



International  
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SAFETY  
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FOR ALL

# ▶ Project on Improving Workers' Rights in the Rural Sectors of the Indo-Pacific with a focus on Women

September/2022

## ▶ At a glance



### Donor

US Department of Labor



### Duration

1 December 2020 –  
30 November 2024



### Geographical focus

Philippines and Indonesia

## ▶ Background

The Philippines and Indonesia have strong trade and investment relationships with the United States (US). The Philippines was the United States' 28th largest supplier of goods imports in 2019.<sup>1</sup> The volume of goods imports from the Philippines to the US has also increased by 88.1 per cent from 2009 to 2019.<sup>2</sup>

The increase in imports from both the Philippines and Indonesia to the US in recent years can be attributed to the US' Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), which provides opportunities for many of the world's poor and developing countries to avail of zero or reduced tariff and use trade to grow their economies and climb out of poverty.

However, availment of US GSP benefits are dependent on the beneficiary country's compliance with labour provisions of the GSP. Decent work deficits in these sectors pose challenges to these industries' access to the US market, based on the GSP's provisions where the beneficiary country must "have taken or is taking steps to afford internationally recognized workers' rights, including: (1) the right of association; (2) the right to organize and bargain collectively; (3) a prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labour; (4) a minimum age for the employment of children, and a prohibition on the worst forms of child labour; and (5) acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work and occupational safety and health".

Unfortunately, various ILO studies and reports to its supervisory mechanisms, have highlighted the persistent decent work deficits in these sectors. This includes widespread informality, ambiguous employment relationships and non-standard forms of employment, even in the higher tiers of the supply chain/value chain, low wages and other issues related to payment of wages, long working hours, extremely unsafe and hazardous working conditions, violence and harassment at work—all of which are conditions which make these sectors at higher risk of even more serious violations such as forced labour and child labour.

<sup>1</sup> <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/southeast-asia-pacific/philippines>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/southeast-asia-pacific/philippines>

## ► Objectives

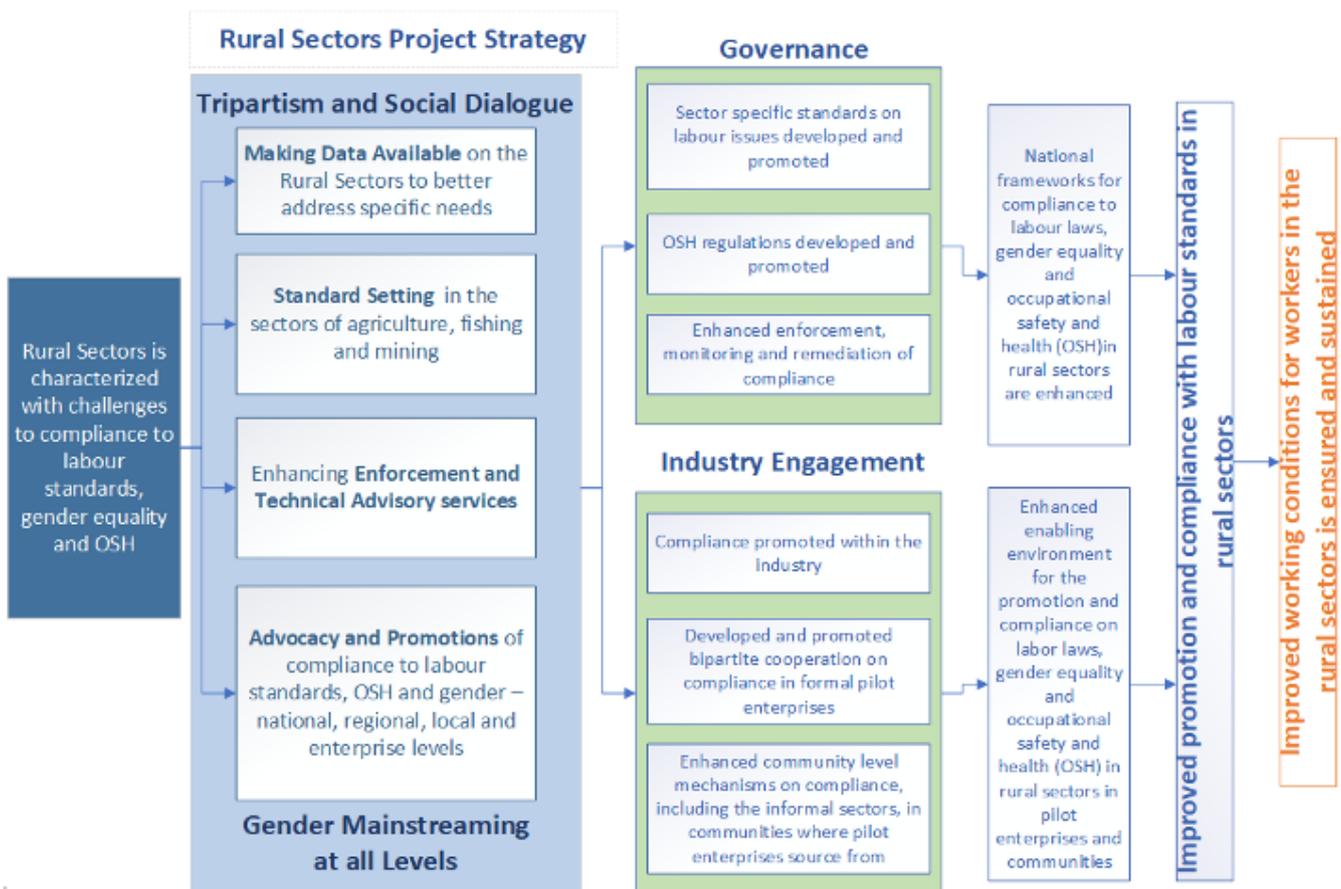
The Project aims to contribute to ensuring and sustaining improved working conditions, especially for women workers, through the improvement and promotion of labour laws compliance, occupational safety and health, and gender equality in the rural sectors in the Philippines and Indonesia.

