



## **Promoting Economic Empowerment and Participation of Women in the province of Valverde**

The project, "Promoting Economic Empowerment and participation of women in the province of Valverde" aims at improving the access and opportunities of women for sustainable local enterprises, and their participation in local decision making whereas promoting gender equality in local processes and plans.

It is implemented by UNDP through the Local Economic Development Agency of Valverde (ADELVA) with the support of Fundación Popular, a private sector foundation of the largest bank in the country, together with the local governments of the three municipalities of Mao, Esperanza, and Laguna Salada.

This initiative seeks to identify and recognize women as key agents in the economic and social development of the territory by enhancing their capacities for business making, citizen participation and leadership, while promoting intersectoral dialogues and establishing agreements and alliances between women's groups and other associative groups led by men.

Through the Local Economic Development Agency we can ensure a better integration of women to local economy and participation in decision making because of the principles they promote of partnership, cohesion, productive linkages and integration-parting from the value of territorial potential.

This pilot initiative will serve to lay the groundwork for similar projects in other regions of the country and contribute in addressing and compliance with the new Global Agenda 2030 recognizing contributions of women and the need to establish gender equality across the board to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Project activities**

- Raising awareness of women's important role in inclusive sustainable growth of the local level
- Providing education and training to women to identify entrepreneurship opportunities, ICT skills, business management, gender agenda issues



- Identifying market niches for women and establishing value chains
- Promoting involvement of local authorities, private sector and social actors in the improvement of women's living conditions and targeting issues affecting women like maternal mortality, violence, and teen pregnancy
- Advocating for the implementation of gender sensitive local planning and budgeting that takes into consideration the differentiated needs of women and men.
- A diagnosis and mapping of women's economic empowerment situation in the province of Valverde.
- Raising awareness about processes and methodologies aimed to increase women's economic autonomy from the existing opportunities within the territory.
- Promoting the transformation of cultural mindsets and new ways to care for situations such as; climate change, risk management, economic crises, and issues that specially affect women like maternal mortality, violence, and teen pregnancy.
- Strengthening local capacities, especially women's, to achieve a better understanding of the processes in business development and entrepreneurship, and the identification of innovative opportunities.
- A catalog of entrepreneurship to increase visibility of opportunities for sustainable production niches at the provincial level.
- Designing tools to facilitate the process of inserting a gender equality approach and women's effective participation in local policy and programs.
- Accompanying organized women's groups with common interests to potentiate their insertion in the territory's value chains.
- Establishing dialogues and agreements to insert a gender equality approach in the structures of local government and the development policies.

#### Achievements so far

- ✓ Gender situation mapping of the Province of Valverde
- ✓ More than 10 projects promoted by ADELVA



- ✓ 30 local organizations sensitized on gender equality and women economic autonomy and LED
- ✓ Agreements between productive community groups and private sector and cooperative financing entities
- ✓ A local radio announcement reaching the three municipalities of the province inviting women to take part of the project's activities.
- ✓ 15 meetings of gender equality awareness, with 473 people sensitized.
- ✓ Workshops in gender equality and local development for small and medium enterprises with more than 150 participants, innovation and effective marketing with 43 attendees, and costs and profitable businesses with 28 participants.