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## Addressing the Economic Impacts of COVID-19: A Gender-Based Training Needs Assessment and Intervention in Barangay Acmac, Iligan City

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to evaluate the gender-based training needs of men and women impacted by COVID-19 in Barangay Acmac, Iligan City. Using Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA), the research allowed 30 men and 30 women to identify their economic challenges and propose solutions. Key findings include: before the pandemic, 78% of respondents were employed full-time, with 80% of men and 76% of women in such roles. Post-pandemic, many transitioned to part-time work, with 43% now working part-time (30% of men and 56% of women). Prior to COVID-19, 73% relied on formal paid work as their main income source. Post-pandemic, income sources diversified, with some retaining formal work (19% of men and 30% of women) and others turning to trading (9%), service businesses (8%), and technical work (6%). A substantial 96% of respondents (29 men and 29 women) reported changes in income sources since March 2020. In addition, men preferred welding training, while women prioritized cookery training. Additional male interests included masonry, automotive servicing, driving, and electrical work, while women showed interest in Food and Beverage Services NC II certification. The study highlights the need for targeted livelihood training to address the economic challenges caused by COVID-19.

### KEYWORDS

Gender-based Training Needs Assessment, COVID-19 Impact, Livelihood Training, Participatory Needs Assessment, Community Intervention

## **INTRODUCTION**

Brgy. Acmac, located in Iligan City, is a coastal barangay known for its diverse population and economic activities, including small-scale agriculture, fishing, and informal trading. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, residents benefitted from stable employment in the industrial sector and engaged in various livelihoods, with women often involved in retail and handicrafts. The barangay has a demographic profile of approximately 35% aged 0-14, 55% aged 15-64, and 10% aged 65 and above.

The pandemic significantly disrupted these livelihoods, leading to job losses and increased reliance on subsistence farming. Many residents shifted from multiple income sources to a single income stream, highlighting the need for interventions to improve economic resilience.

This research aims to identify the gender-based economic needs of Brgy. Acmac residents affected by the pandemic and design targeted training programs to address these vulnerabilities. By analyzing existing support mechanisms and collaborating with stakeholders, the study seeks to develop practical training packages that enhance income opportunities and foster community resilience. Ultimately, the goal is to strengthen economic stability by providing gender-sensitive training that improves livelihoods in Brgy. Acmac.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Design**

The research aimed to assess the gender-based training needs of participants in Acmac, Iligan City, using a Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA). This approach empowered individuals affected by COVID-19 to express their economic challenges and suggest solutions, facilitating the identification of effective interventions.

### **Participants**

Key stakeholders and beneficiaries were selected, including BLGU officials, Purok presidents, fisherfolk, and women, providing valuable insights into community needs. Thirty beneficiaries were chosen based on their interest in livelihood training and economic impact during the pandemic.

### **Data Gathering Procedure**

The PNA employed in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and community meetings, with results shared in two small community meetings due to health protocols.

### Analysis

Data from the PNA underwent descriptive analysis, resulting in detailed tables.

### Ethical Considerations

Ethical guidelines were strictly followed, including obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality through anonymization, and adhering to MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology's Institutional Review Board standards.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Profile of Barangay Acmac

Barangay Acmac, with a population of 6,471 as of the 2015 Census, has 63.93% of its residents aged 15-64 classified as economically active, highlighting a substantial potential labor force for targeted training programs. Following the pandemic, income sources have diversified, with many residents moving from formal employment to part-time and varied income-generating activities, demonstrating the community's resilience and adaptability when equipped with the right skills and resources.

**Table 1.** Acmac Population by Age Group, 2015

Age group	Population (2015)	Age group percentage
Under 1	137	2.12%
1 to 4	569	8.79%
5 to 9	686	10.60%
10 to 14	649	10.03%
15 to 19	621	9.60%
20 to 24	569	8.79%
25 to 29	542	8.38%
30 to 34	505	7.80%
35 to 39	448	6.92%
40 to 44	381	5.89%
45 to 49	336	5.19%
50 to 54	289	4.47%
55 to 59	240	3.71%
60 to 64	206	3.18%
65 to 69	144	2.23%
70 to 74	78	1.21%
75 to 79	33	0.51%
80 and over	38	0.59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,471</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Source: PSA 2015

From 1995 to 2015, Acmac's population grew significantly, increasing by 2,006 individuals. The 2015 census showed a 2.16% growth rate, adding 687 residents since 2010, reflecting a continued upward trend.

**Table 2.** Population Growth of Acmac 1990-2015

Census date	Population	Growth rate
1990 May 1	-	-
1995 Sep 1	4, 465	-
2000 May 1	5, 042	2.64%
2007 Aug 1	5, 355	0.83%
2010 May 1	5, 784	2.84%
2015 Aug 1	6, 471	2.16%

Source: PSA 2015

In tandem with population changes, there have been fluctuations in the barangay's income levels. In 2018, Acmac reported a total income of P2,621,842.35, which experienced a slight decrease to P2,461,500.00 in 2019. Below is a summary detailing the sources of income within the barangay.

