

## Lydia Sausa



### **Statistics**

- Age: 59
- Occupation: fish vendor
- Loan cycle: 5
- Family: husband, two children (25 and 20)

### **Background**

Lydia was a fish vendor in the market in Bohol in 2014. The earthquake destroyed the market where her stand was. At the time, she lost everything that she had invested in her stand. The market was rebuilt in 2017 and she used a loan from Wisconsin Microfinance to put a down-payment on a new stand in the market. She is continuing to pay off the 20,000 PHP down-payment, on top of the 1,050 PHP of rent each month.

To remain competitive, she tries to keep a variety of fish available for sale, but her best-selling fish is bolinao, or “little fish”, she says. As with many others in the fish vending industry, she uses the proceeds from the retail sale of fish one day to buy fish that will be sold the next day. Her fish business is her only source of income for her family’s needs.

Lydia strives to improve her business. She works 5 am to 6 pm, 7 days per week. She sells the fish which her husband catches in the sea.

In addition to her use of money that she borrowed to support her business, she also used earlier loans to send her children to college - both are now graduated and have steady jobs.



