

Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs for the Filipino Youth



BACKGROUND

Of the total population of 94 million (NSO, 2010), the Philippines is known to have a
dominantly young population of 18.2 million falling between 15 to 24 years old.

 Of the total youth population, 6.8 million were employed while 1.5 million were unemployed. Among those who are employed, 2.3 million were in vulnerable forms of employment characterized by inadequate income, low productivity, and difficult conditions. This is of greater concern.

Education is a first step to decent work and employment opportunities second. In the Philippines, the drop-out rate at the public secondary education level is high. For every 10 students that enter first year, only four graduate and finish high school.

Out-of-School Youths (OSY) and Students At Risk of Dropping-Out (SARDO) are forced to enter the
labor force during their adolescent years, at the cost of dropping out of school to provide income
for their poor families while women are faced with traditional child-rearing and housekeeping
responsibilities that have also hindered young women from completing secondary education.

• For those with tertiary level education, many cannot be absorbed by the labor market due to lack of skills or qualifications. Thus, the mismatch between skills of the youth workers and those required by industry and the business sector.

• Studies show that most young Overseas Filipino Workers are between the ages 20 to 24 years old. While two out of three OFWs are women. This also translates to a significant "youth" share in the national financial inflows associated with migration.

While migration brings significant economic benefits, it also entails social costs. Children of migrant
workers are left in the care of surrogate parents and are reported to contribute to a high-drop-out
rate due to a diminishing interest to finish school, work or build a career. There is also a tendency to
be overly dependent on remittances and are enticed to join parents to work overseas.

 Young workers outside the country are more vulnerable to exposing themselves to the risks of migration especially among women.

2010 SUMMARY ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Source: National Statistics Office, Labor Force Survey

In Thousands	YOUTH (15-24 years old)	TOTAL (15+ years old)	Youth as % of Tota
Working Age Population	18, 220	60, 717	30.0
Labor Force	8, 276	38, 893	21.3
Employed	6, 816	36, 035	18.9
Unemployed	1, 460	2, 859	51.1
Underemployed	1, 192	6, 762	17.6
Vulnerable Employment (self-employed + unpaid family workers)	2, 273	15, 015	15.1

In Percentage	YOUTH (15-24 years old)	TOTAL (15+ years old)	
Labor Force Participation Rate (labor force as % of working age population)	45.4	64.1	
Employment-to-Population Ratio (employed as % of working age population)	37.4	59.3	
Unemployment Rate (unemployment as % of labor force)	17.6	7.4	
Vulnerable Employment Rate (vulnerable employment as % of employed)	33.3	41.7	



MDG F 1942: ALTERNATIVES TO MIGRATION: DECENT JOBS FOR FILIPINO YOUTH

With the support from the Government of Spain, the Joint Programme on Alternatives to Migration: Decent Jobs for Filipino Youth under the thematic window of youth employment and migration, better known as "JP YEM", was developed by the UN Country Team agencies – International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund UNFPA) in support to the Philippine Government's vision of a productive and competitive youth.

Specifically, it aims to achieve two outcomes over a period of three years:

Outcome 1. Improved policy coherence and implementation on youth employment and migration programmes through full stakeholder participation;

Outcome 2. Increased access to decent work for poor, young women and men

To achieve these outcomes, the joint programme will deliver the following outputs:

- A National Action Agenda that will be used to inform national and local planning processes
- Localized youth employment and migration policies and programs through one stop resource and support centers
- Model mechanisms that will channel remittances for developing youth employment alternatives
- Public-private partnerships that will increase access to alternative employment and services for the youth
- Entrepreneurship and technical and vocational skills training for out-of-school youth
- Gender-sensitive and enhanced youth employment and migration curriculum for public secondary education
- Enhanced youth employment and migration local employment services
- More inclusive flexible secondary education for disadvantaged youth

The Joint Programme aims to contribute to the attainment by the Government of the Philippines of the Millennium Development Goals: MDG 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; MDG 3 – Promote gender equality and empower women; and MDG 8 – Develop a global partnership for development. At the local government level, it provides direct services in the poorest regions of the country, focusing on four provinces with high incidences of out-of-school and poor youth, low enrolment rates, and where the MDGs , particularly Goal 1, are least likely to be achieved: Masbate (Region V), Antique (Region VI), Maguindanao (ARMM), and Agusan del Sur (CARAGA Region).



PARTNERS

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as lead implementing agency Department of Education (DepEd) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Department of Social Welfare and Development Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) National Youth Commission (NYC) Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Provincial Governments of Agusan del Sur, Antique, Masbate, and Maguindanao Private sector/Employers Organizations/Chambers of Commerce/Business Associations NGOs/Workers' Organizations Youth Organizations



ABOUT THE MDG FUND

The MDG Achievement Fund (MDG F) was established in 2006 by the Government of Spain and the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) to enhance efforts to achieve the MDGs, and to support UN Reform efforts at the country level. The Spanish Government has committed 528 million euro to the MDG Achievement Fund programmed between 2007 and 2010.

To read more about the Fund, visit: http://ph.one.un.org/mdgfphilippines/ For more information, contact:

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