**Table 3.** Income of Acmac 2018-2019

Source of income	2018	2019
Beginning balance	216, 323.95	
1. Property Taxes		
a. Real Property Tax	80, 576.30	80, 000.00
b. Real Property Tax – Common Fund	350, 000.00	350, 000.00
2. Other Taxes		
a. Community Tax	29, 476.33	30, 000.00
b. Subsidy from LGU to Barangay without IRA	2, 000, 000.00	2, 000, 000.00
3. Other Income		
a. Clearance and Certification Fees	1, 240.00	1, 200.00
b. Interest Income	275.77	300.00
Total Income	2, 461, 568.40	2, 461, 500.00
Total Available Income	2, 677, 892.35	2, 461, 500.00
Less Continuing Appropriation	55, 700.00	
Net Income	2, 621, 842.35	2, 461, 500.00

Source: Barangay Report 2019

### Socio-Demographic Profile of Respondents

A majority of respondents (81.67%) have lived in Acmac for over ten years—76.67% of males and 86.67% of females. This long-term residency indicates strong local awareness, which can enhance engagement and participation in community-based programs.

**Table 4.** Length of Residency

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
6-10 years	7	23.33	3	10.00	10	16.67
More than 10 years	23	76.67	26	86.67	49	81.67
No Answer	0	0.00	1	3.33	1	1.67
TOTAL	30	100.00	30	100.00	60	100

Table 5 shows the age distribution of respondents. Among males, the largest group is 29-33 years (23.33%), while females are concentrated in the 39-43 years group (26.67%). The age distribution is balanced, with a predominance in their thirties and early forties. This diversity suggests varied needs and perspectives across different life stages in the surveyed population.

**Table 5.** Age of Respondents

AGE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
18-22	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67
23-28	2	6.67	5	16.67	7	11.67
29-33	7	23.33	7	23.33	14	23.33
34-38	3	10	2	6.67	5	8.33
39-43	6	20	8	26.67	13	21.67
44-48	6	20	3	10	9	15
49-52	2	6.67	0	0	2	3.33
53 above	3	10	4	13.33	7	11.67
TOTAL	30	100	30	100	60	100

A significant number of respondents are household heads: 90% of males and 60% of females. While traditionally males head households in the Philippines (PSA, 2009), the notable proportion of female-headed households in Acmac suggests shifting gender roles, emphasizing the need to address their specific needs in programs.

**Table 6.** As Head of the Household

HEAD OF FAMILY	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Yes	27	90	18	60	45	75
No	3	10	12	40	15	25
TOTAL	30	100	30	100	60	100

Most respondents are married, with 70% of females and 67% of males, while 17% of males are cohabiting and 15% of females are single. The high marriage rate suggests that family-oriented programs may be well-received, reflecting the community's emphasis on family stability (Gomez & Rapisura, 2020).

**Table 7.** Civil Status

CIVIL STATUS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Single	4	13.33	5	16.67	9	15.0
Married	20	66.67	22	73.33	42	70.0
Living Together	5	16.67	2	6.67	7	11.66
Widowed	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67
No Answer	1	3.33	0	0	1	1.67
TOTAL	30	100	30	100	60	100

Among married respondents, 32% have at least two children, with family sizes ranging from one to eight. Males mostly have two children, while females have two (36%) or one (23%). This highlights the importance of support that balances work and family life (UNICEF, 2018).

**Table 8.** No. of Children for Married Respondents

IF MARRIED, NO. OF CHILDREN	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
1	2	9.09	5	22.73	7	15.91
2	6	27.27	8	36.36	14	31.82
3	4	18.18	2	9.09	6	13.64
4	3	13.64	4	18.18	7	15.91
5	2	9.09	1	4.55	3	6.82
6	2	9.09	0	0.00	2	4.55
7	1	4.55	2	9.09	3	6.82
8	2	9.09	0	22.73	2	4.55
TOTAL	22	100.00	22	100	44	100

In terms of the number of minors (children below 18 years old) living with respondents, 33% have no minors, followed by 22% with one to two minors.

**Table 9.** Number of Minors

NO. OF MINORS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
0	7	23.33	13	43.33	20	33.33
1	6	20.00	7	23.33	13	21.67
2	7	23.33	6	20.00	13	21.67
3	5	16.67	2	6.67	7	11.67
4	2	6.67	1	3.33	3	5
5	2	6.67	0	0.00	2	3.33
6	1	3.33	0	0.00	1	1.67
7	0	0.00	1	3.33	1	1.67
TOTAL	30	100.00	30	100.00	60	100

Most respondents (82%) do not have senior family members living with them, while 12% have two and 6% have one. Given that 8% of the Philippine population was elderly in 2019, this low presence of elderly members in Acmac may shift the focus toward youth and working-age adult interventions (PSA, 2019).



**Table 10.** Household members 60 years old and above

NO. OF 60 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
0	26	86.67	23	76.67	49	81.67
1	1	3.33	3	10.00	4	6.67
2	3	10.00	4	13.33	7	11.67
TOTAL	30	100.00	30	100.00	60	100

Religiously, 93% of respondents are Roman Catholic, with all males identifying as such and 86% of females. This religious homogeneity may aid in designing culturally sensitive programs that align with community values and norms (Smith, 2008).