The Project is implemented as part of ILO Safety+Health for All Flagship Programme-aimed at improving the safety and health of workers worldwide. Contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) in reducing the incidence of fatal and non-fatal work-related accidents and diseases, the programme supports governments, employers, workers, and other key stakeholders in developing and implementing solutions that work locally, and can be scaled globally, to create exponential improvements wherever they are needed. The Project will benefit from the tools strategies and good practices identified in the context of the Flagship Programme.

## ► Project strategy

The Project will work closely with regional and country level partners to achieve the following strategy:



## ► Progress to date

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- Development of **four regional Tripartite Strategic Compliance Plans (SCPs) in banana, large and small scale mines, and fishing**, based on the findings of the Baseline Study and Sectoral Assessments
- **Completion and validation of the baseline study and sectoral assessment** resulting to the following:
  - Establishment of baseline data for Project indicators particularly the relationship between OSH and the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the drivers of compliance and non-compliance to labour standards.
  - Development of survey tool on working conditions which partner can use in their monitoring and data gathering on working conditions.
- 127 partners (74 per cent women) from the government, employers, workers, and other stakeholders engaged during the series of two sectoral orientations mainstreaming gender equality in compliance to general labour standards and OSH.
- 171 representatives from employers' and workers' organizations, and government partners attended Responsible Labour Practices to Achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Business in the Rural Sectors
- 32 workers' organization representatives trained to improve capacity in promoting compliance to labour communication and visibility to support the promotion on labour standards, OSH and gender equality
- 115 representatives from a mining enterprise and its subsidiaries in CARAGA participated in a learning session on decent work, OSH, and gender equality
- Sixty (60) representatives from agriculture, fishing, and mining oriented on Participatory Action Oriented Training (PAOT) Approaches to Improving Occupational Safety and Health in the Rural Sectors (for Agriculture and Fishing Sectors) as an initial step towards promoting a preventative OSH culture through social dialogue and continuous improvement.
- Ten (10) labour inspectors supported to the ILO ITC Trainings on Labour Inspection and Port Worker Development Programme and E-Academy on Labour Administration, Labour Inspection, and Workplace Compliance

## ► Project partners

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The Project will be working with governments, workers, and employers' organizations in both countries, which would include, but will not be limited to the following partners:

### **Philippines**

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and its relevant attached bureaus and agencies, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Philippine Commission of Women (PCW), the National OSH Inter-Government Coordination and Cooperation Committee

(IGC3) (OSH IGC3) established under RA 11058, Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) their local chambers of commerce and member organizations belonging to these sectors, Alliance of Progressive Labour-Sentro ng Progresibong Pagbabababo (APL-SENTRO), Federation of Free Workers (FFW), National Trade Union Congress (NTUC), Trade Union Congress of the Philippines - Associated Labour Unions (TUCP-ALU), other national and sectoral workers' organizations, IndustriALL Global Unions, selected local government units, local workers' groups, relevant civil society organizations and private compliance initiatives.

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