampanga, enriching the capacities of civil society organizations and law schools to expand justice services across marginalized and vulnerable communities.

UNOPS hosted the training as manager of the EU-GOJUST Grants Facility, working alongside its technical partner, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). With funding from the European Union, the initiative gathered 26 implementing partners overseeing 18 grassroots projects across the Philippines. Together, partners tackled operational priorities, including project delivery, financial stewardship, and safeguarding standards.

Our Partners for Change: The Grantees

The EU-GOJUST Grants Facility supports a broad network of civil society organizations (CSOs), alternative law groups, and academic institutions working to advance legal empowerment, human rights, and access to justice. The two call for proposal windows concluded with the following grantees:

- Ateneo de Naga College of Law - Ignatian Legal Apostolate Office (AdNU COL ILAO)
- Ateneo de Zamboanga University Rosendo U. Castillo, Jr. College of Law
- Balay Alternative Legal Advocates for Development in Mindanao (BALAOD Mindanaw)
- Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines (CMA) and Lawyers Beyond Borders (LBB) Philippines
- Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse (CPTCSA) and Caritas Novaliches – Pastoral Care for Children and Vulnerable Adults (PCCVA)
- Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits (ECOWEB)

- Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS) with the Medical Action Group (MAG) and Philippine Jesuit Prison Service (PJPS) Foundation
- Kaisahan Tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan (KAISAHAN), Negrosanon Young Leaders Institute (NYLI), and Environmental Legal Aid Center (ELAC)
- Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC)
- MAG
- Philippine Children's Ministries Network (PCMN)
- PROCESS Foundation Panay
- Saint Columban College (SCC)
- Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panlegal (SALIGAN)
- Tanggol Kalikasan (TK)
- Tanim Kalikasan (TNKI)
- University of Southeastern Philippines (USeP) and Ateneo de Davao University (AdDU)
- Upholding Life And Nature (ULAN) and Romblon Diocesan Social Action Center (RDSAC)

Enhancing Operational Governance and Safeguards

Across the four-day program, grantee representatives participated in interactive sessions covering core operational disciplines. In Results-Based Management (RBM) and reporting, participants learned to align project targets directly with measurable community outcomes using the UNOPS Grant+ – "a management system developed by UNOPS to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in how grant support is managed. It aims to streamline the entire grant support lifecycle, making processes more robust, transparent, and user-friendly for both UNOPS personnel and implementing partners (IPs)."

The training also prioritized financial stewardship, equipping partner organizations with standards for transparent budget execution and full financial compliance across the entire project lifecycle. Sessions also featured discussions on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) protocols, Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI), social and behavior change communication, and survivor-centered ethics, as they apply to grassroots justice interventions. Participants were introduced to knowledge management practices to standardize documentation and build sustainable learning habits that preserve institutional memory. Finally, a session on risk management was held in order to build

robust risk-monitoring frameworks that should help implementing partners maintain project momentum through changing field conditions.

Sustaining Long-Term Impact Through Local Leadership

As host of the EU-GOJUST Grants Facility, UNOPS actively contributes in strengthening the technical and operational foundations of local justice actors. Working alongside IDLO and with support from the European Union, UNOPS looks forward to the work of its civil society partners and law schools in bringing legal education and empowerment, building local justice actors' capacities, and augmenting service delivery for women and children, IPs, and other marginalized communities across the Philippines.

Notes to the editors:

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About UNOPS
UNOPS offers practical solutions across peace and security, humanitarian and development operations. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners, such as the European Union and its Member States, to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement across the world. Read more: www.unops.org.

About EU-GOJUST
The European Union's Governance in Justice (EU-GOJUST) Programme supports government and non-government partners in reforming policy and practice to make justice services delivery responsive, accessible and people-centered.

Pictures of the event:



Caption: *EU-GOJUST Grantees engage in interactive sessions during the Training on Effective Project Management for Access to Justice.*

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Caption: *Returning grantee Atty. Arlene Lorejo-Cosape, Program Manager for the University of Southeastern Philippines' Operation Legal Frontier Project, shared key insights from her team's journey during the previous EU-GOJUST cycle. Joining her in the discussion was Mr. Anthony Marzan, Executive Director of KAISAHAN (Kaisahan Tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Repormang Pansakahan), also a returning grantee.*

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Caption: *The EU-GOJUST team, joined by the representatives from this project cycle's new roster of grantees.*

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