**Table 11.** Religion of the Respondents

RELIGION	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Roman Catholic	30	100	26	86.67	56	93.33
Muslim	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67
Born Again	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67
Iglesia ni Cristo	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67
UCCP	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67
TOTAL	30	100	30	100	60	100

In terms of ethnic background, 98% of respondents are Bisaya, with just one Maranao respondent. This uniformity in ethnicity indicates that language and cultural practices are consistent, which can facilitate the implementation of community programs (Nolasco, 2008).

**Table 12.** Ethnic Affiliation

ETHNIC AFFILIATION	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Bisaya	30	100.00	29	96.67	59	98.33
Maranao	0	0.00	1	3.33	1	1.67
TOTAL	30	100.00	30	100.00	60	100

Most respondents (51%) have a nuclear type of household, followed by 20% with extended/joint families.

**Table 13.** Household type

HOUSEHOLD TYPE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Extended/Joint	6	20.00	6	20.00	12	20
Nuclear	24	80.00	21	70.00	45	75
Rent	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67
DIDN'T ANSWER	0	0	2	6.67	2	3.33
TOTAL	30	100.00	30	100.00	60	100

Household sizes predominantly range from three to five members (51%), while 35% have six to ten members. This variation in household dynamics suggests that programs should be adaptable to different family structures for effectiveness (Glick, Ruf, & White, 2006).

**Table 14.** Household Size

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
2 members	1	3.33	1	3.33	2	3.33
3-5 members	16	53.33	15	50.00	31	51.67
6-10 members	9	30.00	12	40.00	21	35
More than 10 members	4	13.33	2	6.67	6	10
TOTAL	30	100.00	30	100.00	60	100

In terms of education, 28% of respondents have attended high school, and 23% are high school graduates. Notably, 33% of female respondents attended some college, compared to only 13% of males who completed college. This suggests that training programs should focus on women, who appear more receptive to educational opportunities (World Bank, 2020).

**Table 15.** Educational Attainment of the Respondents

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Elementary Level	3	10.00	2	6.67	5	8.33
Elementary Graduate	3	10.00	0	0	3	5
High school Level	5	16.67	4	13.33	9	15
High school Graduate	7	23.33	10	33.33	17	28.33
College Level	4	13.33	10	33.33	14	23.33
College Graduate	2	6.67	4	13.33	6	10
Vocational	6	20.00	0	0.00	6	10
TOTAL	30	100.00	30	100.00	60	100

Ninety percent of respondents own their homes, with 68.33% living on lots for free with the owner's consent. Housing materials vary, with 48% using semi-concrete. The primary water source is shallow well/hand pump (43%), highlighting challenges in accessing safe drinking water and aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Ritchie et al., 2018).

**Table 16.** Housing Accommodation of the Respondents

STATUS OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Owned	28	93.33	26	86.67	54	90
Rented	0	0	3	10	3	5
Occupied but not owned/rented	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67
Others ( <i>living with in-laws, boarding</i> )	2	6.67	0	0	2	3.33
TOTAL	30	100.00	30	100.00	60	100

Before the pandemic, 78% of respondents were full-time employed, with few in part-time or self-employment. Post-pandemic, part-time employment rose to 43%, reflecting COVID-19's economic impact and the need for flexible support programs (ILO, 2021).

**Table 17.** Employment Status of the Respondents

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Before						After					
	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
Employed - full time	24	80	23	76.67	47	78.33	8	26.67	1	3.33	9	15
Employed - part time	2	6.67	1	3.33	3	5	9	30	17	56.67	26	43.33
Self-employed	4	13.33	6	20	10	16.67	6	20	5	16.67	11	18.33
Retired/Resigned							1	3.33	2	6.67	3	5
End of Contract							0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67
Unable to Work, specify: (part-time, on-call, resigned, stopped)							6	20	4	13.33	10	16.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	100	30	100	60	100	30	100	30	100	60	100

Table 18 shows a significant shift in income sources due to the pandemic. Before COVID-19, 65% of respondents had formal jobs. Post-pandemic, reliance on formal employment dropped sharply, with males moving to temporary work (30%) and small businesses (18%), while females maintained 25% in small businesses despite a decline in formal jobs. Additionally, 12% reported no income, highlighting the pandemic's severe economic impact and the need for targeted recovery measures like entrepreneurship support and job training programs (World Bank, 2020).

**Table 18.** Primary Source of Income

PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME	Before						After					
	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
Now we had no sources of income							3	9.09	5	16.13	8	12.50
Own small business/Income Generating Activity	3	8.82	2	6.67	5	7.81	6	18.18	8	25.81	14	21.88
Informal work of one or more household members	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.03	0	0	1	1.56

(selling in the street/vending)												
Temporary / wage work	5	11.76	4	13.33	9	14.06	10	30.30	3	9.68	13	20.31
Formal paid work of one or more household members(employee) in private sector	23	61.76	19	63.33	42	65.63	5	15.15	8	25.81	13	20.31
Formal paid work of one or more household members (employee) in public sector	2	5.88	5	16.67	7	10.94	3	9.09	4	12.90	7	10.94
Pension	1	2.94	0	0	1	1.56	1	3.03	1	3.23	2	3.13
Others (fishing)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6.06	0	0	2	3.13
n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6.06	2	6.45	4	6.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1000</b>

Before the pandemic, 56% of respondents relied on one income source, mainly formal employment, while 19% diversified into small businesses. Post-pandemic, 57.38% depend solely on their primary income, indicating increased vulnerability (61% of males and 63% of females). Small business ownership fell to 16%, and those without secondary income sources rose slightly from 8.06% to 8.20%. These trends emphasize the need for targeted support to diversify income and improve economic resilience (World Bank, 2021).

