In the Philippines, the population under 25 years of age represents 50 per cent of the 102 million person population projected for 2015, with the 15-24 youth age group accounting for approximately 40 per cent of the under-25. The 2013 Labour Force Survey indicated that the youth aged 15 to 24 comprise 19.2 per cent (7.3 million) of the total employed. These young workers are found principally in the agriculture, wholesale and retail trade, manufacturing, accommodation and food service, and construction sectors.

Accurate estimates of workers harmed by unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, demarcated by age group, are not readily available in every country. However, young workers, aged between 15 and 24, are the most affected. These workers suffer up to a 40 per cent higher rate of non-fatal occupational injuries than older workers. Due to their lack of job experience, young workers are often less able to safely handle hazardous substances and job tasks. They can be more likely to underestimate or overlook the safety and health risks associated with their job. Young workers are also particularly vulnerable to intimidation, denigration, and violence in the workplace. Lacking work experience and meaningful skills training, young workers usually lack an awareness of applicable occupational safety and health (OSH) rules, or the knowledge that they have a right to a safe and healthy workplace.

The ILO SafeYouth@Work Project seeks to ensure young workers are safe and healthy. Philippines is one of three pilot countries apart from Viet Nam and Myanmar. Accurate estimates of workers harmed by unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, demarcated by age group, are not readily available in every country. However, young workers, aged between 15 and 24, are the most affected. These workers suffer up to a 40 per cent higher rate of non-fatal occupational injuries than older workers. Due to their lack of job experience, young workers are often less able to safely handle hazardous substances and job tasks. They can be more likely to underestimate or overlook the safety and health risks associated with their job. Young workers are also particularly vulnerable to intimidation, denigration, and violence in the workplace. Lacking work experience and meaningful skills training, young workers usually lack an awareness of applicable occupational safety and health (OSH) rules, or the knowledge that they have a right to a safe and healthy workplace.

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**PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

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**OVER-ALL OBJECTIVE:** Improve the working conditions of young workers, aged 15 to 24 years old, and promote a culture of prevention in the country and seeks to achieve these four immediate objectives, each contributing to the overall development objective.

1. **Immediate Objective 1:** Collection and use of national OSH data, particularly regarding young workers, is improved
2. **Immediate Objective 2:** National regulations, policies and programmes on OSH, particularly regarding young workers, are improved
3. **Immediate Objective 3:** Capacity to promote and enforce compliance of OSH laws and regulations among the tripartite constituents, particularly regarding young workers, is increased
4. **Immediate Objective 4:** Knowledge and awareness on the particular hazards and risks faced by young workers is increased

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## MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Identify data gaps in the National OSH Profile and develop methodologies to collect timely, relevant and disaggregated OSH data, including inspection report data.
- Conduct training for PSA, BWC, BWSC, OSHC, PSA, ECOP and TUs on the collection, utilization and dissemination of OSH data.
- Produce analysis of the notification and recording system for work-related injuries and illnesses, particularly regarding young workers and support the improvement of the injury and illness notification system.
- Building the capacity of tripartite councils to highlight OSH issues in national tripartite councils, particularly regarding OSH for young workers.
- Support the improvement of OSH regulations, policies and programmes, particularly regarding young workers.
- Support the updating of the National OSH Action Plan or OSH medium-term plan to increase compliance and promote OSH.
- Review TVET training regulations and curriculum to determine if OSH standards are properly assessed as a basic competency in TVET programmes and provide technical assistance to TESDA to enhance training regulations and revise the training curriculum, assessing current knowledge and awareness of TESDA trainers on OSH and training designed for TESDA pool of trainers.
- Review policies supporting the implementation of vocational and apprenticeship programmes to validate complaints of labour and OSH violations committed against young interns, trainees or apprentices.
- Increase the capacity of these stakeholders: labour inspectors to enforce OSH laws and regulations; OSHC to address OSH issues at the national and sector-level; Employers’ organizations to promote OSH compliance among their members including on OSH for SMEs and MSMEs in construction, manufacturing and agriculture, and particularly regarding OSH for young workers; and, Workers’ organizations to regularly implement an OSH capacity building programme for workers in the formal and informal economy.
- Develop the capacity of youth organizations to promote OSH for young workers.
- Develop a campaign focused on promoting safety and health of young workers and participate in or support other existing national campaigns in the country that integrate OSH for young workers.
- Develop information materials on OSH for young workers in construction, manufacturing and agriculture to support the campaign.

## PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Developed inventory of sources of OSH data from various government agencies.
- Assessed the notification and reporting system for workplace injuries and illnesses.
- Trained selected national tripartite council representatives on OSH promotion and reporting.
- On-going review of the Occupational Safety and Health Standards.
- Tripartite consultations for the gap analysis of key ILO OSH conventions.
- Completed report on the gap analysis of key ILO OSH conventions with focus on Convention No. 155.
- On-going consultations for the updating of the national OSH profile and national action plan for OSH for the period 2017 to 2022.
- On-going assessment of capacities for promoting OSH compliance among stakeholders such as labour inspectors, workers organizations, employers organizations, youth-based or youth-led organizations, and OSHC.
- Developed a specialized OSH badge to be integrated in the merit badge system of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.
- Developed a Communications Strategy on promoting safety and health of young workers including support to project partners in conceptualizing knowledge and awareness activities.

### Contact information:

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**Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers (SafeYouth@Work Project)**