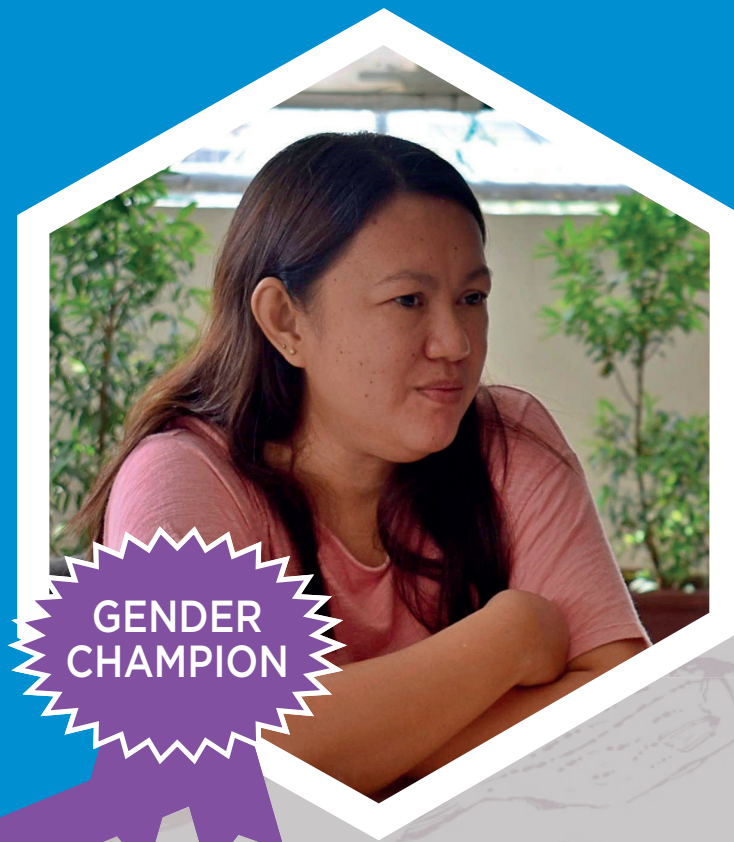


Head, Provincial Fishery Office,  
Sarangani Province, BFAR Region XII

## MS. GEMMA CHYREL GARCIA-MORENO

An Indefatigable carer

LEADING WOMEN TO  
GET ENGAGED



***“I believe that women are equal partners in both productive and reproductive life activities. ... and every day that our society fails to give women that chance, economic growth and development is hindered.”***

Ms. Gemma Chyrel Garcia-Moreno is a Senior Aquaculturist in BFAR who considers gender mainstreaming a duty that she has to fulfill in her line of work. She sees her position in the agency as an opportunity to influence others to take part and share their resources to promote gender equality. As a public servant, she aspires to ensure food security and improve the social and economic status of fisherfolks. She hopes that their current efforts would lead towards an improved quality of life and better welfare for fishers and their families.

Ms. Moreno initiates and implements various extension works to women fishers in the community. Presently, she hopes to increase the income that women earn by developing and conducting technical livelihood assistance and trainings. She finds means to organize more trade fairs and gain assistance from the communities to patronize the local products of the fishers. Aside from this, she encourages women to participate in bigger coastal resource management projects such as mangrove rehabilitations and coastal cleanups.



Being a mother as well, she has a soft spot for women who strive to juggle a full-time job and taking care of their families. She shares that she tries her best to provide the best service that she can to women fishers especially since she knows that they do not have as much resources. She knows that they are among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors in society yet they continue to have a positive disposition and unwavering determination in facing life's challenges. The thought of this gives Ms Moreno the motivation to continue to find means to improve these women fishers' lives.

Ms. Moreno would oftentimes go out of her way to help fishers and this has sometimes affected her personal time and space. Despite this, what motivates her to continue and keep going is the thought that she can make a difference to improve the quality of life for the next generation of the fishers' families. She sees that if the fishers' children are provided with assistance, they would have better chance of a more promising future. With so much on her plate, she acknowledges the support of the local government units, non-government organizations, and community as essential factors in achieving the goals of BFAR. She believes that educating the mass public on gender equality and empowerment is vital in building the full potential of communities. Through government programs, Ms. Moreno strives to ensure that women's voices are heard and included in the decision making for the community and the entire fisheries value chain.



**Difficult paths taken by the BFAR XII staff to get to Sitio Akbual, Upper Suyan, Malapatan for the Ridge2Reef program which aims to provide the Bla'an brethren basic government services.**



**BFAR XII personnel headed by Mrs. Gemma Moreno together with AFP Alpha company 731B headed by 1st Lt. Orestes Fausto and the teachers from Akbuli Indigenous People School.**