**Table 19.** Secondary Source of Income

WHICH ARE OTHER SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD CURRENTLY HAVE?	Before						After					
	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
We had no other sources of income	17	53.13	18	60	35	56.45	16	51.61	19	63.33	35	57.38
Own small business/Income Generating Activity	8	25	4	13.33	12	19.35	7	22.58	3	10	10	16.39
Temporary / wage work	1	3.13	1	3.33	2	3.23	2	6.45	0	0	0	0
Formal paid work of one or more household members (employee) in private sector	1	3.13	1	3.33	2	3.23	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.64
Formal paid work of one or more household members (employee) in public sector	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.61	0	0	2	6.67	2	3.28
Remittances obtained from abroad	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.61	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.64

Pension	1	3.13	2	6.67	3	4.84	2	6.45	2	6.67	4	6.56
Unemployment benefit or other subsidies	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3.23		0	1	1.64
No Secondary Income	3	9.38	2	6.67	5	8.06	3	9.68	2	6.67	5	8.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	32	100	30	100	62	100	31	100	30	100	61	100

Before the pandemic, 70% of households had at least one income earner, with 76% of males and 63% of females contributing. Post-pandemic, households with a sole income earner rose to 80%, while those with multiple earners fell to 13%. Additionally, 6% had no income earners, reflecting the pandemic's severe impact on income stability and highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions to support financial stability (World Bank, 2020).

**Table 20.** Number of Household Members Currently Earning Income

HOW MANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS CURRENTLY EARN INCOME FOR THE HOUSEHOLD ?	Before						After					
	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
0							1	3.33	3	10	4	6.67
1	23	76.67	19	63.33	42	70	25	83.33	23	76.67	48	80
2	6	20	8	26.67	14	23.33	3	10	1	3.33	4	6.67
3	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67	1	3.33	1	3.33	2	3.33
4	1	3.33	2	6.67	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Did not answer</i>							0	0	2	6.67	2	3.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	100	30	100	60	100	30	100	30	100	60	100

Before the pandemic, most households earned between P10,001 and P25,000 monthly, with males contributing 46% and females 33%. Post-pandemic, many now earn below P5,000 or have no income due to job losses, increasing financial stress and impacting local economies. Targeted interventions for income recovery and job creation are essential, emphasizing the need for tailored, gender-responsive programs to enhance economic opportunities and access to services in Acmac.

**Table 21.** Estimated Monthly Family Income (Combined Sources)

ESTIMATED MONTHLY FAMILY INCOME COMBINED SOURCES)	Before						After					
	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL		MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
₱ 5,000 and below	3	10	6	20	9	15	15	50	12	40	27	45
₱ 5,001 - ₱ 10,000	6	20	7	23.33	13	21.67	8	26.67	8	26.67	16	26.67
₱ 10,001 - ₱ 25,000	14	46.67	10	33.33	24	40	2	6.67	3	10	5	8.33
₱ 25,001 - ₱ 40,000	4	13.33	5	16.67	9	15	1	3.33	3	10	4	6.67
₱ 40,001 - ₱ 60,000	1	3.33	2	6.67	3	5	1	3.33	0	0	1	1.67
₱ 60,001 - ₱ 80,000	2	6.67	0	0	2	3.33	1	3.33	0		1	1.67
No Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6.67	4	13.33	6	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

**Effects of Pandemic on Food Security, Livelihood, Health, and Education Food Security**

During the COVID-19 crisis, 53.33% of male respondents and 50% of female respondents reported maintaining their pre-pandemic consumption patterns. This stability in food consumption likely reflects the importance of a steady diet for personal health and well-being. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) highlights that consistent food intake is vital for health and preventing malnutrition, emphasizing its significance during crises.

**Table 22.** Comparison of Household Consumption Patterns Before and During COVID-19 Crisis

DO YOU AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS EAT THE SAME PRODUCT NOW, COMPARING TO THE SAME PERIOD OF THE YEAR (BEFORE COVID-19 CRISIS)	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Yes	16	53.33	15	50	31	51.67
No	14	46.57	15	50	29	48.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 23 highlights food distribution disparities, with 33.33% of respondents noting unequal allocation within households. Notably, 46.67% of females reported this issue compared to 20% of males. Additionally, 10% indicated only some members faced this problem, while 55% were unsure. These findings reflect potential food insecurity exacerbated by the pandemic, underscoring the need to address these disparities to promote equitable resource access and enhance household well-being.

**Table 23.** Number of Household Members that do not eat the same amount

IF NOT, HOW MANY HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS DID NOT EAT THE SAME AMOUNT?	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
	All members did not eat the same amount	6	20	14	46.67	20
Some did not eat the same amount (specify which members?)	1	3.33	0	0	1	.67
<b>ALL</b>	5	16.67	1	3.33	6	10
N/A ; Did not answer	18	60	15	50	33	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	30	100	30	100	60	100

Respondents' top coping strategies included reducing meat, fish, and egg consumption (28.57% males, 28.06% females), borrowing money (17% males, 18% females), and relying on government support (15% males, 12% females). These align with global pandemic trends as households adapted to reduced incomes and rising food prices. Research from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) shows that food insecurity often drives such cutbacks and reliance on external assistance.



