

MDG-Fund Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs for Filipino Youth



International
Labour
Organization

The Challenge



While the youth is supposed to serve as the most productive segment of the population, they comprise about half of the total three million unemployed population in the country (National Statistics Office [NSO], 2010). Of the 18.2 million young Filipinos aged 15-24, many remain trapped in vulnerable forms of employment just to survive another day.

The vulnerability of young workers is manifested by poor working conditions, inadequate salaries and even lack of social protection. They are left with no choice but to accept whatever job is available.

Even college graduates often face the challenge of finding work opportunities mainly due to job skills mismatch. This happens when their skills and knowledge do not fit

the requirements of the labour market. The challenge is also worsened when young people are forced to work at the cost of dropping out-of-school to provide income for their poor families.

In addition, the lack of decent work opportunities has induced local and overseas migration among young Filipinos in search for economic alternatives. Studies show that most Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are between 20 and 24 years old. This shows that the youth have a significant contribution to the financial inflows related to migration.

The Response

Funded by the Government of Spain through the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F), the Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs for Filipino Youth, more commonly known as the Joint Programme on Youth Employment and Migration (JP YEM), is being implemented by United Nations (UN) Country Team agencies. The International Labour Organization (ILO) as the lead UN agency, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are working with the Philippine Government to achieve a vision of having productive and competitive youth.

The Joint Programme aims to reach at least 10,000 disadvantaged Filipino youth in the provinces of Antique, Masbate, Agusan del Sur, and Maguindanao.

The Programme highlights the importance of making decent work accessible. The quality and quantity of the work available are equally important when it comes to poverty reduction. Promoting access to education and skills development opportunities can help young people avoid vulnerable forms of employment and poverty.

Within the duration of the Joint Programme, the ILO would like to increase the access of the youth to decent work for the country to achieve inclusive growth.

Key Statistics

- Unemployment in the country is recorded at 7.4 per cent, youth unemployment rate is twice as much at 17.6 per cent.
- Of the estimated 3 million unemployed in the country, 50 per cent are youth.
- The Philippines is known to have a dominantly young population with 18 million between 15 and 24 years old.
- Among those who are employed, 33.3 per cent are in vulnerable forms of employment characterized by inadequate income, low productivity, and difficult conditions.

Source: NSO, 2010

Outcomes

- Improved policy coherence and implementation on youth employment and migration through full stakeholder participation.
- Increased access to decent work for young women and men through public-private partnerships: more inclusive basic education and life skills, career guidance including safe migration, vocational training, and entrepreneurship.

Relevant ILO Convention and Recommendation

- Resolution concerning Youth Employment (ILC, 93rd Session, 2005)

Achievements

To date, the ILO has contributed the following to realize the outcomes of the Joint Programme:

- National Action Agenda “Alternative Pathways: Toward Charting an Actionable Framework for Youth Employment and Migration on Youth Employment and Migration” adopted. Formulation of National Action Plan for Youth Employment and Migration on going.
- Eighty eight representatives of local government units of four pilot provinces and national government agencies trained on local economic development (LED) to establish or strengthen their LED team, craft policy papers for local legislation, incorporate programmes and projects on youth employment in local plans, and create plans to improve the business environment.
- Eighty eight local partners trained on Start and Improve Your Own Business (SIYB) to provide entrepreneurship training to disadvantaged youth; three local partners trained on value chain development.
- Pilot Provincial Labour Force Survey in Antique and Agusan del Sur completed. It supports NSO generate provincial level estimates of key labour market information.
- Ninety three partnership agreements forged to provide on-the-job training, post training services, and employment opportunities to disadvantaged youth undergoing entrepreneurship and technical vocational skills training.
- Assessed the entrepreneurship potentials and technical vocational skills of disadvantaged youth in the four pilot provinces. Results served as bases in designing technical vocational and entrepreneurship training programmes. Out of 2,000 disadvantaged youth, 1,620 completed technical vocational skills training and 916 youth are employed out of 1,100 target youth. Four hundred seventy five out of the 400 target disadvantaged youth trained on entrepreneurship using the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB), entrepreneurship programme of the ILO. One hundred fifty one youth with feasible business plans out of target 96 youth established microenterprises.
- Completed Trainer’s Guides and Workbooks on Generate Your Business (GYB) and Start Your Business (SYB) adapted for disadvantaged youth and translated into local dialects.
- Signed a Memorandum of Agreement (through the ILO-International Training Centre) with the Department of Education (DepEd) to use Know About Business (KAB) modules as instructional materials on entrepreneurship under the Career Pathways-Technology and Livelihood Education (CP-TLE) Programme by public high schools. The programme was enriched with gender-sensitivity, life skills, and safe migration that was pilot tested in the project sites in partnership with DepEd. Entrepreneurship training was given to teachers, teacher trainers, and supervisors from four pilot provinces and 17 regions across the country. Meanwhile, 2,716 students were taught using the enriched first year level CP-TLE curriculum within the four pilot provinces.
- PESO starter kit developed, published and circulated. It is an advocacy material of DOLE to operationalize and institutionalize PESO across the country. Assessed local employment services in the project provinces which led to conduct of a training on basic employment services including Phil-JobNet, the labour market information portal of the Philippine Government provided to DOLE and PESO representatives.
- Produced knowledge products on entrepreneurship and technical vocational skills programme for the disadvantaged youth, LED, employment facilitation services and entrepreneurship education. These will be useful for national and local partners to replicate and upscale developed and tested tools and interventions.



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Components

Donor: Government of Spain

Acronym: MDG-F JP YEM

Start Date: July 2009

End Date: January 2013

Total Budget: US\$6 million

Budget: US\$2.2 million (ILO component)

Partners: DOLE, DepEd, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Youth Commission (NYC), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), LGUs of Agusan del Sur, Antique, Magindanao, and Masbate, Private Sector, Employers Organizations/Chambers of Commerce/Business Associations, Non-government Organizations, Workers’ Organizations and Youth Organizations

UN Country Team Agencies: ILO, IOM, UNFPA, and UNICEF

Project Sites: Masbate, Antique, Maguindanao, and Agusan del Sur



Updated: November 2012