



International
Labour
Organization



The ILO in the Philippines

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES



Population
(2015)

100.98 million



GDP per capita (2017)

US\$2,989

GDP growth rate (2018)

6.2%

	Total (2017)	
Labour force participation rate and labour force	61.2%	42.8M
Employment to population ratio and employment	57.7%	40.3M
Unemployment rate and unemployment	5.7%	2.4M
Vulnerable employment rate and vulnerable employment	33.8%	13.6M

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and World Development Indicators (WDI)

The Philippines has experienced economic growth and made important gains in the labour market, however, more focus on decent work is necessary for inclusive growth. Over the last two decades, the labour force continues to grow faster than the economy can create jobs. The Philippines was also hit by major disasters and crises, which disrupted the local economy and affected key industries. Vulnerable employment further weighs down productivity and prospects for improved living standards.

It is crucial for the Philippines to put decent work, social protection and livelihood at the forefront to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth and to build back better after disasters and conflicts. More importantly, ensure that economic growth translates into better labour market outcomes, including lower shares of vulnerable employment and working poverty, which will impact people's lives and the society.



RATIFIED CONVENTIONS

The Philippines has ratified 38 ILO Conventions including all of the 8 Fundamental Conventions.

- C.29 Forced Labour Convention, 1930
- C.87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948
- C.98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949
- C.100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951
- C.105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957
- C.111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958
- C.138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973
- C.182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999

THE ILO - WHO WE ARE

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the United Nations agency for the world of work. Devoted to advancing social justice, it promotes a Decent Work Agenda based on four strategic pillars: rights at work, decent employment opportunities, social protection and social dialogue.

It is the only public international organisation which is tripartite, where workers and employers enjoy equal rights with governments in representation and decision-making. Together they set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes upholding decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and dignity for all.

Created in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I, the ILO became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. It received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969 and today is recognized as the world's authority on the world of work, offering over 100 years of knowledge, experience and achievements.

THE ILO IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines became a member of the ILO on 15 June 1948, two years after gaining its independence. In 1970, the ILO established an office in Manila. Through government, employers and workers partnership, the Philippines was the first country in Asia to participate in a pilot programme on decent work in 2002.

Current Areas of Work

The ILO supports the Philippines in achieving its goal of sustainable and inclusive growth through decent work. The Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) serves as a tool for delivery based on the following priorities:

- Productive, remunerative, freely-chosen and sustainable work and employment opportunities are available for all Filipinos willing to work.
- Improved labour market governance ensures respect for all rights at work, including fundamental principles and rights at work, international labour standards and human rights.
- Equitable social protection is available and accessible to all.
- Strengthened capacity of workers' and employers' organizations to effectively participate in and influence policy and decision-making processes.

ILO programmes implemented in the Philippines include:

- promoting decent work and sustainable livelihood;
- shaping a future of work through a human-centred development agenda;
- improving productivity and competitiveness of enterprises;
- developing skills and employability, especially of the youth;
- ending the worst forms of child labour;
- formalizing and transition from informal to the formal economy;
- ensuring occupational safety and health (OSH);
- expanding social protection;
- promoting gender equality;
- upgrading labour market institutions and employment services;
- supporting ratification and implementation of International Labour Standards; and
- strengthening social dialogue, collective bargaining and freedom of association.
- building the capacity of workers and employers organizations

With the support of development partners, projects reach out to vulnerable groups - children, women, youth, domestic workers, farmers, fishers, indigenous peoples, seafarers and migrant workers.

The ILO implements projects on labour inspection; freedom of association; fair recruitment; safe and fair migration; green jobs and climate change; occupational safety and health; responsible supply chains; skills training including women in Science,



Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); trade and employment; improved access to safe and reliable water supply; and addressing child labour and working conditions in artisanal and small-scale gold mines.

In conflict and disaster, the ILO responds through emergency employment, decent work and sustainable livelihood. The ILO also promotes peacebuilding, employment and local economic development.

The ILO contributes to the United Nations Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development (PFSD) and serves as co-convenor on the prosperity and planet pillar. It supports achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including Goal 8 on promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.

Social Partners

The ILO brings together the government through the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), employers through the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) and workers organizations in the private and public sector including the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE), Confederation of Independent Unions in the Public Sector (CIU), Federation of Free Workers (FFW), Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), National Trade Union Center (NTUC), Philippine Government Employees' Association (PGEA), Philippine Independent Public Sector Employees Association (PIPSEA), Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PSLINK), Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO), and Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), and workers sectoral representative in the Public Sector Labor-Management Council (PSLMC).

The ILO also cooperates with UN agencies, development partners, multilateral and international organizations, academic and research institutions, non-government organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders, and engage in public-private partnerships.

Decent work: a key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



“Decent work is not just a goal – it is a driver of sustainable development”

Guy Ryder, ILO Director General

By embracing the three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a once-in-a-generation chance to make a change and improve the lives of billions, leaving no one behind.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while working to preserve our planet.

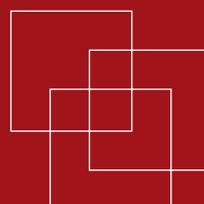
The importance of decent work in achieving sustainable development is highlighted by Goal 8 which aims to “promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.

Putting decent work at the heart of economic policy-making and development plans will not only generate jobs but also lead to more robust, inclusive and poverty-reducing growth. It is a virtuous circle that is as good for the economy as it is for people, and one that drives sustainable development.

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