**Table 24.** Coping with Difficulties since the Crisis

HOW ARE YOU COPING WITH ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES SINCE YOU ARE AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS?	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Reduce the number of daily meals	3	3.06	4	4.08	7	3.57
Reduce the amount of portions during the meals	12	12.24	6	6.12	18	9.18
Purchase of cheaper products	6	6.12	8	8.16	14	7.14
Reduction of meat / fish / consumption eggs	28	28.57	27	27.55	55	28.06
Reduction of fresh vegetables consumption	7	7.14	11	11.22	18	9.18
Consumption of wild products like....	0	0	1	1.02	1	0.51
Borrowing food or other help from friends or relatives	8	8.16	6	6.12	14	7.14
Reduce the amounts consumed by adults so that children eat more	2	2.04	7	7.14	9	4.59
Borrowing money from friends/relatives	17	17.35	19	19.39	36	18.37
Wait/rely on government support	15	15.31	9	9.18	24	12.24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 25 highlights that the primary challenge for food is the increase in prices, with 45% of males and 42% of females citing this issue. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that inflation rates for the bottom 30% of households exceeded national rates during the pandemic, significantly impacting the urban poor. This aligns with global reports, including those from the United Nations, which show that economic shocks disproportionately affect low-income households, worsening food insecurity.

**Table 25.** Types of Challenges Faced for Food

WHICH TYPE OF CHALLENGES ARE YOU FACING FOR FOOD?	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Don't have money to purchase food	11	20.75	13	30.23	24	25
Market is closed	5	9.43	1	2.33	6	6.25
Prices increased	24	45.28	18	41.86	42	43.75
Transportation is closed (can't go to the market)	10	18.87	11	25.50	21	21.88
Out of budget	3	5.66	0	0	3	3.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>

The pandemic has significantly impacted food security, altering consumption patterns and increasing reliance on coping strategies. Price hikes have created challenges, underscoring the need for ongoing support and intervention to ensure food security and prevent malnutrition.

### Livelihood

The pandemic has significantly impacted food security, altering consumption patterns and increasing reliance on coping strategies. Price hikes have created challenges, underscoring the need for ongoing support and intervention to ensure food security and prevent malnutrition.

**Table 26.** Changes of Income

HAVE YOUR SOURCES OF INCOME CHANGED FROM LAST YEAR AT THE SAME PERIOD?	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Yes	29	96.67	29	96.67	58	96.67
No	1	3.33	0	0	1	1.67
Prefer not to answer	0	0	1	3.33	1	1.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

The pandemic's health impact was less significant for non-exercisers, with half reporting no effects, but healthcare access declined for many due to job loss and financial constraints (ADB, 2020). Most respondents avoided COVID-19 through self-medication or isolation, raising risks associated with this approach.

Children's education faced disruptions, with many parents concerned about remote learning challenges, highlighting educational inequalities exacerbated by the shift to online classes (UNESCO, 2020). Additionally, 48% of male and 41% of female respondents lost their jobs due to business closures, emphasizing the severe unemployment crisis in the Philippines (ADB, 2020). These findings stress the need for comprehensive policies to tackle economic, health, and educational challenges.

**Table 27.** Way/s Covid-19 Affected Sources of Income of Respondents

IN WHAT WAY/S HAS COVID-19 AFFECTED YOUR SOURCES OF INCOME?	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Loss of job (dismissal)	15	48.39	13	41.94	28	45.16
Reduction of working hours	8	25.81	4	12.90	12	19.35
Salary reduction	1	3.23	1	3.23	2	3.23
Reduced demand for jobs/ services/ reduction of clients	0	0	2	6.45	2	3.23
Forced/Temporary Leave	1	3.23	1	3.23	2	3.23
Resigned	3	9.68	4	12.90	7	11.29
Stopped	2	6.45	2	6.45	4	6.45
On-call	1	3.23	0	0	1	1.61
Business Closed ; end of contract	0	0	3	9.68	3	4.84
N/A		0	1	3.23	1	1.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100</b>

Job losses from the pandemic have far-reaching effects on economic stability and societal well-being, leading to financial insecurity and contributing to broader economic downturns (ILO, 2020). This situation exacerbates existing inequalities, especially among vulnerable populations (World Bank, 2021). The International Labour Organization highlights the severe impact on global labor markets,

necessitating targeted interventions to support unemployed individuals and stimulate job creation (ILO, 2020; World Bank, 2021). Comprehensive policy responses are crucial to address these socio-economic challenges, protect livelihoods, and foster resilience for future uncertainties (UNDP, 2020).

### Health

The survey indicated that 46% of males and 53% of females felt no noticeable impact on their health during the COVID-19 pandemic, attributing this to their inactive lifestyles and lack of regular exercise. While this may seem positive at first glance, it is crucial to examine the broader implications of these findings within the pandemic context.

