The project aims to strengthen the employment dimension in policies and programmes related to international trade with better analysis, more coherent policy-making, and enhanced programmes that are designed to encourage employment creation and upgrading. This project will support the Philippines in leveraging industries that are competitive in international trade towards providing more opportunities for decent work within the country and raising the number of workers who are productively employed.

The project seeks to:

- To generate and improve knowledge on both the positive and negative impacts of international trade on productive and decent employment in the Philippines.

- To build the capacities of Filipino technical specialists, researchers and development partners from key government agencies, relevant social partners and other concerned stakeholders to not only identify, measure and assess the impact of international trade on employment but also to use the evidence to formulate sound and strategic trade, employment and industrial policies.

- To establish an institutional and multi-sectoral platform for representatives of relevant Philippine ministries and social partners to engage in policy discussions on the effects of international trade on employment and to formulate and recommend more effective, coherent and inclusive policies for this in the Philippines.

- To enhance employment opportunities within the Philippines arising from trade policies through technical support for the development of skills in export activities and the promotion of export-oriented value chains and industries that are job-rich.
Strengthening the Impact of Trade on Employment in the Philippines (STRENGTHEN)

**MAIN ACTIVITIES**

- Conduct, publication and dissemination of country studies and reports assessing the effects of trade on employment in the Philippines.
- Review of trade and employment programs and policies, export strategies and industrial roadmaps.
- Series of sectoral consultations and social dialogues with government, labor, business, exporters, SMEs, etc.
- Conduct and holding of capacity-building training workshops on assessing employment impacts of trade in the Philippines for technical specialists and staff from government, labor, business, and other stakeholders to improve trade and employment policy-making.
- Establishment of a Policy Working Group (PWG) on trade and employment.
- Application of ILO tools on skills development and value chain improvement: Skills for Trade and Economic Diversification (STED) and Trade and Value Chains in Employment-Rich Activities (TRAVERA).

**PROJECT OUTCOMES**

- Knowledge specific to the Philippines on the impact of international trade on productive and decent employment outcomes in the Philippine export-oriented sectors and industries will be produced and disseminated in the form of methodological improvements, factual data and evaluation and impact studies.
- The capacities of Filipino technical specialists and analysts in the government, the organizations of the social partners, the statistical, policy and planning offices and research institutes will be enhanced and reinforced for assessing the effects of international trade on employment, and will be better equipped and have the know-how to produce and use evidence on the effects of international trade on productive and decent employment.
- Philippine government policies and programmes that promote and strengthen coherence between trade and employment objectives will be discussed and developed by the tripartite partners and other relevant actors on the basis of evidence and studies.
- Technical support for skills development and export-oriented value chains will be provided to sectoral representatives among the project’s stakeholders in the Philippines at the sectoral level based on the recommendations of the tripartite partners to optimize the employment effects of policies related to international trade.

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