**Table 28.** Has normal physical activity changed since March 1, 2020

HAS YOUR NORMAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CHANGED SINCE MARCH 1, 2020?	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
do not normally exercise.	14	46.67	16	53.33	30	50
Yes, I have been exercising regularly, but with less intensity than usual.	13	43.33	8	26.67	21	35
Yes, I have not been exercising as regularly as usual, but the intensity is the same as usual.	2	6.67	6	20	8	13.33
Yes, I have not been exercising at all and are very sedentary	1	3.33	0	0	1	1.67
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

The lack of perceived health impacts among non-exercisers may hide vulnerabilities linked to sedentary lifestyles, which increase the risk of chronic diseases like obesity and cardiovascular issues (WHO, 2020). The pandemic has emphasized the need for good health to reduce severe illness risks from infections (Battaglini et al., 2021). Inactive individuals, especially those with pre-existing health conditions, face heightened risks of severe COVID-19 outcomes (Huang et al., 2020; Gao et al., 2020). Addressing these concerns requires public health initiatives to promote accessible exercise opportunities and raise

awareness about the importance of regular physical activity. While non-exercisers may feel unaffected, this highlights the urgent need for strategies to combat the health impacts of inactivity intensified by the pandemic. By encouraging physical activity, communities can improve resilience and reduce long-term health risks.

### Education

The COVID-19 pandemic has notably disrupted education, with 86% of male respondents and 73% of female respondents reporting negative impacts on their children's schooling since March 2020. This highlights the widespread challenges faced by educational systems globally, raising concerns about the quality and accessibility of remote learning during the pandemic.

**Table 29.** Has the pandemic impacted the education of your family members since March 1. 2020?

HAS THE PANDEMIC IMPACTED THE EDUCATION OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBER SINCE MARCH 1. 2020?	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Yes	26	86.67	22	73.33	48	80
No	2	6.67	4	13.33	6	10
Did not answer	2	6.67	4	13.33	6	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 29 indicates that 80% of respondents experienced the pandemic's impact on their family members' education, aligning with UNESCO's 2021 finding that COVID-19 disrupted education for over 1.6 billion learners globally (UNESCO, 2021). Notably, 86.67% of males reported an impact compared to 73.33% of females, suggesting varied educational challenges by gender. The 10% of respondents who were unsure may reflect uncertainty about the pandemic's educational effects. This underscores the need for targeted educational support to address disruptions and learning losses. Prolonged school closures and shifts to remote learning have increased educational inequalities, particularly for low-income students, and may impede academic progress and future earning potential (Van Lancker & Parolin, 2020; Engzell et al., 2021). Effective solutions should include equitable access to digital resources, support for remote learning, and teacher training (Save the Children, 2020).

**Table 31.** Whether the Assistance Received is Adequate to Meet Basic Needs by Gender

Response	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Yes	4	13.33	2	6.67	6	10
No	15	50	15	50	30	50
Partially	6	20	10	33.33	16	26.67
No answer	5	16.67	3	10	8	13.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 31 indicates that 50% of respondents found pandemic assistance inadequate for their basic needs, with equal dissatisfaction among genders. Only 10% deemed the support sufficient, while 26.67% considered it partially adequate (more females at 33.33% than males at 20%). Males received food baskets and financial aid in similar amounts, while females primarily received financial support. Despite these efforts, many felt the aid was insufficient (Oxfam, 2020). The Social Amelioration Program (SAP) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) funds were key sources but often inadequate, highlighting the need for more gender-sensitive support programs (UN Women, 2020). Overall, the findings stress the need for effective and equitable support mechanisms to address pandemic-related financial

**Table 32.** Agency by Forms of Assistance Received by Gender

AGENCY / INSTITUTE	FORMS OF ASSISTANCE RECEIVED	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
		f	%	f	%	F	%
CSWD / DSWD	SAP (Social Amelioration Program)	19	47.50	23	56.10	42	51.85
Barangay LGU	Relief Goods	17	42.50	16	39.02	33	40.74
SSS	Funds/Benefits	3	7.50	1	2.44	4	4.94
No Assistance Received		1	2.50	1	2.44	2	2.47
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>

The City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) Office was the primary support source for respondents, particularly through the Social Amelioration Program (SAP), with 56% of female respondents availing of it compared to 47% of males, indicating gender disparities

in access to assistance. Despite SAP's intention to aid low-income families, the reported inadequacy highlights the need for enhanced social safety nets to meet diverse household needs (World Bank, 2020).

While relief goods from the Barangay LGU and Social Security System (SSS) benefits were distributed more evenly by gender, tailored interventions are necessary to address unique challenges faced by different groups. Additionally, barangay officials used Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) funds to procure relief goods, further alleviating economic hardships. However, effective coordination and targeted assistance are crucial for supporting all affected individuals and enhancing community resilience to future crises (ADB, 2021).

### Skills Inventory, Training Needs and Intervention

The results highlight a diverse skill inventory among respondents, showing distinct patterns between genders. Male respondents predominantly possess skills in carpentry (18%), masonry (16%), gardening (12%), and fishing (10%). In contrast, female respondents excel in selling (18%), gardening (10%), sewing, skincare (8% each), and hairdressing, nail care, and food processing (6% each).

**Table 33.** Existing Skills of the Respondents

Existing SKILLS	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL	
	f	%	f	%	F	%
Selling	3	6.25	11	18.97	14	13.21
Gardening	6	12.50	6	10.34	12	11.32
Carpentry	9	18.0	2	3.45	11	10.38
Fishing	5	10.42	3	5.17	8	7.55
Masonry	8	16.67	0	0	8	7.55
Food Processing (e.g. longganisa, chorizo etc)	2	4.17	4	6.90	6	5.66
Sewing/Dressmaking	0	0	5	8.62	5	4.72
Beauty Care (Nail Care) Services	1	2.08	4	6.90	5	4.72
Beauty Care (Skin Care)	0	0	5	8.62	5	4.72
Hairdressing	1	2.08	4	6.90	5	4.72
Handicraft making	0	0	3	5.17	3	2.83
Livestock rearing	2	4.17	1	1.72	3	2.83
Tailoring	0	0	3	5.17	3	2.83
Cropping	0	0	1	1.72	1	0.94
Others	11	22.92	6	10.34	17	16.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	48	<b>100</b>	58	<b>100</b>	106	<b>100</b>

These skill inventories suggest avenues for economic empowerment, with carpentry and masonry skills among males indicating potential for construction enterprises, while female selling skills highlight opportunities for entrepreneurship in micro-enterprises and informal sectors (UNCTAD, 2020).

**Table 34.** Top 3 Livelihood Training the Respondents Want from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

TRAININGS THAT COULD BE AVAILED FROM DTI	Male			Female		
	Top 3 Desired Training			Top 3 Desired Training		
	1	2	3	1	2	3
Automotive Servicing	6	4	2	0	2	0
Barbering	0	0	0	3	0	0
Beauty Care (Nail Care) Services	0	0	0	4	3	0
Beauty Care (Skin Care)	0	0	0	2	2	2
Bread and Pastry Production	1	1	0	7	6	5
Carpentry	4	5	0	2	1	0
Commercial Cooking	1	2	1	6	3	1
Cookery	1	0	2	10	7	2
Dressmaking	0	0	0	1	4	2
Electrical Installation and Maintenance	3	3	6	1	0	1
Flux Arc Cored Welding	0	2	0	0	0	0
Food Processing	0	0	1	0	0	9
Gas Metal Arc Welding	9	3	0	1	0	1
Gas Welding	9	2	4	0	0	0
Hairdressing	0	0	0	2	1	0
Masonry	5	2	4	1	2	0

The data reveals distinct gender-based training preferences from DTI: male respondents favored Gas Metal Arc Welding and Gas Welding, while females preferred cookery. This highlights traditional gender roles in skill acquisition and the need for diverse training programs. Male respondents showed aspirations for skill enhancement in technical trades, with welding and automotive services being top choices, reflecting market demands. Meanwhile, female interest in culinary arts and food processing indicates growing opportunities in the hospitality and food service industries (ILO, 2020).

These findings highlight the need for tailored training interventions that align with local skill profiles and market demands to enhance employability and resilience. Gender-specific skill preferences reflect societal norms, with women gravitating toward



cooking and personal care, while men favor manual labor and technical trades. Addressing these preferences in training programs can empower individuals and improve economic opportunities, particularly by providing technical training for men in construction and automotive fields and for women in hospitality and domestic services (World Bank, 2021; UN Women, 2020).

**Table 35.** Top 3 Livelihood Training the respondents Desired from (TESDA)

TRAININGS THAT COULD BE AVAILED FROM TESDA	Male			Female		
	Top 3 Desired Trainings			Top 3 Desired Trainings		
Response	1	2	3	1	2	3
Automotive Servicing NC I	4	3	1	1	0	0
Automotive Servicing NC II	5	6	0	2	0	0
Barangay Health Services NC II with Contact Tracing Level II	0	0	1	0	0	0
Bread and Pastry Production NC II	1	1	0	12	5	3
Computer Systems Servicing NC II	1	1	1	1	0	0
Dressmaking NC II	0	0	0	5	5	0
Driving NC II	5	6	2	2	1	3
Electrical Installation and Maintenance NC II	3	2	2	2	1	1
Electrical Installation and Maintenance NC III	2	2	1	1	0	1
Electronics Products Assembly and Servicing NC II	0	1	1	0	0	0
Food and Beverage Services NC II	2	2	0	1	6	5
Gas TUNGSTEN arc welding (GTAW) NC II	2	2	0	0	4	1
Housekeeping NC II	0	1	1	5	7	5
Machining NC II (limited)	1	2	0	2	1	3
Masonry NC II	8	1	2	1	1	0
Motorcycle/Small Engine Servicing NC II	0	2	0	0	0	0
Organic Agriculture Production NC II	1	0	0	0	1	0
Organic Agriculture Production NC II – Mobile Training Program	1	0	0	0	0	1

PV Systems Installation NC II	0	0	1	0	0	0
Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) Servicing (DomRAC) NC II	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shielded metal arc Welding (SMAW) NC I	3	1	1	0	0	0
Shielded metal arc Welding (SMAW) NC II	4	3	2	0	0	0
Shielded metal arc Welding (SMAW) NC III	3	2	1	0	0	0
Tile Setting NCII	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trainers Methodology Level I	0	0	0	0	0	0

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) equips individuals with industry-relevant skills through certification and competency-based training, enhancing their employability. Male respondents favored Masonry NC II, while females preferred Cookery, reflecting gendered skill development preferences. These choices highlight the need for diverse vocational training to support sustainable livelihoods. However, societal barriers often restrict women's access to male-dominated fields, necessitating efforts to promote gender equality and challenge stereotypes. Addressing these dynamics can lead to more inclusive skills development interventions that foster economic empowerment and sustainable development (ILO, 2021).

### Training Modules for the Extension Project

Table 34 shows a strong interest in culinary training among women respondents, particularly in meat processing, which could enhance their personal and commercial cooking skills and promote entrepreneurship. Male respondents favored training in Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW), reflecting the demand for technical skills in construction and manufacturing.

The data highlights diverse training needs, with women focused on culinary skills and men on technical training. Addressing these requests can improve skill development, employment opportunities, and entrepreneurial ventures.

During the training phase, participants identified urgent needs for targeted programs, with collaboration from partner agencies to address resource gaps. Training modules on meat processing for women and SMAW for men aim to meet these gender-specific needs, potentially boosting the economic well-being of both genders in the community.

### **Meat Processing Module for Female Participants**

The meat processing module equips women with skills to produce high-quality meat products, leading to significant community impacts. It empowers them to start small-scale businesses, diversifying income sources and enhancing economic resilience. By contributing to household income, it improves overall family well-being and fosters entrepreneurship, challenging traditional gender roles. Additionally, the training offers opportunities for women to develop new skills and explore alternative career paths, expanding their horizons. The module includes several key components, detailed below:

#### **TRAINING MANUAL IN MEAT PROCESSING**

##### **Table of Contents**

Rationale	3
Community Background	3
Introduction	3
Sustainability Plan	4
Training Delivery Mode	5
Target Training Participants	5
Common Competencies (Source: TESDA Manual)	6
Core Competency	8
Training Equipment, Tools and Materials Needed	12
Training Facilities	12
Common Competencies (Source: TESDA Manual)	13
Cleanliness and Sanitation in the Meat Processing Area	13
General cleaning and sanitizing procedure	13
Personnel Hygiene	14
Malpractices in Meat Preservation	15
Steps in Meat Processing	15
Ingredients and their role in meat products processing	15
Value Added Meat Products: Emulsion/comminuted meat products	18
Sausages Types	19
Sausage Casings	20
Processing steps for casing preparation	20
Filling the product mixture into casings or other containers	20
Production Diagram of Fresh Coarse Sausage	21
Processing of local low-cost fresh sausages	21
<u>Longganisa</u> Making	22
<b>PROCESS FOOD BY SALTING, CURING AND SMOKING</b>	22
Estimated Cost and Pricing	23
Procedure	23
References	24

The Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) module trains male participants in welding skills, enhancing their employability in sectors like construction, manufacturing, and automotive repair. This training allows men to secure higher-paying jobs or start their own welding businesses, increasing household income and living standards. Additionally, it develops specialized skills that boost confidence and self-esteem while challenging traditional gender norms by promoting the pursuit of technical skills among men. The module comprises several key components, detailed below:

#### **SHIELDED METAL ARC WELDING (SMAW) TRAINING MODULE**

##### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Page No.</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1	..... <i>Chapter 1: Introduction To Shielded Metal Arc Welding (Smaw)</i>
1	..... <i>Entrepreneurial Characteristics Of Module Users</i>
2	..... <i>Chapter 2:</i>
	..... <i>Module 1 : Smaw Materials And Equipment Devices</i>
6	..... <i>Module 2: Shielded Metal Arc Welding Application</i>
6	..... <i>The Process Of Smaw</i>
7	..... <i>Basic Welding Techniques</i>
8	..... <i>A Step-By-Step Guide In Performing Shielded Metal Arc Welding</i>
13	..... <i>Demonstration And Exercise</i>
14	..... <i>References</i>

Offering gender-specific training modules addresses the unique needs of male and female participants, ensuring relevance and accessibility. This tailored approach promotes economic empowerment for both genders, fostering a more inclusive and resilient community better equipped to face challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusion

The study concludes that residents of Brgy. Acmac face significant challenges due to rising prices and pandemic-related job losses, impacting their well-being and community resilience. While educational issues are noted, they are less severe, indicating a need for targeted support. Women seek cookery training, particularly in meat processing, while men express a need for Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) training for construction and industrial work. Addressing these specific training needs can enhance employability and income potential, underscoring the importance of tailored support for the community.

### Recommendations:

- 1) **Targeted Training for Livelihood Enhancement:** Implement cookery training, including meat processing, for women to foster entrepreneurship and food sector employment. For men, offer Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) training to improve job prospects in construction and industry.
- 2) **Access to Government Support:** Collaborate with agencies like the DTI and TESDA to provide necessary training and resources. MSU-IIT should facilitate connections between the community and these agencies.
- 3) **Community Engagement in Program Design:** Involve residents in designing training programs to ensure they meet specific needs and aspirations, leading to sustainable and effective outcomes.

Addressing these recommendations will help Brgy. Acmac residents overcome pandemic-related economic challenges and promote community resilience and growth.

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